
When I was asked to review the second edition of Hydroponics: A Practical Guide for the Soilless Grower by J. Benton Jones, Jr., I was greatly excited to see the new edition of a book from which I had learned so much. Upon review, I realized that while it was still organized in the same way as the first edition (plant physiology, nutrition, hydroponics systems, and maintenance of hydroponics systems), a wealth of new information had been added, including three completely new chapters dealing with the design and creation of a functional hydroponics greenhouse, the crops that are best suited to this method of horticulture, and its role in education. These chapters are a welcome addition to the already very thorough coverage of the plant nutrition, physiology, pest management, and engineering necessary to create, understand, and operate a hydroponics system. All of this information is accented by numerous charts, photos, and illustrations provided in the book and the CD-ROM.

Due to its complete coverage of the topic and its ease of comprehension, it is my feeling that this book deserves consideration as a textbook by anyone teaching a class in hydroponics at the college level. It is also noteworthy that the information provided, especially that on plant nutrition and diagnosis of deficiencies, makes it worth keeping as part of one’s personal library. In addition to students and hydroponics growers, the practical information provided in this book could be of interest to, and likely to add new perspective for, any horticulturist.

JONATHAN SMITH
Sarah P. Duke Gardens
Durham, N.C.