



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



Springer

Review: [untitled]

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Source: *Economic Botany*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (Jan. - Mar., 1965), p. 94

Published by: Springer on behalf of New York Botanical Garden Press

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4252579>

Accessed: 13/08/2010 09:48

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Symptoms of Virus Diseases in Plants. L. Bos. 132 pp. illus. Centre for Agricultural Publication and Documentation, Wageningen, Netherlands, 1963.

Although symptoms of virus diseases in plants are the evidences of such diseases as well as being the common means of studying them, there has been very little attention directed to the question of symptoms as such. This book represents a unique piece of work which attempts to discuss abnormalities induced by viruses and the terminology utilized in describing them. It will be of value to plant pathologists and virologists as a reference and review of terminology commonly used in describing symptoms. Fine distinctions in meaning as well as commonly accepted usage are discussed. For example, two terms, mottle and mosaic, are often used as equivalents. The author, however, points out definite distinctions between these two terms as commonly applied by many virologists. A review of the use and interpretation of other such terms as streak, ringspot, line pattern, vein banding, and vein clearing may well lead to their more precise utilization. Well chosen photographs, line drawings, and two color plates illustrate most of the variety of symptoms discussed. Appended to the text is an index of terms with equivalents in English, Dutch, German, French, and Italian.

One of the main purposes of this book is to clarify the meaning of terms used in describing symptoms and to suggest a precise and meaningful utilization of various terms. The author avoids any attempt to force the use of certain terms in a particular way. This, in a sense, contributes to a weakness of the book. One might prefer that the author had more forcefully set forth the precise limits of utilization which he favored for each term, and by the same token, that he would have been more critical of vague or confused usage of terms. His objectives, however, may well be accomplished by the analysis and review which is presented.

The title of this book may be misleading to those in fields of agriculture outside of plant pathology. The book is not a catalog of symptoms of various virus diseases and cannot be used in the identification of such diseases. The book is a listing and discussion of the terminology used in describing

symptoms and as such will be of value to students, teachers, and research workers concerned with correct interpretation of information.

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Manual del Arbol. Jaime Jaramillo-Arango. 123 pp. illus. Editorial Voluntad, Ltda., Bogotá, Colombia, 1962.

A simply written, yet highly accurate book designed primarily to create in the minds of Colombian school children and the public an appreciation of trees, this work was published after the death of the author. The late Dr. Jaramillo-Arango, Colombian surgeon, diplomat, botanical historian and man of letters, conceived this book as a result of years of preoccupation over the ever increasing destruction of the forests on the slopes of the Andes. The book is admirably written to accomplish its purpose and is interestingly illustrated. With photographs and with drawings by Geoffrey Kiss, it will be of interest to many economic botanists primarily because of its long listing of useful trees found in Colombia, a country with a rich flora but with little indeed in the non-technical literature to help unlock this wealth. This little volume, likewise, may well serve as a kind of model for dedicated persons in other Latin American countries and the United States to prepare works with a similar purpose in mind.

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The First Book of Weeds. Barbara L. Beck. 66 pp. illus. Franklin Watts, Inc., New York, 1963. \$2.50.

A review of this small volume is best understood when we consider that it is only one of a series of two dozen "First Books" on many subjects, such as insects, mammals, stones, and weather, and that these books are written for children. The book is reasonably free from the errors that often plague a publication of this type. Some that should be mentioned are the attempts to oversimplify botany with such terms as "heads of buttercups" and "carrot pods." The most glaring factual error is the state-