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BOOK REVIEW

JANICK, J. (ed.): PLANT BREEDING REVIEWS, Vol. 2. — Avi Publishing Company, Inc., Westport Connecticut 1984. 326 pp. US \$ 45.00.

Plant breeding has been practised by man since he settled and started cultivating plants. The techniques for breeding crop plants, however, has undergone changes in the course of the progress of science, especially in the last years. The objective of Plant Breeding Reviews is to synthesize the most important information on the theory and practical achievements of plant breeding, which until now has been dispersed throughout the specialist literature. The first volume in this series was published in 1983. Each volume is opened by a life history of a remarkable plant breeder. Volume 2 is dedicated to G. F. Sprague, whose research accomplishment have been primarily in the development and evaluation of new breeding methodology and the production of corn inbred lines that have been widely used in hybrid seed production. For the benefit of plant breeders, leading experts have compiled overviews on techniques and breeding achievements in several important crops. Included are articles on breeding cassava, bananas and coffee, reviews on breeding strawberries for red stele resistance and hybrid wheat breeding. A review on induced mutations in seed-propagated plants brings data on new mutants of crop plants that have been induced by both ionizing radiation and chemical mutagens. Three papers focus on modern techniques of tissue culture and plant engineering: tissue culture of legumes for crop improvement, tissue culture techniques for virus elimination and germplasm preservation and plant genetic engineering *via* organelle transfer.

This volume should be placed, together with its predecessor in the series, among valuable reference books for readers interested in all aspects of contemporary plant breeding research.

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