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Figures at the end of the issue.

BOOK REVIEW

FOTH, H. D.: FUNDAMENTALS OF SOIL SCIENCE. Sixth Edition. — John Wiley and Sons, New York—Santa Barbara—London—Sydney—Toronto, 1978. Pp. 436. £ 11.25.

The extended text of the sixth edition of this eminently readable book is accompanied with many instructive figures and tables, summarizes up-to-date knowledge on soils, predominantly considered as a medium for plant growth.

This book consists of sixteen chapters that cover a wide variety of soils, their genesis, composition, classification, geography, property and possibilities of their economical use in agriculture. The major emphasis is directed toward the soils of North America (the author is professor of Soil Science at Michigan State University) with additional treatment of soils in other parts of the world. Although the book is written by one author, many other soil scientists have contributed to it by photographs, graphs and drawings. This book is of great interest to plant physiologists who will appreciate especially the thorough treatment of interactions between soils and plant organisms and the tables of critical values of those soil properties that expressively influence plant growth. The convenient glossary at the end of the book lists the most widely used terms, and a detailed subject index makes possible a quick orientation in the text. The only remark I would like to make concerns the author's preference for the American units (bushels, quintals, hundred weights, acres etc.) in tables (e.g. 3–2, 12–2 etc.) and figs. (3–11, 3–20 etc.) to the SI units intelligible to American and European readers as well. It is very difficult for the Europeans to recalculate yield in bushels to yield in weight units, because one bushel of different crops has not the same weight. There are also a few misprints: in Fig. 6–9 CO₂ stands for CO₂ at the head of page 71. Energy concept oil water is instead of Energy concept of soil water. None of the reviewer's critical remarks, however, invalidates H. D. Foth's Fundamentals of Soil Science as a most valuable textbook, which may be recommended to the university students and to experienced scientists of related branches, who want to improve or refresh their knowledge of soils.

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