

Book Reviews

Cultivated Vegetables of the World: A multilingual onomasticon. Stanley J. Kays. 2011. Wageningen Academic Publishers, Wageningen, The Netherlands. 828 pages. \$179.00, Hardcover. ISBN: 978-90-8686-164-4.

This book is a collection of words that apply to cultivated vegetable crops of the World. The collection was prepared with several purposes that include facilitating accuracy in communication among people in agriculture and other fields related to vegetables, promoting consistency in terminology, and improving understanding of the extent and diversity of vegetable production around the World. Vegetables are a good topic for this endeavor because worldwide they comprise a major portion of the diet of humans. The text provides scientific names, synonyms, and common names for 404 commercially cultivated vegetables. Selected common names from 370 languages are presented.

The Introduction provides purposes for the book, explains the linguistic value and derivation of common names, and explains how to use the text. Users should read the Introduction before consulting other contents of the book. The term “vegetable” is defined here. Taxonomy based on scientific names and synonyms and changes in scientific names are discussed. Criteria for selection of common names and languages are described. Acknowledgements of individuals who contributed information concerning common names in various languages are made in the Introduction.

The listings are divided into chapters. Chapter 1 is a principal section for use of the text and lists common names of vegetable crops by taxonomic division; within divisions, listings are by family, and within family, listings are by species. Edible parts of the plants and methods of preparation are included by abbreviations. Users must read the first page of this chapter to understand the meanings of taxonomic divisions and the abbreviations. Divisions are not numbered, but each family and species has a paragraph number that is used in indexing. For example, in the division Pterophyta, families 2. Dennstaedtiaceae, 3. Osmundaceae, 4. Parkeriaceae, and 5. Polypodiaceae are listed. Species under Osmundaceae, for example, accordingly are numbered 3.1. *Osunda cinnamomea* L. and 3.2. *Osmunda japonica* Thunb. This system works well, but some experience is needed to find 30.56 *Raphanis sativus* L. Radicula group from an index. The scientific name of each species is listed in a numbered paragraph under which common names are given according to alphabetic order of languages, which are spelled out in capitals. The most widely used common name is listed first under the language and is followed by other lesser used common names. All possible

common names are not listed. Scientific names are modern, but readers in their own writings might need to consult additional references for scientific names. Trinomials with subspecies and botanical varieties are given often, such as *Lycopersicon esculentum* var. *esculentum* P. Miller instead of the commonly used binomial *Lycopersicon esculentum* P. Miller. Sometimes the authors of the trinomials are given, and sometimes they are not. Names of diverse morphological groups created by plant breeding are used sometimes instead of more common botanical species or varieties. Conventions such as noting the author of an original scientific name than has been changed by another author have been used, such as for *Centella asiatica* (L.) Urban but not for *Lycopersicon esculentum* var. *esculentum* P. Miller. Reasons for using these taxonomic expressions are described fairly well in the Introduction.

Chapter 2 is an alphabetical listing of common names of vegetables. The listing includes the language of the common name and the paragraph number of the vegetable in Chapter 1. This listing is easy to use, but users might need to refine searches. In English, pepper is not listed, so readers have to look for bell pepper, bonnet pepper, hot pepper, or tabasco pepper since these vegetables are different botanical varieties or species. These peppers and others follow one after another in Chapter 1. Because of the many common names, this section occupies 400 pages of the book.

Chapter 3 is a listing of Latin binomials and synonyms. A synonym is considered as one of two or more scientific names of a vegetable. This listing is useful because currently used names may not be universally accepted and because binomials change. This chapter is useful in identifying a species of interest. The listing is in alphabetical order according to genus and species name within genus. The correct name is in boldface and is followed by a number that is indexed to Chapter 1. Each synonym is keyed back to the correct scientific name, which is used to find the crop of interest in Chapter 1. No difficulties were encountered in understanding use of this listing.

