Book Review

Growing Fruit Trees: Novel Concepts and Practices for Successful Care and Management. Jean-Marie Lespinasse and Evelyne Leterme (editors). 2011. W.W. Norton and Company Inc., New York. 352 pages with glossary and illustrations. \$49.00, Softcover, ISBN 13:978-0-393-73256-6.

The intent of this book is to provide in a single volume concise description of tree pruning, training, fertilizing, and general cultural information on a wide variety of fruit and nut trees in one easy-to-read book. It is the compilation of contributions from 19 tree fruit specialists based in France. The fruits described in this book include apple, apricot, cherry, fig, grape, kiwi, olive, peach, pear, plum, and quince, and the nut trees discussed are almond, chestnut, hazelnut, and walnut.

The content and organization of each chapter are somewhat similar. The chapters start with history and geographic origin of

each fruit and also include their development in modern times. The places in the world where production is most important are provided. Soil and climate limitations to production are included. These limitations include factors such as amount and predictability of rainfall, high or low temperature, humidity, cold requirements and chilling, soil type and drainage, and wind. These factors serve to identify climates and locations that are most suited for fruit culture. Rootstocks have become an important component in fruit production. Thus, the rootstocks used and their availability are useful components. Tree management is an important part of each chapter. Tree training and training systems, pruning and changes in tree management from planting to maturity are discussed for most fruit. This book distinguishes itself from other similar publications in that suggestions for culture and management show respect for the natural growth habits and growth characteristics of the trees. Methods of crop load management are indicated. These techniques may and usually do vary from fruit to fruit but their uniqueness and

importance are explained. There is a very extensive and useful glossary and a section on references and further reading that includes focused general reading for each chapter, as well as a rather extensive list of web addresses where additional material can be accessed via the Internet.

The book contains over 300 illustrations. The photographs are clear and of the highest quality. The line drawings, many done by the editor, help illustrate tree form, pruning, responses to pruning cuts, and other growth responses in a tree. They are used very effectively to augment the text. The illustrations are clearly a major strength of the book, and they are an indispensable part of each chapter. There are portions of the book that would be of interest and use to commercial fruit growers. However, the groups that would be most interested and benefit most from purchasing this book are landscape designers, arborists, horticulturists, and serious gardeners.

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