

"*The Art of Flower and Foliage Arrangement*" by Anna Hong Rutt, MacMillan Company, New York, 1958. \$5.95

Here is a fresh approach, a wealth of inspiration for every arranger—novice or prize-winner. Here is a real treasure house of photographs with a text covering all the principles and elements in flower arranging. This book will be read with keen interest by the Flower Show Judges as well as all others interested in the fascinating art of flower arranging, for it is now an art of outstanding importance. Beginners will find the fundamentals fully explained with lucid instructions covering the choosing and handling of all kinds of materials, choices of containers and accessories and the placing of compositions. School children will be encouraged and delighted by Mrs. Rutt's chapter on Arrangements for Juniors. Advanced practitioners in this art will find words of wisdom that will enlarge their understanding. To quote the author: "The basic idea in this book is that flower arrangement is an art and can be analyzed and understood as any of the other visual arts. The principles of art are the basis for our analysis of a flower arrangement—for example, we study it to see if it has good proportion, satisfactory balance, moving rhythm, and positive emphasis—we apply all these principles to the elements of color, line, form, pattern and texture in our flower arrangement."

The book is beautifully illustrated by 96 photographs by Elemore Morgan. They were taken especially for this book and are said to be the finest to appear in any book on flower arrangements. All the arrangements were made by the author alone. You will find them well designed, clear cut, neat and expressive.

The book has been placed in the library of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia, California.

BILLIE MCCASKILL

"*The Amaryllis Manual*", by Hamilton P. Traub. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1958. 338 p. Indexed. \$7.50

It is an event for a librarian to find a modern flower book written as a scientific publication and not over popularized for the home gardener. Dr. Traub has written a comprehensive, technical treatise on the genus *Amaryllis* which covers every detail of the subject and is interesting and clear to the non-scientist as well as the scientist. It is an extremely well-documented work in the exact style familiar to readers of *Herbertia*. In fact, it was the many requests for such a manual which he receives as editor of *Herbertia* that inspired Dr. Traub to write the book. His lifetime study of the *Amaryllis* makes him the best qualified person for the work. The bulk of the text covers *Amaryllis* history, botany, breeding, propagation, culture and marketing. The Appendices contain valuable information on chromosome

numbers, nomenclature, a generic and sub-generic diagnosis of *Amaryllis* with a key to the known species and their complete descriptions, *Amaryllis* nurseries, organizations and dealers, commercial sources, a glossary of terms, a 9 page bibliography and a complete index. There are 31 black and white illustrations, 1 colored plate.

The author starts with a well illustrated botanical description of the *Amaryllis*, including pollination and fertilization. He then describes the nine divisions of cultivated species and hybrids. There is an interesting historical account of introductions and breeding from 1689 to the present. All the noted hybridizers are mentioned from Garroway and Company, Bristol, England to Luther Burbank in California. Details of the breeding industry all over the world are given.

Propagation and culture are treated in the same thorough manner. As a UCLA staff member, this reviewer would like to see the *UC System for Producing Healthy Container Grown Plants*, ed. by K. F. Baker, supersede other soil mixtures with which it is listed! In the chapter on culture there is a fine diagram of the cross-sections of an *Amaryllis* bulb which would be hard to find elsewhere. Slightly different methods of field culture have been developed in the varying climates of Florida and California; outdoor culture is only for tropical and subtropical climates.

From the chapter on marketing, the reader can learn much about the flower industry as a whole. The author gives commercial standards, market outlets, and shipping methods. The last two chapters on *Amaryllis* shows and the *Amaryllis* as a cultural asset are of popular interest. They are followed by the technical appendices mentioned above.

A well written horticultural book with literary style, this volume stands a fitting monument of scholarship to Dr. Traub's half-century of devotion to these beautiful plants, and is the most valuable contribution to the literature on the genus *Amaryllis* to date.

DORA M. GERARD

"*Maples Cultivated in the United States and Canada*" by Brian O. Mulligan. Published by The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta 56 pp. August 1958 \$2.00 per copy, with discount for 10 or more copies.

The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta has for several years sponsored the publication of papers of interest to horticulturists, particularly in the United States and Canada. The latest publication in the cultivated maple is one of this series and is an important edition to our horticultural literature.

