

Shands, H.J., Wiesner, L.E. (ed.): **Use of Plant Introductions in Cultivar Development. Part 1.** (CSSA Special Publication Number 17.) - Crop Science Society of America, Madison 1991. 164 pp.

The book contains the proceedings from the symposium held in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 19, 1989. It includes the papers on rice, oats, wheat, barley, sorghum, forage legumes, grasses, cotton and soybean. Maize was not included because of the limited use of recent plant introductions in developing commercial hybrids.

Chapter 1 deals with the history of the rice introduction to the USA, the beginnings of its research and of developing the collection of germplasm sources. Useful characteristics from germplasm are described and the future germplasm needs are pointed out. Chapter 2 begins with an oat cultivar improvement in the USA and the germplasm use and is mainly about the weedy and wild relatives. *Avena sterilis* is considered as a particularly valuable germplasm. Chapter 3 deals with the wheat foundation germplasm in the breeding programs in the past, present and future. *Aegilops squarrosa* is described as one of the most important donor-species for wheat. Chapter 4 presents information on the use of introduced germplasm in the USDA-ARS National Barley Collection in barley cultivars. Chapter 5 is devoted to sorghum and informs about the early sorghum introductions, the hybrid production, the contribution of exotic germplasm and the impact on the yield and the future endeavours. Chapter 6 describes the foundation of the North American forage legume cultivar development and deals mainly with clover and alfalfa. Chapter 7 is devoted to the contribution of introduced germplasm to the development of the grass cultivars for both cooler and warmer conditions. Chapter 8 summarizes the history of cotton improvement, the contributions of introduction to the cotton breeding and it also contains future considerations on the germplasm resources for desirable characteristics. Chapter 9 describes the origin of the soybean and germplasm introduction and development in North America.

The book contains the data important for all specialists involved in the breeding of the concerned crops, for the scientists charged with the maintenance of the crop genetic resources, as well as for all the readers interested in the development of cultivated plants. The text is illustrated by many tables and some figures. Each chapter is followed by several pages (2-5) of mostly recent references. The conversion factors for the SI and non-SI units given on four pages are a very useful supplement of the book. Part 2 of the same title was announced for proceedings of a symposium held at San Antonio in October 1990.

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