

# Book Reviews

CAMPANULAS: A GARDENER'S GUIDE. Peter Lewis and Margaret Lynch. 1998. Timber Press Inc., 133 S.W. Second Ave., Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527. 176 p. 75 color photographs, 5 black and white photographs and 70 line drawings. \$34.95, hardcover. ISSN: 0-88192-463-6.

Having heard one of the authors speak at a symposium in Edinburgh last summer, I was eagerly anticipating this book on campanulas. I believe that I am familiar with campanulas, still I was impressed with the breadth of coverage in this new, revised edition. The authors were able to grasp my attention with striking photographs and descriptions of more than 140 species and many cultivars of *Campanula*.

The introduction gave the reader a good understanding of the scope of the book and explained why the authors chose to handle the treatment as they did. They aptly explained that identification keys have not been included due to logistics and time. For the gardeners the photographs are eminently more helpful, especially for the various cultivars. The brief history was made more interesting by the inclusion of photographs of various historical persons closely linked with the history of campanulas, but left the reader somewhat confused over the early botanical references to campanulas. A second reading did prove to eliminate some of the confusion. Unfortunately some of the information included in the brief history was quite extraneous and in one case appeared to be a stray afterthought, which detracted from the readability of the text and added no real significant information. On the other hand, the chapter on classification and general characteristics was nicely handled. I found particularly interesting that campanulas vary considerably in "size and outline" depending on

where and how they are grown (another reason why keys are not reliable). The species descriptions and specific cultural information of each is presented alphabetically for ease of access. Overall, one could easily gain considerable understanding about the variety of species and cultivars available and their general culture.

The authors present an excellent account of the species and cultivars of *Campanula* and give considerable information on the cultivation and propagation of the plants. However, I would think that gardeners, especially those who have not grown campanulas but would like to, would benefit from some recommendation lists of select species and cultivars. While many recommendations are found throughout the book, some simple lists such as a list of tried and true campanulas or a list of the "great travelers" would be quite helpful to many readers. Also of interest would be lists of campanulas that would grow well together for a border, rock garden, or alpine garden. A list of several plants that, when grown together would give a nice sequence of bloom, could be helpful.

Even without the suggested additions, I found *Campanulas: A Gardener's Guide* to be an excellent source and guide book for anyone who enjoys gardening with or wishes to adventure into growing campanulas. For the commercial grower, there is a list of seed sources and considerable information pertinent to inclusion of new campanulas to their inventory of perennial plants. Of course, I have discovered several campanulas that I look forward to adding to my garden.

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THE GARDENER'S GUIDE TO GROWING DAYLILIES. Diana Grenfell. 1998. Timber Press Inc., 133 S.W. Second Ave., Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527. 160 p. 79 illus. \$29.95 + S&H, hardcover. ISBN 0-88192-461-X.

In the United States, *Hemerocallis* or daylily is the number two perennial in sales. One of the main reasons for the popularity of this plant is the introduction of new hybrids that are nearly everblooming. Within the last few years, several books on daylilies have been published. *The Gardener's Guide to Growing Daylilies* is one of these books and is part of the gardener's guides published by Timber Press. Other guides in the series discuss hellebores, hardy geraniums, lilies, hostas, ivies, fritillaries, irises, peonies, clematis, and pentstemons.

This Guide is divided into 14 chapters that discuss botany, breeding, types of hybrids, cultivars, and cultivation. Chapters 1 and 2 discuss daylily botany and provide a guide to the species. These chapters are not technically written and are aimed for an audience of nonhorticulturists.

More than half of the book is devoted to chapters 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9. The subjects of these chapters are related discussing the various types of hybrids with specific cultivar examples. The section on hybrid terminology is excellent (i.e., watermarks, eyes, blends, bands, crests, etc.). The section on cultivar descriptions is very extensive with many color photographs. The author subdivides the cultivars into several color classes. This is basically a good idea; however, these classes are not defined. For example, what is the difference in color among orange-red, scarlet, blood-red, rose-red, cranberry-red, wine-red, and black-red? I thought scarlet was orange-red.

Chapter 7 is devoted to breeding. The introduction of this chapter states that the only information needed for breeding is a knowledge of flower structure and ploidy level. There is no mention of genetics in the entire chapter! The chapter ends with an essay by David Kirchhoff discussing some of the parents he used in breeding. I am not sure how this chapter will help anyone breed daylilies.

The final section of the book provides information on growing daylilies and daylily collections throughout the world. There are separate chapters on

North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. The appendices provide specific data on commercial growers and societies.

There are several new books on *Hemerocallis*. The first comprehensive book, *Daylilies* was written by Arlow Stout in 1934. From 1911 to 1948, Stout was involved in daylily research and breeding at the New York Botanical Garden. His research resulted in the first pink and red cultivars. Stout's book was reprinted in 1986 by J.M. Dent and Sons in England. Since then, several other books on *Hemerocallis* have been published: R.W. Munson, Jr. (1989), *Hemerocallis, The Daylily*; L. Hill and N. Hill (1991), *Daylilies, The Perfect Perennial*; and W. Erhardt (1992), *Hemerocallis, Daylilies*. Each of these books is an updated and modernized version of Stout's book.