The pamphlet begins with a brief discussion of the geographical distribution of the genus and its botanical classification. The genus *Acer* in the 1902 revision in *Das Pflanzenreich* com-

prised 110 species which were subdivided into 13 sections. The genus is widespread in its distribution and horticultural material comes from a number of areas. The cultivated species are arranged in their sections and series according to Rehder and the species and hybrids cultivated in the United States and Canada are listed, indicating the number of places where they are known to be cultivated. A valuable list, in addition, is that of the maples at the U. S. Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland, with their Plant Introduction numbers. The cultivars are identified as to their associated species. A brief discussion is given of hybrids and of what is known of the chromosome cytology of the genus. The pamphlet is replete with such lists, including one on maples classified as to size and use, either as large shade trees or small ornamentals and those valuable for fall color. Mr. Roger G. Coggeshall has prepared the section on propagation, with a bibliography on the subject. In addition to the alphabetical list of the cultivated maples, there is a further alphabetical listing which indicates the botanical gardens in which they are known to be growing, their native habitat, the information available on their introduction into cultivation, and what is known about their discovery. This is greatly abbreviated but brings together in one place much useful knowledge. Under each of the botanical species the cultivars are described and their origin given. A number of excellent black and white photographs show the form of the whole tree, variations in leaf structure, and variations in the habit of growth.

Few genera are as widely cultivated as the maple. A publication such as this, which brings together in one leaflet information on introduction, cultivars and their origin, propagation, and brief notes of interest to the horticulturist on the geographical distribution, chromosome number, etc., is a valuable addition to horticultural literature. It is a compilation of facts from a number of sources and provides a time-saving reference source for all growers of maples. It is to be regretted, however, that this publication does not include a vegetative key, at least to the species of maple common in cultivation. We hope that the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums will find it possible to continue the publication of such informative pamphlets on other genera.

MILDRED E. MATHIAS

"Wild Flowers of the Santa Barbara Region", text by Katherine K. Muller, photographs by Campbell Grant. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Inc. 1958. \$1.00 plus 4% tax.

A botanic garden publication of such merit as to bring out the 'green' eye of any similar horticultural institution.

Wild flowers of California are everyone's interest, and becoming familiar with those about Santa Barbara will be a pleasure, using this latest

guide. Most striking to the layman will be the color plates. All the pictures are reproductions of colored photographs, all depict the flowers in close, sharp focus. A goodly portion against natural settings. Color true, even to the difficult to photograph blues, purples and greens. The layout of three pictures to a page has been given close consideration, leading the eye from picture to picture, yet emphasizing each.

The text, opposite each picture, identifies each of the 48 species by common and scientific name and the Plant Family to which it belongs. The detailed description of each specimen gives the essentials for identification, plus the type of natural location in which the plant is likely to be found. The writing style reads easily, interestingly and quickly!

An attractive and serviceable cover binds this flower guide. Made of a stiff, high gloss stock, the front cover is a photograph of a California poppy bordered walk within the Garden. The back cover carries a close-up photograph of this same flower. Binding is the new spiral plastic.

Indeed, a handsome and useful addition to the study and enjoyment of California wild flowers.

Buy one!

Gardening indoors under lights, by Frederick H. and Jacqueline L. Kranz, New York, Viking Press, 1957. 241 p. Indexed. \$4.95.

This book is of exceptional interest to anyone in the vicinity of UCLA aware of the experiments on exposing plants to light carried on in the greenhouses of the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, because it offers the opportunity for a novice to try similar techniques at home.

Some interesting facts about light in relation to plants are given. For instance, "by combining fluorescent tubes and incandescent bulbs to the ratio of three to one, plants can be grown to maturity without benefit of daylight. Scientists refer to this combination as 'balanced lighting'". Each of the colored rays affects the growth of plants, but two are vital—the red and the blue. The blue light promotes foliage growth, the red encourages flowering. Fluorescent tubes emit the rays of the blue part of the spectrum, and the incandescent tungsten-filament bulbs supply the needed rays in the red end of the spectrum. When only one type of lamp is being used, balanced lighting can be obtained by placing the lamp by a window—a boon to the amateur who may not want to invest in complicated lighting arrangements. The natural light from the window will supply both the blue and the red rays, and whichever artificial light is used will give a greater light intensity, so that plants will grow more rapidly.

The above, to the reviewer, was a most interesting part of the book. Every facet of the subject is discussed by the Kranz in an informative and helpful manner. Temperature, light intensities and photoperiodism, construction of indoor



Wait, Lucita H. 1959. "The Palm Society." *Lasca leaves* 9(Spring 1958), 45–46.

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