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BOOK REVIEW

RUSSELL, G. E. (ed.): *PROGRESS IN PLANT BREEDING*, Vol. 1. — Butterworths, London–Boston–Durban–Singapore–Sydney–Toronto–Wellington 1985. 325 pp. £ 45.00.

Plant cell culture and genetic engineering are certainly important tools in basic research and probably will play an important role in the agriculture of tomorrow. But the rapid progress in crop production during the last years has been made by plant breeders using the classical breeding techniques — selection, crossing and mutation. A new series on the application of modern approaches to plant breeding, fills the need for a common meeting ground to breeders from various fields of interest. International experts will describe in detail breeding progress in the most important cultural plants or certain breeding objectives in major crops. Volume 1 presents 11 review articles on the following topics: dwarfing genes in wheat, sugar-beet breeding in the United States, genetic improvement of grain protein crops, cassava breeding, the breeding programme at the International Potato Center in Peru, oil-palm breeding, field evaluation of drought response in small-grain cereals, breeding for bird resistance in *Sorghum* and maize, breeding advances in chickpeas, breeding rice for disease resistance and genetic resources in vegetables. As can be seen from the list of topics included in Volume 1, this new series will cover a wide range of important plant breeding subjects and will serve as a valuable source of information to plant breeders as well as to other agricultural scientists.

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