
Book Reviews

Thomson, J. R. (ed.): Advances in Research and Technology of Seeds. Part 7. Wageningen: PUDOC 1982. 140 pp. Soft bound Dfl. 36,-.

The number of articles in the area of seed research is overwhelming. The series "Advances in research and technology of seeds" proposes to give an overview of this field of research with stress on the technological application of pure research. In part 7 of this series 4 reviews are presented from which the first two are on subjects treated previously in this series. The first review deals with weed seeds. Apart from a general survey the author stresses the possibility of weed control by breaking dormancy with hormones, especially ethylene. In the second review the effect of radiation on seeds is treated. Although there is still a considerable interest in the induction of mutations, much research is carried out now on the effect of radiation on crop growth and yield. In the next review seed development and structure are covered. The author stresses the importance of seed coat pattern for identification. The last review deals with seed germination, dispersion and losses in tree species. All four reviews are excellent and cover important topics of seed research.

G. J. M. de Klerk, Nijmegen

Vogel, H.: Azaleen, Eriken, Kamelien. 2nd revised edition. Berlin, Hamburg: P. Parey 1982. 280 pp., 170 figs. (26 in color), 8 tabs. Hard bound DM 74,-.

The monograph covers the so-called "Azerca" cultures, an abbreviation of the species mentioned in the title. It treats ornamentals: Indian and Japanese azaleas (*Rhododendron*

simsii, *Rh. indicum*, *kaempferi*, *kiusianum*, *sataense*, *mucronatum* and *obtusum*, and their hybrids), the genus *Erica* with 623 species, both belonging to the family of Ericaceae; and the genus *Camellia* with 82 species belonging to the family of Theaceae. *Camellia* is nearly exclusively cultured as *Camellia japonica*; the most important *Erica* species in culture is *E. gracilis*. Whereas *Rhododendron* and *Camellia* are nearly cosmopolitan, the *Erica* species are only found in Africa and Europe. All species and cultivars covered in this monograph have in common that they are very popular as ornamentals, outdoor and in pots, and have special demands on the soil: they are by origin swamp plants.

During the last years, breeding in the three species has become increasingly important. The assortment of azaleas has been fast growing through the activity of Belgian, American and German breeders. The most outstanding work in *Erica* breeding is done in Great Britain and Germany, whereas the giant collection of *Camellia* is in hands of American, Australian, English, French and Italian breeders.

This book gives an excellent introduction into the diversity of the species and varieties, the practical cultural conditions, propagation, the special treatments with fertilizers and growth hormones, the watering, and also selection of mother plants, pest control and protection against infestation, on transportation and wrapping. It is a handbook by the practitioner for the practitioner. It reflects the present state of research, cultivation and breeding and is in this way, an up-to-date and reliable adviser for anybody who is active in ornamental production.

H. F. Linskens, Nijmegen