Chapter 4a lists common names of vegetables alphabetically and usually in English according to plant part for culinary use. Readers will need to search for the plant parts as they are not in alphabetical order, but limiting the species to English names restricts the length of this chapter and simplifies the search. Paragraph number for identification of the crop in Chapter 1 is given. Chapter 4b is a listing of edible parts of vegetables alphabetically by abbreviated correct scientific names, again followed by the paragraph number in Chapter 1.

Chapters 5a is an alphabetical listing in English of vegetables according to method of preparation, cooked, raw, or preserved. Chapter 5b is the listing according to abbreviated correct scientific names in alphabetical order. Each listing has a reference to the appropriate paragraph in Chapter 1.

Chapter 6 is a listing of languages. For each language, a three-letter identification code is given. This code does not seem to be used in Chapter 1. The number of people speaking the language is included along with countries or regions in which the language is spoken and other features of the language, such as classification and dialects. Chapter 7 lists synonyms of the languages listed in Chapter 6, and Chapter 8 lists dialects with references to the languages in Chapter 6.

A section of references by authors identifies citations made in the text. Appendices discuss diacritics, letters other than the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet, and how these accents and other notations affect pronunciations and alphabetical listings of plant names.

The textbook is a comprehensive reference with information in a concise and readily accessible format. It represents a lot of work and organizational skills of the author. The book allows indentifying a vegetable from the common name in a diverse cross-section of languages and scientific names. It will be useful to diverse readers. The book will be used worldwide by university and governmental researchers, scientists, administrators, and diplomats. Librarians will use the book. Vegetable growers, shippers, packers, and buyers will have extensive use of the book. Workers in the grocery and food preparation industries will enjoy use of the book. The book is a sound, hardback book with good paper that will last with use and is reasonably priced.

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Growing Hardy Orchids. Philip Seaton, Phillip Cribb, Margaret Ramsey, and John Hagggar. 2011. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Distributed by University of Chicago Press, 1427 E. 60th Street Chicago, IL. 128 pages. \$23.00 Paperback. ISBN:978-1-84246-175-4.

Growing Hardy Orchids is a quick and easy to use, attractive paperback about the size of a 7-1/2 x 9-1/2 portrait, laid out in landscape format. The book is made of “paper from responsible sources”, but it does not remind one of old-fashioned recycled paper. The paper on which this book is printed is of exceptional quality with a silky feel. However, this book is not just another pretty one with a good conscience.

Written by Philip Seaton, Phillip Cribb, Margaret Ramsay, and John Hagggar for the Kew Growing Series, this book is by expert growers and a micropropagation and seedling expert from Kew Gardens. The book is geared toward growers, horticulturists, students of orchids, lovers of orchids, curators, and anyone in the temperate zones who wants to grow outdoor orchids. The book covers everything that the beginner would need but

is a useful guide for experts seeking a new and different type of orchid to grow. The hardy orchids are perhaps all the more interesting because they overwinter in harsh conditions.

The photographs, figures, and illustrations are executed and framed beautifully and are well-chosen to illustrate the advisory points of the book. The 160 color plates are well-credited and were contributed mostly by the authors. The graphic illustrations were drawn by Philip Seaton and are crisp and colorful. Almost every page includes an illustration or a photograph.

The Foreword includes a brief history of orchids and the myths surrounding them and discusses orchid conservation. Chapters that follow and comprise the first third of the book include Why Grow Hardy Orchids, Working with Nature, The Orchid Family, Habitat and Ecology, Conservation, Composts, Glasshouse Techniques, Cultivation in the Garden (which has a handy table of growing conditions for wild hardy orchids), and Pests and Diseases. Each chapter is well-written with expert information, sharp photographs, and clean drawings. Yellow boxes are used to set off important summary information in the beginning chapters. Examples of these quick-find boxes include step-by-step repotting techniques, safety notes, and growers' tips.

