

Brock, J.H., Wade, M., Pyšek, P., Green, D. (ed.): **Plant Invasions. Studies from North America and Europe.** - Backhyus Publishers, Leiden 1997. 223 pp. US \$ 52.75. ISBN 90-73348-4.

Adaptive processes of plant species introduced into territorially specific environments have been intensively studied for about 30 years. The last decade produced such books as, e.g., J.A. Drake *et al.* (ed.): *Biological Invasions. A global perspective*, 1989; F. di Castri *et al.* (ed.): *Biological invasions in Europe and the Mediterranean basin*, 1990; or P. Pyšek *et al.* (ed.): *Plant Invasions: General Aspects and Special Problems*, 1995. The book reviewed compiles the recent knowledge of alien invasive plants (its main source of information is the workshop material presented at the October 1995 Conference at Arizona State University, Tempe, USA).

The book is not divided into separate thematic sections. Individual case studies concentrated mainly on bioecological, environmental or methodological aspects of the plant invasiveness/habitat invasibility follow the general introductory chapter "Predicting plant invasions: Making a start" (M. Wade). Expansion of woody plants along the river environmental gradients in Sonoran Desert is the subject of two studies (J.H. Brock and M.C. Farkas, D.M. Green and M.G. Baker). In contrast, herbaceous species, exotic for Arizona, are treated by J.C. Stromberg *et al.* The following set of papers reviews the model species and brings new knowledge to their invasive nature: *Lepidium latifolium*, *Schinus terebinthifolius*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Arundo donax*, *Tamarix ramossissima*, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, *Bidens frondosa*, *Prunus serotina*. Long-term monitoring system of plant invasions and experimental approach to the subject are presented in three particular articles (U.V. Andersen, P. Pyšek and B. Mandák, M. Bastl *et al.*). Use of GIS to manage an invasive plant within the urban environment (L. Child and L. de Waal) represents an interesting methodological approach.

The book illustrates the main attributes of the ecology of invasions: 1) major contribution to general ecology, 2) support of widely international collaborative approach, and 3) promotion of multilevel view on hierarchically functioning nature.

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DiSabato-Aust, T.: **The Well-Tended Perennial Garden. Planting & Pruning Techniques.** - Timber Press, Portland, Oregon 1998. 269 pp. GBP 22.50. ISBN 0-88192-414-8.

Ornamental gardening is a frequent hobby of many plant scientists. This is why I present this information on an outstanding book to readers of *Biologia Plantarum*.

The book is divided into three sections: Basic perennial garden planting & maintenance (7 chapters), Pruning perennials (5 chapters), and A-Z Encyclopedia of perennials. The chapters in the first two sections offer important general information about pruning and maintenance to provide a base (garden design, bed preparation, planting and establishment, pests and diseases staking, division, renovation of established garden, deadheading, cutting back, pinching, disbudding, thinning, deadleafing, pruning for winter and for spring, etc.). The Encyclopedia of perennials in the third section gives specifics in a species-by-species arrangement (with 3 appendices—Ornamental grasses, Perennial garden planting and maintenance schedule, and Lists of perennials for specific pruning and maintenance requirements).

The book is illustrated by 20 line-drawings and by 131 excellent colour photographs showing "before and after" effects of individual treatments. It is well produced, and supplemented by an index of plant names, USDA plant hardiness zone map, metric conversion chart, glossary and bibliography. Although the book is addressed mainly to American readers, it may be useful to all plant scientists, professionals and home gardeners.

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