

ARNOLDIA REVIEWS

Wildflowers of the Southeastern United States. Wilbur H. Duncan and Leonard E. Foote. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press. 296 pages, illustrated. \$12.00.

For this volume, the southeastern United States is defined to include Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas and Louisiana south and east. Plates, usually of four very high quality colored illustrations, oppose pages of descriptions of the plants considered. The arrangement is by family groups and these are in the Englerian system with the Monocotyledoneae at the end. Descriptions are brief and non-technical, and casual comments on ecology, distribution and uses are given. Scientific and common names are combined in one index. Introductory material explains in a glossary and by illustrations the botanical terms used in the text. There are no keys.

This is a most attractive book of handy size that will please those persons using it for recognition of the common wild flowers of the southeastern states.

RICHARD A. HOWARD

Heathers in Colour. Brian and Valerie Proudley. London: Blandford Press. 192 pages, numerous color illustrations. \$5.95.

This small but comprehensive book is another of the excellent Blandford Colour Series. Every aspect of growing heathers is covered, from possible uses through cultivation instructions and suggested color groupings to propagation methods.

The sixty-four pages of color photographs of both individual plants and established gardens are exceptionally fine and should prove extremely useful to any gardener wishing to invest in these lovely shrubs.

The last third of the volume lists ericas, callunas and daboecias and their many cultivars, giving detailed descriptions of color, time of flowering and cultural requirements.

This is a splendid reference book for English gardeners, but of only limited value to their American counterparts, as many of the varieties listed would not be hardy here, and there is no indication in the text as to which plants might withstand the vagaries of our climate.

CORA WARREN

Starting from Scratch: A Guide to Indoor Gardening. John Whitman. New York: Quadrangle. The New York Times Book Company. 211 pages, occasional line drawings. \$8.95.

The author is a freelance writer and this volume is written to be a moneymaker in the current market of romanticists who want to be horticulturally creative. Fundamentally, it instructs the novice how to sprout and grow on exotic garbage — seeds from mangoes, papayas, pineapples, loquats . . . as well as more mundane herbs, while giving very useful information about propagation adapted to several levels of proficiency. Unfortunately, most of the would-be grower's exertions will be a waste. Should he succeed (doubtful) in developing a single sugar cane indoors, he will have merely a rather withered, ungainly 3-foot grass plant.

The deplorable tendency of amateurs to sprout avocados and produce "conversation-pieces" is, in the reviewer's estimation, a trend to be discouraged. This volume capitalizes heavily on the avocado-growing im-

pulse. Who has seen the finest home-grown avocado that was not out-classed by any ficus? However, if you still would grow your very own kiwi vine, this is the book to tell you how!

ELINORE B. TROWBRIDGE

Woody Vines of the Southeastern United States. Wilbur H. Duncan. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press. 76 pages, illustrated. Paperback \$2.50.

This work was originally published in *Sida*, and was reprinted in paperback when the supply of reprints was exhausted. The area covered is comparable to that of *Wildflowers of the Southeastern United States*. A key to the genera of vines is followed with keys to species in larger genera, line drawings of the plants, and distribution maps. The personal observations on many of the taxa add significance to the booklet's use for identification.

RICHARD A. HOWARD

The Treasury of Houseplants. Rob Herwig and Margo Schubert. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc. 368 pages, color illustrations. \$12.95.

Originally written for the European market and now published in this country, this guide commences with an interesting and comprehensible exposition of how plants grow. Basic propagation methods are well described and illustrated by line drawings, and there is a useful taxonomic section. The authors also deal with the siting of plants from the viewpoints of their health and aesthetics in house or office; there even is a unique discussion of heirloom plants.

The fine basic material is followed by descriptions of more than 1,000 houseplants of all categories, arranged alphabetically by botanical name. History, habitat, culture and propagation are covered; if there are special problems, these are remarked. Numerous excellent photographs augment the text, accurately depicting plant habit as well as coloring.

Total format, paper, typography, color reproduction, and quality of the text all contribute to making this guide an outstanding value for the novice while giving no offense to the most learned taxonomist.

ELINORE B. TROWBRIDGE

Echeverias. L. Carruthers and R. Ginns. New York: Arco Publishing Company, Inc. 110 pages, illustrated. \$7.95.

The authors have been collecting and growing *Echeverias* for twenty years and in this non-botanical book they describe more than one hundred species and hybrids that they are currently growing in their own collections in England. The major portion of the book is given to the descriptive lists, along with numerous black and white line drawings and twenty-four pages of beautiful color plates. There also are chapters on their culture, which is simple, problems, which are few, and a short but fascinating history of the establishment and introduction of the genus into cultivation.

This is an excellent book for the beginning or advanced collector and should help to revive some interest in this once popular genus.

SHELIA MAGULLION



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