Goyal, S.S., Sharma, S.K., Rains, D.W. (ed.): **Crop Production in Saline Environments: Global and Integrative Perspectives.** - Food Products Press, an Imprint of the Haworth Press, New York - London - Oxford 2003. 427 pp. USD 69.95, ISBN 1-56022-096-1.

Salinity limits crop production in many rainfed ecosystems and it is an increasing problem in irrigated areas. At the same time, to increase productivity in saline environments is an urgent necessity for many developing countries. Therefore, a substantial body of research in this field is not surprising. The articles of this book, written by world well-known specialist, has been co-published simultaneously as Journal of Crop Production, Volume 7, Numbers 1-2, 2003.

The first part of the book is devoted to general problems. After a survey of strategies for managing crop production in saline environments (chapter 1), following comprehensive part is mainly focused on advantages which bring molecular breeding for enhancing salt tolerance (chapters 2 and 3). Among others, the transfer of a single or a few genes provide a major hope to reduce the negative impact of broad gene transfer that takes place in wide-cross hybridization. The physiological traits conferring salt resistance are also emphasized, because improvement of plant performance under salinity should simultaneously ensure the maintenance of an adequate water supply and avoid toxic concentration of ions. *Arabidopsis* as a model system is the topic of chapter 4.

The second part of this book deals with the use of saline-sodic waters for irrigation, reclamation of salt-affected soils and productivity enhancement in the salt-affected lands. Individual chapters (5 - 14) are specialized to solve regional problems in individual areas: USA, China, India, Pakistan, East and North Africa, Australia, and Southwestern Siberia. The last chapter brings suggestions for salinity resistance research in future.

The readable text of each chapter is accompanied with useful tables, figures and extensive list of references. Information from this book will be certainly useful for many teachers, students and practitioners from this field.

J. POSPÍŠILOVÁ (*Praha*)

Baugher, T.A., Singha, S. (ed.): **Concise Encyclopedia of Temperate Tree Fruit.** - Food Products Press and the Haworth Reference Press, New York - London - Oxford 2003. 387 pp. Hardbound USD 94.95, ISBN 1-56022-940-3, softbound USD 39.95, ISBN 1-56022-941-1.

This book organized into 42 chapters prepared by 26 leading pomologists in the United States provides a wealth of clearly written information on many basic and applied aspects of temperate tree fruit production.

Chapters on fundamental science are related to orchard practices and include principal topics on tree physiology and genetics such as water and temperature relations, mineral nutrition, photosynthesis, carbohydrate partitioning, growth regulation, hormones, dormancy, acclimation, flowering and fruit formation, molecular genetics, breeding and cultivar selection. Anatomy and taxonomy of fruit tree species is covered in sufficient detail.

The range of applied topics on tree growing includes orchard planning and site preparation with respect to geographical considerations, soil management, fertilization and irrigation, orchard floor management, propagation and rootstock selection, pruning and training systems, high-density orchards, spring frost control, and pests, particularly disease-causing pathogens. Not forgotten are ecological themes of fruit production such as sustainable orcharding and wildlife management. Chapters devoted to fruit are on fruit growth, color development, physiological disorders, maturation, harvesting, postharvest, physiology, packing, storing, marketing, industrial processing and nutritional value.

High proportion of the information presented is concerned with apple. Other species frequently mentioned include pear and the stone fruits. Additional source of more detailed information can be found in a list of references given in each chapter. As a very useful condensed overview of our knowledge in pomology, the book will certainly be of great interest and value for students, teachers, scientists, growers and anyone else concerned with any aspect of tree fruit production.

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