The second part of the book begins with a discussion of Raising Orchids from Seed to Flowering Plant. This section includes a summary box in lilac explaining Symbiotic and Asymbiotic Propagation. A chapter on *Dactylorhiza* is printed on pale pink paper; one on *Orphrys* is printed on pale peach-colored paper, and one on *Pleione* is printed on pale lilac paper. These chapters also include the characteristic high quality photographs and illustrations.

The final section of the book contains Hardy Orchid Genera arranged in alphabetical order. Each Genus section lists recommended species, some with recommended hybrids, the habitat required, the culture, and the appropriate compost recipe. Each Genus is accompanied by identifying photographs. The last few pages of this section feature rare hardy species with the same information included for each genus, as well

as a glossary, a list of additional reading, acknowledgements, and an index.

Growing Hardy Orchids is an easy read and full of helpful information. Anyone in northern hemisphere temperate zones who is at all interested in orchids will enjoy this book. Hardy orchids are easy to grow, and they multiply quickly under the right conditions. This book gives you much that you need to know to grow your own temperate orchid field.

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The Golden Age of Flowers. Botanical Illustrations in the Age of Discovery 1600-1800. Celia Fisher. 2011. The British Library, London. Distributed by University of Chicago Press, 1427 E. 60th Street Chicago, IL 60637. 144 pages, 100 color plates, 22 cm x 24 cm. \$29.95, Hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-7123-5820-0.

The Golden Age of Flowers contains illustrations from the time of about 1600 to 1800. More than one hundred illustrations were selected from various publications of botanical art in this general period and are arranged in alphabetical order by Latin name of the genus, which is often the common name as well. The common name is listed parenthetically if it is not the same as the generic name. Each flower has accompanying text that gives geographic and botanical origins and the derivation of the name of the flower.

The first few pages of the book are the Introduction, which starts with identification of the Golden Age and with identification of a key figure of the age, Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), who developed a new way of classifying and naming plants. Classification by Linnaeus was based on floral parts, and naming was a binomial system with only two Latin names with genus and species. Before Linnaeus, classification was based on complex criteria, and plant species had complex names. The remainder of the Introduction is a historical discussion with

chronology starting with Sixteenth Century botanists, who collected plants in expeditions and studied at universities to develop botany as an academic topic. The Introduction progresses into the 1600s and early 1700s with development of plant classifications and publications such as *Theatrum Botanicum*, *Historia Plantarum*, and *Hortus Eystettensis*, *Hortus Indicus Malabaricus*, and *Herbarium Amboinense* by English, German, and Dutch botanists. Many of the illustrations were uncolored. Hence, many of the illustrations in *The Golden Age of Flowers* are from middle to late 1700s and into the 1800s. With the turn of the century into 1700, sponsorships by governors, dukes, kings, queens, and other wealthy individuals furthered horticulture, and publications such as *Gardener's Encyclopedia*, *Natural History*, and the *Botanical Magazine* arose. Botanical artists began careers in Austria, Australia, England, France, and Germany during the 1700s. Illustrations in color late in this century and into the 1800s gave accurate depictions of plants, many of which were difficult to conserve in herbaria. The illustrations dispensed with the needs of preservation and allowed any individual to study the characteristics and histories of plants.

The remainder of the book is a section called The Plants. In this section the illustrations are listed starting with *Acacia* and ending with *Zinnia*. The illustrations are from many sources, locations, and periods including *Hortus Eystettensis* (1613), *Plantae Selectae* (1750-1790), *Plants of the Coast of Coromandel* (1795-1819), *Horti medici Amstelodamensis* (1697-1701), *The Botanical Magazine* (1787-1801), *Les Liliacées* (1802-1816), and many other publications with no publication being dominant as a source of illustrations. The book has an index and a listing of books for further consultation.

The book is attractive, informative, and cheap, is printed on good, heavy paper, has a nice size, and will appeal to gardeners, flower lovers, and people who are interested in botanical illustration.

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