
BOOK REVIEW

Pérez, M.P.Y.: **Handbook of Agriculture.** - Marcel Dekker, New York 1999. 768 pp. USD 150.00. ISBN 0-8247-7914-2.

This book is a wide-ranging publication in area of world agriculture. At the same time it is a detailed publication in partial areas which are explained very carefully with high skilled and scholarly erudition. The book is divided into six main chapters with following subchapters: Soil, fertilizers and organic matter (Solid and liquid phase of soil, Soil chemistry and Disinfection, Artificial soils and substrates, Hydroponics, Chemical and Organic fertilizers, Classification and Application of fertilizers, Deficiencies of nutrient elements, Correcting and improving soils), Fruit trees (Reproduction, Planting, Pruning, Growth, Disorders, Cultivation, Irrigation of fruit trees, Soil, Harvesting and Storage of fruit, Species, Forestry), Defence of cultivated plants (Viral, Animal, Plant parasites, Preventive Curative measures, Weed control), Agricultural techniques in extensive crops (Use of cereals, The plant, Cultivation cycles, Soil preparation, Sowing, Tending crop, Irrigation, Agricultural mechanics, Harvesting, Storing grain, Accidents, weeds, diseases and pests, Main extensive crops), Horticulture (Propagation of Horticultural plants, Sowing, Soil preparation, Tending, Applying fertilizer and Plant growth regulators, Irrigation, Alternation and rotation, Harvesting, Storage, Characteristic of main vegetable crops, *In vitro* cultivation), Greenhouse cultivation (Protective structures, Environmental factors in greenhouses, Heating and cooling, Cultivation systems, Irrigation, Fertilizer application, Pest and diseases, Sanitary problems). Extend of all chapters is nearly the same, so similar amount of information can obtain agronomist as well as gardener. Some parts are present in detail (e.g. soil, fertilizers, defence of plants), other relatively briefly (e.g. those concerning individual plants and group of plants). Some our basic crop are missing (e.g. potatoes, sugar beet). It is no surprising due to fact that publication is from Spain. Many presented cultivation techniques and methods, as well as the range of new products on the market concern Spain. One table briefly surveying content is arranged alphabetically, in some cases it could be useful. At the beginning there is very practical sheet with recalculations between commonly used units of measurements.

The book is up-to-date and informative work aimed exclusively to professionals. It is written in practical language with the aim to spread current knowledge of agricultural science. It is interesting and easy to understand due to big amount of pictures and sheets. It can help in choosing the optimal soil preparation procedure for a given crop, the type of seed to buy, or best machinery to perform an agricultural task, in light of climatic factors, the site, the size of area cultivated and potential profitability of the investment. Due to botanical and biological chapters the book could be used by teachers at different types of agricultural schools.

J. PULKRÁBEK, D. NOVÁK (*Praha*)