

## Book reviews

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### **W. GILES: Encyclopedia of Exotic Plants for Temperate Climates**

Timber Press, 133 SW 2nd Ave., Ste. 450, Portland, Oregon 97204, USA; 2007, 440 pp., 535 colour photographs, ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-785-6. Price: \$49.95, £35.00. <http://www.timberpress.com/>

In the Introduction, the author presents his personal relationship, his philosophy, to the exotics which brings the user to the harmonically arranged garden environment with its seasonal changes and impacts to the user's amenity and satisfaction. In the chapter History of Exotic Gardening, the author mentions the first experiences of growers of non-native plants during Victorian era in England, through the inventory of glass as a material for greenhouse building what was the boom in founding gardens with achievements in growing exotic plants. In that time, Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew were founded and the author describes the enthusiasts bringing new plants from various sites of the world and extending plant collections and expositions. In the part Pushing the Boundaries of Hardiness and Using This Book he presents his experimental experiences in plant cultivation and treatment. In founding new plantations and collecting sortiment for cultivation, the autor recommends to consider the biological and ecological properties of species and to modify the space conditions according to their requirements if we want to be successful in growth and development. The most important part of the publication are sections with particular genera and species of plants. Here the author shortly informs the reader about botanical characteristics, nativeness and conditions for successful growing of plants. In the book, many quality colour photographs of both whole plants and their interesting details are presented. At the end of the publication, plant growers, seed producers, communities of interest and forums from England, USA, Europe (natural persons and institutions) with their web addresses are presented. Not even the list of actual literature is absent. I can recommend this encyclopedia to every person interested in plants and to every plant grower, it should not be missing in scientific and professional libraries, in schools and garden institutions.

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