Each updated volume has its strong points and weaknesses. Munson's book has the most comprehensive discussions on the history of daylily breeding and judging daylily flowers. It is weak on species and cultivar descriptions. Erhardt's book has the most detailed species descriptions and is the only book with a key to the species. Erhardt's book, however like Munson's book, is weak on cultivar descriptions. Grenfell's book has the most comprehensive cultivar descriptions, but is weak on breeding and species descriptions. All of the books, including Stout's, are weak on basic biology, pathology, propagation, and genetics. They are all written for the general gardening audience that has little or no knowledge of scientific horticulture.

Grenfell's book is recommended for the amateur gardener, but not for the professional horticulturist.

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APPLES. Frank Browning. 1998. North Point Press, A division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003. 241 p. \$27.00 hardcover. ISBN 0-86547-537-7

Among all fruit crops, apple and winegrape probably have been the sub-

ject of the most verbiage, both scientific and lay. In the case of apple, there have been some interesting prose in the popular press that I recommend, including the wonderful and authoritative *The Book of Apples* (1993) by Joan Morgan and Alison Richards, published in association with the Brogdale Horticultural Trust of England; *Pomona's Harvest* by H. Frederic Janson (1996), an illustrated chronicle of antiquarian fruit literature that has much information on apples, and, although no longer new, I need to mention a long profile (One Hundred Thousand Varieties) by Berton Roueche that appeared in *The New Yorker* (11 Aug. 1975). Finally, the late Miklos Faust had completed a manuscript "The Apple," which, hopefully, will be published soon.

*Apples* by Frank Browning, a Kentucky fruit grower, writer, and a reporter for the National Public Radio, is the latest contribution to apple lore. This short book (241 pages) is one that apple lovers and knockers will want to add to their library, especially those with a historic bent. Browning has grafted much of the romance of apples and apple growing in a very unusual and interesting way. For starters, who would have thought that the boy god Apollo may in fact be a transmutation of Balder, a Nordic God, who may be related to the Norse word, abal, the origin of our word for apple. There is more than some might want to know on the history of cider, the relation of wassail to apples, and the images, erotic and otherwise, of transected apples. Throughout there is some great writing; I quote a paragraph that caught my eye to give the full flavor of the book:

"Should we call these brave new orchards "natural"? The only genuinely honest answer is that nature herself is a trick, a confection of Enlightenment thinking, a projection to some lost pristine paradise that periodically resurfaces in utopian fantasies. Neither today's apples nor Grandad's was natural. Aside from stumbling across Thoreau's scattered fence-row seedlings, to find a truly wild apple we will have to march backward through the millennia, across an ocean into the faded tunics of Mesopotamia and onto the backs of donkeys and horses across the mountains of the Caucasians, and into the lands of the Uzbeks and the Kazakhs, up the streams running through the town of Almaty, called "the father of apples," where the first fruit fell to the

ground long before the authors of Genesis".

The author visited The New York Experiment Station in Geneva in New York and the book is redolent in Cornellians including Herb Aldwinkle, Roger Way, Jim Cummins, Susan Brown, and Phil Forsline, to name a few. Still, Browning gets mixed up now and again. He misses the big story of the triploid nature of 'Jonagold' and its relation to the pioneering work of John Einset, Charlotte Pratt, and Barbara Imhoffe. Included is the tragic story of N.I. Vavilov, a martyr of science, as well as bits on Aimak Djangaliev, the Russian expert on the apples of Ama-Ata. There is much mouth watering description of heirloom apples but, in my experience, they usually disappoint; so much for nostalgia. I am pleased the PRI apple 'Gold Rush' was mentioned in the appendix (Twenty or so Prize Apples), despite the misspelling. I purchased a copy just before I received the review copy, which I promise to donate for the ASHS auction next year. I urge you to bid on it.

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THE COLOR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ORNAMENTAL GRASSES SEDGES, RUSHES, RESTIOS, CAT-TAILS AND SELECTED BAMBOOS. Rick Darke. 1999. Timber Press, Inc., 133 S.W. Second Ave., Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527. 328 p. 506 color photos. \$49.95 + S&H. Hardcover. 0-88192-464-4.

Rick Darke's *Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses* is a major contribution to this group of ornamental plants. He has collected information, photos, and history from floras and references throughout the world. The photographs are exquisite. They are worth the price of the book alone, to see the clarity and beauty of the grasses, many which have not been pictured elsewhere and are notorious for being a difficult group of plants to photograph.

There are six chapters before the encyclopedia, three of which tell their story in photos with descriptive captions: The Beauty of Grasses; Learning from Grasses in Native Habitats; and Designing with Grasses.

Learning from Grasses in Native Habitats is a pictorial look at habitats