

## Arnoldia Reviews

**Wildflowers and Weeds.** Booth Courtenay and James H. Zimmerman. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold. 1972. 144 pages, illustrated. \$9.95.

This is a field guide intended for the lay person who is discouraged by technical keys and scientific terms. The authors have emphasized common names and have used habitat and a system of family group charts based on simple structural detail as the "tools" for identification. Each of the 650 plants selected for inclusion is briefly described and represented by a color photograph that could be used alone for identification purposes.

The area covered is the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada; however, the plants included also will be found growing in similar habitats outside that area. The book should be useful for a large part of the Northern United States, and should appeal to everyone who likes to see his wildflowers depicted in color.

SHEILA MAGULLION

**Container Gardening Outdoors.** George Taloumis. New York: Simon and Schuster. 1972. 95 pp., illustrated. \$7.95.

This is an idea book; it shows where and how to use plants in containers, mostly out-of-doors and in warm climates. Gardening procedures and management occupy but a few pages, and virtually no cultural material is included.

The volume has particular application to the needs of designers of shopping malls and municipal parks as well as West Coast residences where money is no object. The rest of us might look at it in a library for fun and inspiration.

ELINORE B. TROWBRIDGE

**The Complete Handbook of Pruning.** Roger Grounds, editor. New York, Macmillan Co. 157 pages, illustrated. American edition 1975. \$12.95.

Originally published in England, this volume retains a few British characteristics in vocabulary, and in references to species grown or for hardiness ranges within the United States. A glossary explains the less familiar terms. The section on grapes, for example, is applicable in its entirety to England and not to the United States. The fundamentals of pruning procedures are described and illustrated with color plates and black and white diagrams and illustrations. The three sections of the book cover the pruning of ornamental plants; the pruning of fruit trees and bushes; hedges, including topiary; greenhouse plants; and the care of old trees. In several sections an alphabetical listing of the plants considered uses interchangeably scientific and common generic and specific names.

RICHARD A. HOWARD





*P. mamei*. From: *Philodendrons*.

**Philodendrons.** Jack Kramer. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1974. 87 pp., illustrated. \$5.95.

This little book covers the selection, care, and propagation of philodendrons and related genera. The fifteen line drawings by Charles Hoeppner are the best part of the book; they are attractive, accurate, and correctly identified except for *Monstera deliciosa* (listed as *Philodendron pertusum*). Unfortunately the text does not live up to the illustrations; it is repetitive and sometimes misleading. For example, the delicate *Monstera Friedrichsthali* is described as "a treelike rampant climber," (p. 62), and dieffenbachias are said to have "large heart-shaped leaves resembling those of caladiums," (p. 68), which is untrue.

The chapters on the care of philodendrons contain useful summaries of the standard horticultural practices. However, the charts on diseases and their control (p. 28-30) recommend in several instances spraying with Malathion, a chemical toxic to humans which should not be used in the home. The description of propagation by air-layering (p. 57) is adequate, but the accompanying illustration by James Carew (p. 83) shows the gardener air-layering a petiole instead of a stem, a procedure certain of failure!



Much of the material presented in the first part of the book is repeated in the last chapter in a question and answer format. An index would have been more to the point, and the remaining pages could have been used to amplify the cryptic two-line descriptions of "forty favorite philodendrons," (Chapter 5).

The volume ends with a list of references. Notably absent is Monroe R. Birdsey's excellent work, *The Cultivated Aroids* (1951), which covers the same subject matter as *Philodendrons* and is still available from the publisher, Eric Lundberg, Ashton, Md. 20702, for a modest \$5.00.

MICHAEL MADISON

**Wild Flowers of the Canary Islands.** David and Zoë Bramwell. London: Stanley Thornes Ltd. 1974. 261 pp., illustrated. £5.00.

The Canary Islands are a paradise for plant lovers. The climate is ideal for growing a diverse group of garden plants from temperate to tropical types, but it is the native plants that are of particular interest. There are approximately 2000 of these; about one-fifth are found nowhere else on earth, and many are restricted to small areas on a single island. A large number are spectacular in a weird or a beautiful sense, particularly the Echiums, which are relatives of the familiar, weedy Viper's Bugloss. Succulents in several families are numerous.

This book is an indispensable aid for anyone interested in the native plants of the Canaries, whether he be a botanist or a more casual observer, as I can attest from firsthand experience. I took the book with me on a recent trip there, and I would have been lost without it.

A total of 205 species are illustrated by means of color photographs, and an additional 109 with reasonably good line drawings; nearly every genus is represented by at least one illustration. The last half of the book contains short descriptions and keys to the identification of a large percentage of the total flora. Although a glossary is provided, this section is most useful to the botanist or the serious amateur. Equally as useful as the identification aids is the excellent section on areas of botanical interest. A map of each of the seven major islands is given, and areas with concentrations of interesting plants are delineated. The plants listed in the accompanying text are usually among those illustrated later in the book. This section is particularly useful in preparing one's itinerary when time is limited.

RICHARD E. WEAVER, JR.

*Galanthus nivalis* — demure harbinger of spring brightens entrance of Administration Building. Photo: P. Chvany.



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