

# Reviews and Abstracts

## General Horticulture

By J. S. Shoemaker, 1952.

J. B. Lippincott, 564 pages. \$6.00

This book was written specifically as a text for an introductory course in horticulture at either the high school or college level. It is essentially practical in its approach, although the author devotes the earlier chapters to fundamental plant processes and structure. He very effectively bridges the gap between science and practice in the later chapters—a jump that isn't easy to make.

The book opens with a survey of the broad field of horticulture and a comprehensive picture of the distribution of horticultural crops and their relative importance in the United States and Canada.

In the chapters that follow, the author discusses the various horticultural practices, including the propagation and pruning of fruits. The book closes with a chapter on pest control, and includes a list of some of the more important diseases, insects, and weeds that prey on horticultural crops, as well as a list of some of the important control materials.

Numerous photographs and drawings supplement the text material very effectively. And at the end of each chapter is a series of references and review questions that will be helpful to anyone using the book as a guide for the growing of horticultural crops.

The author, Dr. J. S. Shoemaker, Professor and Head of the Department of Horticulture of the Ontario Agricultural College, has taught and lived horticulture for many years, has written other books of horticultural interest, and is well qualified to write this book.

Not only is "General Horticulture" well organized and broad in its coverage, but it is also written in a very clear and readable style. Amateur gardeners as well as teachers and students of horticulture

will find it both good reading and useful.—G. M. K.

## The Fruit Garden Displayed

By P. M. Synge (Editor) 1951.

Royal Hort. Soc. and Oxford Univ. Press. 175 p. \$1.18

Although the Royal Horticultural Society of England has aimed this practical book primarily at the English home gardener, there is a great deal in it that will be of interest to the commercial and amateur fruit growers of the United States and Canada. This book contains one of the finest collections of how-to-do-it photographs dealing with the growing of fruit that I have ever seen. The text material is brief, concise and easy to follow.

Most of the important temperate small and tree fruits are discussed and illustrated. The coverage on each fruit includes such matters as sites, planting, culture, rootstocks, pruning, propagation and other considerations. The emphasis throughout is upon the visual demonstrations provided by the 346 photographs.

In the section on tree fruits, the authors have placed their emphasis upon the dwarf or "bush" type rather than the standard sized tree. That portion dealing with the training of dwarf trees to special shapes is especially well done. And the discussion of root pruning of fruit trees in the garden is also particularly interesting.

The Fruit Garden Displayed, edited by P. M. Synge, is a product of the excellent writing, photography and advice of some of the leading pomologists in England today.

Those of you who are willing to overlook a rather mediocre job of binding in view of the very low price, will enjoy having this unusually well illustrated book on your pomology book shelf.

—G. M. K.