



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



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Book Review

Corn: Chemistry and Technology. Standley A. Watson and Paul E. Ranstad (eds.). American Association of Cereal Chemists Inc., 3340 Pilot Knob Rd., St. Paul, MN 55121. 1987. 605 pp. \$74.00 (nonmembers \$87.00).

Corn, or better maize, is one of the 10 plants that feed the world and one of the three major cereals. As a consequence there has been much research from many points of view devoted to this crop plant. Recent discoveries in botanical, nutritional, agricultural, and other aspects have greatly advanced our knowledge of this cereal inherited from the Americans.

It is, consequently, very appropriate that these two specialists have collaborated to pull together and edit in one encyclopedic volume an up-to-date summary of the chemistry and technology of maize. The present volume is the synthesis of material divided into 20 chapters and written by an impressive roster of experts. The scope of the book can be appreciated by the titles of the chapters: 1) Corn perspective and culture; 2) Breeding, genetics and seed production; 3) Structure and composition; 4) Harvesting and post-harvesting management; 5) Measurement and maintenance of quality; 6) Insect pests—control and effect; 7) Production, marketing and utilisation; 8) Kernel carbohydrates; 9) Kernel proteins; 10) Kernel lipids; 11) Dry milling; 12) Wet milling; 13) Food uses of whole corn and dry-milled fractions; 14) Sweet corn; 15) Nutritional values of corn and its by-products; 16) Modification and uses of corn starch; 17) Corn sweeteners; 18) Corn oil; 19) Fermentation processes and products; and 20) Biomass use and conversions. There follows a comprehensive index to the mass of material within the two covers. Each chapter has its extended list of literature cited.

Many specialists in the plant industries and in economic botany will welcome a volume of this calibre. The editors and contributing authors are to be congratulated.

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