

## Book review

Winter, Fritz, Helmut Janszen, Winfried Kennel, Herman Link & Robert Silbereisen: *Lucas' Einleitung zum Obstbau*. 522 pp., 196 figures, 78 tables, general index. Verlag Eugen Ulmer Stuttgart, 1974. Price DM 62.

The 29th edition of Lucas' *Einleitung zum Obstbau*, issued since 1866, has been completely revised by a group of qualified experts of the Research Station for Fruit Growing of the University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim at Bavendorf. It is an up-to-date text-book on fruit growing, especially useful for students and those generally interested in fruit growing. It deals with all temperate fruit crops including strawberries and walnuts. Most attention, however, is given to pome fruits.

The text is written in German and often refers to the situation in the Federal Republic of Germany, but much is relevant also for fruit growing in other countries with a temperate climate. A bibliography lists German literature only.

Two of the 19 chapters or 63 of the total 522 pages of the book, deal with crop protection. In a chapter a thorough and clear description of the various principles of crop protection measures is given. It contains for example a realistic view of benefits and disadvantages of pesticides. At the end a list is given of the most important fungicides, insecticides and acaricides registered for application in fruit crops in the F.R.G. In another chapter the main diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi as well as animals (insects, mites and mice) damaging fruit crops, are described. The information on control is given per disease and in rather general terms.

The problem of poor growth of young apple trees when old orchards are replanted is dealt with in a chapter on Planning and Planting Fruit Orchards. Only chemical soil disinfection is recommended to overcome the replant problem; the use of fresh soil in planting holes is not mentioned as an alternative for the chemical treatment. Moreover, there is no apparent relationship between the recommended chemical disinfection and the soil disinfectants listed in Table 24.

Some more critical remarks could be made but they should not detract from the favourable overall impression of the book.

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