

Book Reviews

Blueberries. Jorge B. Retamales and James F. Hancock. 2012. CABI, Wallingford, Oxford, UK. 323 pages, \$85.00, Softcover. ISBN-13: 978-18459-3826-0.

Blueberry production in the world has increased dramatically during the past 20 years. This expansion in production has been accompanied by the generation of a large amount of new research information related to the science and culture of blueberries. Although books have been written chronicling some of these findings, no recent publication has provided a comprehensive update on the current status of the industry and incorporation of new information related to blueberry science into a new, valuable resource. *Blueberries* is a publication that provides this much-needed update.

Blueberries is well written and easy to read. The information is segmented logically into nine chapters. The first chapter provides a much-needed update on the status of blueberry production throughout the world. This summary included locations where significant production is occurring, the extent of production, and the primary blueberry species responsible for this production. Chapter 2 first reviewed the taxonomy of the blueberry. Breeding efforts past and present were discussed next, followed by a description of characteristics for improvement that will be a focus in future breeding programs. The final portion of the chapter provided a rather inclusive list of the important blueberry cultivars organized primarily by the type of blueberry. Anatomy, growth, and development of roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and inflorescences were reviewed thoroughly in Chapter 3. The focus of Chapter 4 was a more generalized coverage of energy with the emphasis on production of carbohydrates and the partitioning of these resources among the various organs. Chapter 5 concentrated on mineral nutrition, factors that affect availability of nutrients, and methods to supply nutrients to satisfy crop demands. The primary area discussed in Chapter 6 was management practices, and the majority of these were devoted to mulching, irrigation, pruning, pollination, and harvest. Although spray application and the use of plant bioregulators (PBRs) have been mentioned in previous books and reviews, in *Blueberries* all of Chapter 7 was devoted to the subject. Current and potential uses of PBRs were reviewed and documented. The most relevant insects, diseases, and weeds that attack

blueberries were covered in Chapter 8. The final chapter, Chapter 9, was devoted to pre- and postharvest management of fruit quality. Included are sections discussing factors that influence storage life, fruit quality of blueberries, and postharvest options.

Chapters do contain figures and tables to illustrate pertinent points being discussed in the text, but in keeping with many excellent references, emphasis was placed on the text. The book is meant to be an intensive overview of the important components of blueberry science and culture. The intended audience includes researchers and students in horticulture, but growers and individuals interested in gaining a deep understanding of blueberry culture would benefit a great deal. *Blueberries* is such a well-written, comprehensive, and potentially useful book. It is the impression of this reviewer that it should be on the shelves of all individuals seriously interested in gaining a comprehensive understanding of blueberry culture and management.

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Compendium of Rose Diseases and Pests, Second Edition. R. Kenneth Horst and Raymond A. Cloyd. 2007. The American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, MN 55121. 83 pages. \$69.00. ISBN: 978-0-89054-355-9.

Compendium of Rose Diseases and Pests is an especially attractive and useful book. It is an 8-1/2 x 11-inch paperback full of beautiful glossy photographs. Only seven pages contain no illustrations or photographs. The illustrations are as lovely as the photographs, and the photographs are outstanding. One can identify quite a few rose problems solely by consulting the photographs. I would enjoy seeing these photographs offered as a deck of identification cards for use in the field. The book is useful for horticulturists, pathologists, entomologists, and rose growers and hobbyists alike. I kept the manual handy and found it to be an important guide for rose growers and gardeners, especially here in the humid South. I think I have seen most of the warm-season diseases in the book somewhere here in Florida.

After a short introduction, Part I of the book discusses infectious diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, viruses, graft transmissible organisms, and nematodes. Part II discusses noninfectious diseases, and Part III

discusses insect and mite pests. The book ends with the appendix, glossary, and index. The Appendix is a thumbnail guide to the common names and pathogens (or causes of diseases) and pests along with the scientific names and authorities of all the diseases and pests covered in the text. The glossary is short, but comprehensive. The index covers rose types and varieties, common and scientific names of pests, as well as where to find information in the book.

The discussion of infectious diseases is arranged by organism. The section on fungal diseases is 25 pages long. The sections on each fungus present the genus and species of the organism, symptoms, the disease cycle when important for management, the epidemiology, if known, management, and selected references. The sections on diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, graft transmissible diseases, and nematodes include many of the same sections as well as helpful tables of diagnostic, propagation, and assay species.

Part II covers the noninfectious diseases. The section on physiologic problems such as blindness, bullheads, and bent neck is fascinating to read. Environmental imbalances, air pollution, and pesticide toxicity, nutritional deficiencies, and nutritional toxicities are the next interesting sections. Part III covers insect and mite pests and includes some of my favorite photographs. The topics covered for each insect or eight-legged pest include the genus and species names, life cycle, damage, management, and selected references. I especially appreciate the uniformity of each section and part. It makes for a predictable manual where one knows right where to look for information.

Compendium of Rose Diseases and Pests whets the appetite for the entire series of diseases and pests, crop by crop, as presented by the American Phytopathological Society. The series is quite extensive, covering many commercially important crops. Other crops in the series include those from the grains, legumes, fruits, vegetables, flowering plants, nut crops, foliage plants, palms, turfgrasses, tobacco, and umbelliferous crops, among others. Many of the books are in advanced editions. The continual updating of these books must be a monumental task and shows the commitment of the authors, editors, and publishers. New pictures, references, diseases, controls, and pests are updated on a regular basis, so the guides remain current.

This useful, pictorial manual is one of the most attractive that I have seen; the entire American Phytopathological Society series is on my wish list.

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