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BOOK REVIEWS

BRESLER, E., MCNEAL, B. L., CARTER, D. L.: SALINE AND SODIC SOILS. PRINCIPLES — DYNAMICS — MODELING. — Springer-Verlag, Berlin—Heidelberg—New York 1982. 236 pp. Cloth DM 98,— ; approx. US \$ 43.60.

This book — the tenth volume of the Advanced Series in Agricultural Sciences — is devoted to salinity, the problem most relevant in arid and semi-arid regions because of insufficient annual rainfall to flush accumulated salts from the crop root zone. The first part provides detailed information about the causes of soil salinity (e.g. rainfall, mineral weathering, fossil salts) and the properties of saline and sodic soils (chemical composition and physical characterization of soil solution, properties of soil minerals, ion exchange and so on). The reader finds here also useful parameters characterizing these soils and the methods of their determination. The second part deals with transport of water and salts. In addition to theoretical considerations of principles of these processes, their detailed description and survey of methods, much attention is devoted to mathematical modeling of salt-flow phenomena. The practical applications of this theoretical knowledge to management of saline and sodic soils are discussed in the last part. It describes adverse effects of excessive salts on plants (osmotic as well as specific-ion effects), crop salt tolerance and proper irrigation and farming practices including some elementary economic decisions.

The book is well-printed and the text is illustrated with many tables and 78 figures based on authors' own results or chosen from the literature. More than 450 references enable the reader to find easily further information.

As this book is a comprehensive survey of the principles and processes involved in the formation, reclamation and management of saline and sodic soils, it is certainly very useful to professionals in hydrology, agriculture and ecology and it will contribute to improving the economic potential of these soils.

JANA POSPÍŠILOVÁ (*Praha*)

VANDERPLANK, J. E.: HOST-PATHOGEN INTERACTIONS IN PLANT DISEASE. — Academic Press, New York—London—Paris 1982. 207 pp. US \$ 26.00.

This book is an excellent work summarizing, analyzing and simultaneously integrating the abundant information in the field of problem concerning host-pathogen interactions in plant disease. The purpose of this book is to provide an up-to-date account of the genetics, biochemistry and epidemiology of host-pathogen interaction. The author presents data that have not previously been recorded and synthesized and that indicate directions and new areas for further research in this interesting branch. The book contains fifty new tables and an extensive bibliography. It is designated primarily for plant pathologists and plant breeders and further for epidemiologists and biochemists.

MARIE ULRYCHOVÁ (*Praha*)