
Book Reviews

Köhlein, F.: *Iris*. Stuttgart: E. Ulmer 1981. 360 pp., 207 figs. Hard bound DM 96,-.

The genus *Iris*, including a few closely related small genera also known under the common name *Iris*, comprises a genetically complex group of plants consisting of many species, hybrids, varieties, clones and lines. This complexity stems from the fact that many *Iris* species readily hybridized and were easily propagated by rhizomes as well as seeds, while they have been cultivated as a garden plant for more than 4000 years.

The author has accomplished an excellent job in bringing together a wealth of information in such a clear and conveniently arranged way. The introductory chapters describe cultivation and breeding history, cultivation and application, propagation methods, diseases, up-keep and even trade. The main part of the book is devoted to extensive descriptions of the many *Iris* species, hybrids etc. Botanical names, including synonyms, have been used. Descriptions are often accompanied by excellent color pictures.

The third part deals with such genetical and physiological aspects as chromosome numbers, their relation to hybridization, sterility, pollination and fertilization, embryo and tissue culture.

The book concludes with tables of species with regard to flowering time, environmental requirements, etc., lists of *Iris* societies and supply nurseries in different countries, including an index of plant names.

This monograph is the most complete and up-to-date at present available and it offers a wealth of valuable information for both the gardener, including *Iris* lovers, and the botanist.

Since *Iris* is grown worldwide, a translation of this monograph in English is highly desirable!

G. W. M. Barendse, Nijmegen

Gunther, F. A.; Gunther, J. D.: *Residue Reviews: Residues and Other Contaminants in the Total Environment*. Vol. 80. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer 1981. 198 pp. Hard bound \$ 29.80.

The articles in "Residue Reviews" – not a very catchy title – are by now well-established, well-known and highly appreciated. Each volume few and specialized, but for that very detailed and comprehensively reviewed, topics. This volume 80 is again fully up to this high standard. It has just two reviews, one on a group of herbicides – phenoxyacetic acids; one on a group of insecticides – naphthylcarbamates. In addition, it contains a careful accumulative index of the contents of the 10 preceding volumes.

Carbaryl = substituted arylmethyl carbamates became particularly important insecticides as substitutes for DDT, as they are less toxic than the organophosphates. Their chemistry and mode of action in inhibiting cholinesterase is briefly discussed. The review then concentrates on the toxicity – particularly that for bees –, on metabolism and degradation, resistance and residue analysis.

Phenoxyacetic acid derivatives and analogues are one of the two main herbicide groups. The description of some of them in this volume concentrates on their main use in forests. Because of the controversy on their safety and their use in Vietnam, it is timely that the article includes extensively the effects of the highly toxic dioxin contaminations. Again, as with the carbaryl insecticides, the article concentrates on the distribution, persistence and fate of both 2,4 D and TCDD, the literature being comprehensively listed and evaluated.

Once again, valuable information is available in this volume for the specialists looking for completeness.

A. Trebst, Bochum