

For Reviews and Abstracts

Principles of Horticultural Production.

1966. By B. R. Gardner. Mich. State University Press. 5 pages. \$15.00.

This very scholarly work is, in many respects, a revised version of the book, "Fundamentals of Fruit Production, of which Dr. Gardner was the senior author, and which has served as the standard text for advanced college courses in Fruit Science in North America for many years. As in the older book, but even more so, research with plants other than fruits is frequently cited in this one, to develop and expound the principles of fruit production.

Dr. Gardner also makes frequent reference to tropical and sub-tropical plants such as coffee, cacao, rubber and citrus fruits, as well as to the common temperate fruits. Undoubtedly, the author's experiences with and observations of tropical and subtropical fruits in South America and in Florida where he lives, have broadened his approach to the many problems of fruit production. Many of us will have to agree with the following statement in the preface: "What is learned about other crops may throw more light on the problems of apple production than study of a narrow specialty."

The author's broad approach to fruit production is also reflected by the varied sources of his 2825 citations, which originated in many lands and in many languages—Australia, Tanganyika, Netherlands, Soviet Union, Venezuela, Israel, etc.

The various phases of crop production which are discussed—fertilization, irrigation, pruning, thinning, weed control, and so on, are dealt

with on a "why" basis rather than on a "how-to-do-it" basis. Dr. Gardner is mainly concerned with the relation of the plant to its environment, and with the response of plants to farm practices which alter the environment or the plant's relation to it.

Many American and British readers will at first find it difficult to adjust to the author's use of the Centigrade scale wherever he quotes temperatures, and the metric system for other measurements. However, since Dr. Gardner is directing himself to students and growers throughout the world, he is certainly justified in doing it.

I wonder if this otherwise high quality book wouldn't be more attractive and effective with an additional 50 or more good illustrations.

Nevertheless, I am certain that students, teachers and enlightened growers will find "Principles of Horticultural Production" a very valuable reference. We congratulate Dr. Gardner for a difficult job well done.

—G. M. Kessler

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The Peach (Proceedings of the National Peach Conference). 1965. Compiled by N. F. Childers, L. B. Albrigo and E. G. Christ. Dept. Hort. and Forestry, Rutgers—The State University, New Brunswick, N. J. 281 pages. \$2.50 in U. S. and Canada; \$2.75 overseas.

This is a soft-covered, compilation of papers dealing with a variety of subjects related to peach culture, storage, handling and marketing, which were presented at the National Peach Conference held at Rutgers University

Dr. Gardner was formerly Director of the Mich. Agr. Exp. Station, and is a winner of the Wilder Silver Medal.