

Book review

W. Menzinger and H. Sanftleben, 1980. Parasitäre Krankheiten und Schäden an Gehölzen. Symptome, Biologie, Bekämpfung. Paul Parey, Berlin/Hamburg, 264 pp, 15 drawings, 4 pp with 24 colour photographs, balacron-bound. Price DM 58.

This book contains descriptions of diseases and pests of woody plants and of directions for their control. It can be considered as a kind of manual for growers of ornamental trees and shrubs, but also useful for extension officers, horticultural schools, pesticide firms, etc.

It starts with a chapter (33 pp) which gives a general introduction to the various groups of organisms which damage woody crops. This is typically an introduction for the layman on the various groups of relevant organisms, including higher animals and weeds. It is of necessity rather superficial.

The main part of the book (about 100 pp) is devoted to short descriptions of 380 parasitic diseases and pests. They are described by host genus. The host genera are arranged alphabetically, first the deciduous trees and then the coniferous ones. The descriptions are brief, but it remains a matter of opinion, of course, how much detail should be given to enable a sufficiently reliable determination. Perhaps too much detail might discourage or confuse the practical grower. It is a pity that in a book of this nature so few illustrations of the symptoms are given (only 4 pp with 24 colour pictures). This is even more surprising as the authors point out very appropriately that the variability of the symptoms is very great. Practice will have to prove in how far the book is a good help in recognizing the cause of the observed symptoms.

Chapter 3 consists of a glossary of 3½ pp on some relevant biological terms which would perhaps have been more logically placed after the first chapter.

The fourth chapter (43 pp) discusses various groups of pesticides arranged according to the group of organisms controlled. Here too the descriptions are brief and to the point. In the fifth chapter there are indices for the parasites and pests and for the pesticides.

In a pocket at the inside of the back cover a separately bound sixth chapter is to be found which deals with the control of the individual problems. It is arranged similar to chapter 2. After the name of the problem follow(s) the advised measure(s) of control. It is kept separate in order to allow for easy replacement as its information is expected to become obsolete rather fast in comparison to that of the rest of the book. It is gratifying to note that in the chapters on control ample attention is given to ecological view points.

The book is sturdily bound, of good typography and contains only few printing errors. It seems to us a reliable and useful guide for the practical grower. Its usefulness will, however, have to be tested by practice.

In case of a second edition, however, it may be a good idea to consult some specialists in order to avoid certain imperfections. The book covers after all many specialisations, such as virology, nematology, herbology, etc. Just to mention a few points as an illustration:

Rotylenchus uniformis (= *R. robustus*), damaging roots of many tree-species is not mentioned.

Aphelenchoides ritzemabosi does not overwinter in soil, but in buds of host plants.

Pratylenchus penetrans damages many more trees and shrubs than only roses.

Otiorrhynchus sulcatus, damaging quite a number of shrubs and trees, is mentioned in connection with *Calluna* and *Rhododendron*, not, however, with *Taxus*, although the insect is called 'Taxus beetle' in Western Europe. Treatment of *Ulmus* spp. with fungistatics against *Ceratocystis ulmi*, as is a general practice in Canada, is not included in the 6th chapter.

A second edition would also benefit from the inclusion of more illustrations.

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