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Book review

M. Stahl and H. Umgelter, 1976: Pflanzenschutz im Zierpflanzenbau. Handbuch des Erwerbsgärtners, Band 5, 2nd Edition. Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart. 495 pp with 267 illustrations, 9 pp. references; cloth bound, price DM. 88.

This second edition of the German manual on 'Crop protection in the cultivation of ornamentals' has been completely revised. Since the first edition in 1959 much new information has become available, the use of pesticides is continuously changing and increasing, and the number of ornamental species is constantly growing.

A short introductory chapter (12 pp.) briefly describes the nature of the various disease incitants, pests and non-infectious harmful factors. It gives some general information on the damage and on control. A more extensive chapter (84 pp.) deals with diseases, pests and damages of general importance. Biological pest control is discussed in four pages only.

The major part of the book (359 pp.) concerns the diseases and pests of the ornamental plant species grown in Germany, which are arranged alphabetically according to the Latin name. The disorders are concisely, but clearly described and some information is given on their incitants to assist macroscopic identification. This is followed by data on their control. The text seems up to date and is well illustrated with numerous photographs. The rather limited list of references may help those interested in further scientific detail. The choice of the references indicates that the authors are also acquainted with pertinent research in neighbouring countries and that the book has more than local value. This is also because various pathological problems of ornamentals grown in greenhouses are international.

The book has been written mainly for commercial growers ('Erwerbsgärtner'). Thus, much emphasis is laid on practical control, but it will also be of help to teachers and students and all others involved in practical control and able to read German.

L. Bos