

## BOOK NOTICES

ALAN E. BESSETTE, ARLEEN RAINIS BESSETTE, WILLIAM K. CHAPMAN, and VALERIE CONLEY CHAPMAN. 2000. **Wildflowers of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont in color.** (ISBN 0-8156-0586-2, pbk.). Syracuse University Press, 621 Skytop Road, Suite 110, Syracuse, NY 13244-5290, U.S.A. (Orders: [http://sumweb.syr.edu/su\\_press/](http://sumweb.syr.edu/su_press/), [twalsh01@syr.edu](mailto:twalsh01@syr.edu), 315-443-5547, 315-443-5545 fax). \$24.95, pbk., 163 pp, 362 color photos, 6 1/2" × 9 1/4".

The book includes 'nearly 400 photographs' of showy species, those most likely to be marveled at, each species with a brief, mid-technical description. The "primary reference source for nomenclature and terminology" is the "Revised Checklist of New York State Plants by R.S. Mitchell and G.C. Tucker." The photos are nicely done and most of them show aspects of the foliage as well as the flowers—the volume is worth having for the photos. Within each of the six color categories, the species are sorted by a series of key-like alternatives, using features of flowers, habit, and leaves to help the user navigate toward matching a photo with plant in hand. A "Visual Glossary," "Glossary of Terms," "Index of Common Names," and "Index of Genera and Species" also provide help toward this goal.

Lay it perhaps to the bias of a non-novice, but it's hard for me to appreciate the value of this artificial color-arrangement of species, compared to the broader usefulness of grouping the photos by family. Users of this book who would want to check the identity of species by reference to the pithy descriptions and semi-technical 'keys' probably have enough botanical background and savvy to appreciate floral similarities acquired through evolution.—Guy L. Nesom, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas*, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.

DANIEL ZOHARY and MARIA HOPF. 2000. **Domestication of Plants in the Old World, Third Edition.** (ISBN 0-19-850356-3, pbk.). Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513, USA (Orders: [www.oup-usa.org](http://www.oup-usa.org), 800-451-7556). \$34.95, 316 pp, illustrated, 9 1/4" × 6 1/8".

As a student of ethnobotany (falling mostly on the anthropological side of the spectrum) I was genuinely excited to see this book. *Domesticated Plants in the Old World* makes available a wealth of information in a concise text that is both exhaustively researched and elegantly written. The book contains ten chapters followed by site orientation maps and chronological charts, references, and an index. The book begins with a discussion of the sources of evidence for the origin and spread of cultivated plants, including archaeological evidence, evidence from living plants, and radiocarbon dating and dendrochronology. The following seven chapters individually cover cereals, pulses, oils and fibre crops, fruit trees and nuts, vegetables and tubers, condiments, and dye crops. Chapter nine discusses plant remains in representative archaeological sites and is followed by a conclusion covering the beginning of domestication and horticulture. This edition differs from the previous editions in that it includes the most recent findings from molecular biology about the genetic relations between domesticated plants and their wild ancestors, added information on several new crop plants and incorporates extensive new archaeological data about the spread of agriculture. The chapter on "Fruit collected from the wild" that appeared in previous editions has been omitted from this edition. I would highly recommend this book for anthropology and botany classes dealing with the origins of agriculture. It is a finely produced text that should also gain extended readership among lay readers interested in the subject.—Kevin D. Janni, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas*, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., [kjanni@brit.org](mailto:kjanni@brit.org)



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