

Reviews and Abstracts

Small Fruits for Your Home Garden.

1958. By J. Harold Clarke. Doubleday & Co., p. 372., \$4.95.

The author of this fine book on small fruits has been a teacher, extension and research worker, and in recent years a commercial grower and nurseryman. As a result, he has presented the most technical material in the language of the ordinary reader. In fact, even the commercial grower will find in Dr. Clarke's book the answers to many of his problems, and it should be an asset to his reference library.

Part one covers the things to consider before attempting to grow small fruits—why grow berries, which ones in any region, and soils for berries.

Part two covers modern methods of culture, fertilizing and pest control—mulching, cover crops and soil acidity, deficiency of symptoms, use of dry and liquid fertilizers, foliar feeding, irrigation and drainage, weed, disease and insect control and other pests.

Part three covers specific requirements for the various berries—strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants and gooseberries, blueberries, grapes, minor fruits, fruit breeding and the small fruit garden for additional income.—*G. M. Darrow.*



Catalog and Evaluation of the Pear Collection at the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. 1957. By Henry Hartman. Tech. Bul. 41, Oregon State College (Western Regional Research Publ.). 80 pages.

This is a report on the collection of over 200 pear varieties maintained by the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, and which have been under test for a period of 43 years in stations in the Willamette, Hood River and Rogue River valleys. The outstanding

varieties are described and evaluated for dessert and keeping qualities, blight resistance, and performance on quince rootstocks. Origin and references are cited for each variety. A very valuable reference.



Introductory Horticulture. 1958. By E. P. Christopher. McGraw-Hill. 482 pages. \$7.50.

Principles of Horticulture. 1958. By E. L. Denisen. MacMillan. 509 pages. \$6.95.

Here are two very fine textbooks designed for use in teaching a college course in the fundamentals of horticulture. Both attempt to give the student a concept of what horticulture is; some basic information about horticultural plants, their response to the environment and soils; and descriptions of the principle skills involved in the growing of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants.

Dr. Christopher puts more emphasis upon the basic considerations of plant structure, processes and responses. The horticultural crops are taken up in the customary groups—pome fruits, salad type vegetables and so on. The author's use of references at the end of each chapter is good. A greater use of illustrations, however, would increase the effectiveness of this book.

Dr. Denisen places more emphasis upon horticultural skills and practices. The illustrations are exceptionally well done, and the glossary at the end of the book is quite good. However, the author's omission of references may be noticed by the more curious student. Rather than discuss the different crops separately in the customary groups, Dr. Denisen considers them under each of the practices such as pruning and propagation.