

## Reviews and Abstracts

**Soil Management for Conservation and Production.** 1962. By R. L. Cook. John Wiley & Sons. 527 pages. \$9.95

This new book on soil management by Dr. R. L. Cook, Head of the Soils Department of Michigan State University, is directed to college students who have already taken a basic course in soils, to progressive farmers, and to extension agents and high school agriculture teachers.

The author stresses the importance of climatic and topographic factors in determining the soil management practices to apply in a specific location. He also points out the need for biological tests (in field plots or the greenhouse with actual crop plants), tissue tests, and determining physical properties of a soil, as well as soil tests, in developing fertilizer and soil management programs.

The chapters on soil testing and tissue testing are practical and especially well done.

The role of nitrogen in fruit production is handled quite well. However, information on management of orchard soils, methods of fertilizing fruits, and the pH requirements of fruit trees is conspicuous by its absence.

Those who are interested in general principles of soil management from a basic standpoint, with special reference to shallow-rooted crops, will find this book very useful. Certain of the basic material can also be applied to fruit production.



**The Orchard and Fruit Garden.** 1961. Edited by E. Hyams and A. A. Jackson. Longmans, London. 224 pages. \$29.95 (Obtainable from

Amer. Hort. Soc., 1600 Bladensburg Rd., NE, Wash. 2, D. C.)

This book deals with the fruits and the fruit industry of the British Commonwealth. The bulk of it is concerned with the fruits of Great Britain itself—the apple, pear, cherry, strawberry, and so on. The brief treatment of culture and practices for each fruit is directed mainly to the English gardener and grower.

There are chapters on the banana, the lemon, banana, on fruit growing in Australia and Canada.

This is not the run-of-the-mill sort of book on how to grow fruit. Its organization and presentation is rather unconventional. The discussions of the various fruits are handled differently, and each chapter is by a different noted horticulturist. H. V. Taylor emphasizes the variety in his treatment of the apple. In the pear chapter, W. G. Kent stresses cultural problems.

The reader will find the section entitled "The Origin of Cultivated Fruits" by the noted fruit breeder, M. B. Crane, most enlightening. The chapter telling of the introduction of Old World fruits into South Africa, America and Australia, also makes very interesting reading.

Here is truly a most unusual and beautiful book, a collector's item, with its 80 attractive colored photographic plates, and well written text.



The new Plant Patent Directory for 1961, published by the American Association of Nurserymen, is now available. It may be obtained by sending 50 cents to the Association, at 835 Southern Building, Wash. 25, D.C. The original directory plus all five supplements that have been published may be obtained for \$4.00.