

## ARNOLDIA REVIEWS

**What Can I Grow in the Shade?** Suzanne Warner Pierot. New York, N.Y.: Liveright. 221 pages, illustrated. \$9.95..

The garden with more than half to full shade qualifies as a shade garden in this book. The major portion of the text is devoted to a description of, and growing information for, approximately one hundred and seventy plants and shrubs (trees are omitted). The remainder of the book includes a short section on general shade gardening techniques together with an index and five informative appendices. Especially useful in the last are the lists of shade-loving plants by region, the sources for shade plants, and the names and addresses of specialized plant societies.

While no claims are made by the author for the completeness of her list, it should be noted that some fine plants are missing. Surely *Cornus mas*, *C. kousa*, *Deutzia*, *Enkianthus*, *Prunus laurocerasus*, and possibly *Franklinia* could be grown in a shade garden where azaleas are flowering successfully. Some *Lilium* and *Sedum*, *Cornus canadensis*, and *Phlox divaricata*, among others, will bloom happily where hyacinths and hemerocallis thrive.

The gardener who is building his library and his gardening expertise may find this book a useful investment; however, for the initiated shade gardener, *What Can I Grow in the Shade?* will not offer anything new.

B. JUNE HUTCHINSON

**Wildly Successful Plants.** Lawrence J. Crockett. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc. 268 pages, illustrated. \$12.95.

Books on weeds have become popular of late, perhaps due to an upsurge of interest in urban ecology and in eating "nature foods." This is a good book, but hardly of the calibre of some of the older, standard works on the subject. The identification guide is basically a summary of the diagnostic features of the plants included, organized more or less in the form of a key. It seems to me a bit cumbersome and overly technical, although the glossary certainly helps to overcome this latter objection.

Each plant is illustrated by a somewhat stylized line drawing that is obviously meant to be more interesting than diagnostic, although most of them are good enough to allow for identification of the plant depicted. The whimsical figure of a human included with each of the habit sketches is a clever means of indicating scale. The text is both interesting and useful. Included are items of folklore and often the derivation of the Latin and common names. Potentially useful are the tips for eradicating each of the plants, although I suspect that most of the people who would buy this book would not be interested in this aspect of weeds.

RICHARD E. WEAVER, JR.

**Edible and Useful Plants of California.** Charlotte Bringle Clarke. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press. 280 pages, illustrated. \$5.95 paperback.

This volume aims to acquaint the average person with the many uses of plants found in California. The author describes both present and past uses, and also gives recipes that utilize many of the plants listed; each, "not just edible, but palatable."

The plants discussed are arranged by ecological communities, making this an excellent pocket guide for campers, backpackers, and scavengers. Although a glossary is provided, the novice will find the plant descriptions a little too technical. There are some very good color plates, but the line drawings are not readily adapted to plant identification.

On the whole, the book is very informative, and a good collection of plant lore and plant utilization. Highly recommended.

ALLAN NASH



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