

Lawton, B.P.: **Mints. A Family of Herbs and Ornamentals.** - Timber Press, Portland 2002. 239 pp. EUR 32.95. ISBN 0-88192-524-1.

Timber Press Publishing House brings a unique treatise of mint family (*Lamiaceae* or *Labiatae*) written by Barbara Perry Lawton. She presents it as a group of plants playing an important role in human life since ancient times. Many family members have long been used in health care, in the home and in the kitchen, many of them possess great ornamental value. Therefore this book logically begins with the history of growing and with survey of using of mints. Herbal mints with culinary, medicinal, and cosmetic uses and ornamental mints are treated separately in two chapters, detailed description of the most important species and varieties is

accompanied by necessary cultural information. Pests and diseases are mentioned separately, too. The greatest part of the book - Catalog of Mints - brings a comprehensive survey of plants commonly found in the wild or grown commercially and in home gardens. Many species in 67 genera from 221 totally estimated are treated in this book. The text is illustrated by 61 full coloured photographs and by many drawings including historical illustrations from rare book collections of the Missouri Botanical Garden. This book will be very useful for professionals and for home gardeners as well.

F. ŠRÁMEK (*Průhonice*)