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Book Review

Oats: Chemistry and Technology. F. H. Webster (ed.). American Association of Cereal Chemists, 3340 Pilot Knob Rd., St. Paul, MN 55121. 1986. 432 pp. \$79.00.

Much less research has been devoted to oats than to the other major cereals. And what has been researched for the most part concerns the origin and evolution of this crop plant. In this one volume, we have a valuable cross-section of the chemistry and technological aspects of oat nutrition, cultivation, morphology, and chemistry of the kernel, oat starch, β -glucan, storage proteins, lipids and lipid-related enzymes, phenolics, cholesterol-lowering properties, flavour chemistry, cleaning and processing, and oat utilization, present and past. All of these aspects are brought together in an admirably edited and produced volume.

The contributions to the chapters devoted to these diverse topics number 19. All contributors are experts in their respective fields—mostly from research institutes related to commercial companies.

Many members of the Society of Economic Botany will want to own this book, for they will find an extraordinary variety of information on oats. Each contribution has its own bibliography, and the whole book is indexed in great detail.

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