
characters that contribute to it being a problem in natural areas.

I am aware of the fact that Dirr's books are reference manuals for woody landscape plants, not treatises on the ecological interactions between our native flora and the many plants introduced through cultivation, but this highly influential author's near-inattention to the issue of invasive species is unfortunate. One is hard pressed to even find the term "invasive species" in a Dirr publication. This is, perhaps, a reflection of how sticky this issue has become, his choice an unspoken declaration of neutrality in the perceived war between plant conservationists and the nursery industry.

In the first section of *Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates*, "Reflections on Garden-making in Georgia," Dirr writes "There is balance in nature that translates to the garden." My hope is that the author, and every great plantsperson like him, recognizes the role that ecologically-informed landscaping might play in retaining that balance.

Eco-politics aside, this book is still worth including in any botanical library. In fact, all three books in the aforementioned trilogy should be fixtures in the collections of herbaria, universities, and any individual with even a passing interest in the cultivation and identification of woody landscape plants. — Christopher T. Martine, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, 75 North Eagleville Rd., U-3043, Storrs, CT 06269-3043.

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An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Clematis.

Toomey, Mary, and Everett Leeds. 2001. ISBN 0-88192-508-X (cloth \$US59.95. 426pp. Timber Press, 133 SW Second Ave., Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204. — In recent years, gardeners and horticulturists have embraced the cultivation of *Clematis*. This widespread, diverse (> 1000 species and cultivars) genus in the Ranunculaceae is well-suited to planting in gardens in the temperate zone, and the range of flower colors and sizes have broad

appeal. Among several gardeners' guides to *Clematis* published in recent years, this book is one of the most comprehensive and lavishly illustrated.

The book is divided into two sections. Part I describes the history and botany of *Clematis*, and appropriate methods for cultivation, pruning, propagation, and treatment of diseases. Most of this information is focused on growing *Clematis* in Europe (especially Britain), as the authors are major players in the British Clematis Society. They do, however, include a chapter on *Clematis* in North America (by Maurice Horn and Linda Beutler). Maps illustrating the hardiness zones of both North America and Europe are also provided. The detail on cultivation *etc.* is thorough, and this book likely will serve as the benchmark for future publications on cultivation of this genus. The brief chapter on history and botany is stronger on the former than the latter; emphasis is placed on cultivars, cultivar groups (based on flower-size and whether or not they flower on new wood or old wood), and pruning groups. The "botany" of *Clematis* includes only rules of nomenclature and general characteristics (leaf arrangement and shape, flower parts) of the family and genus. The weakness of this part is illustrated by the statement that "all hybrids are cultivars", following (by two sentences) the statement that hybrids can occur naturally in the wild. Nonetheless, Part I is an indispensable reference for the home gardener and professional horticulturalist.

The meat of the book, however, is Part II. Occupying nearly 75% of the book, this part details nearly 600 species and cultivars of *Clematis*. They are arranged alphabetically by species or cultivar name, and for each is provided a concise description, including flowering/pruning group, synonymy, origin (geographic for species, parentage for hybrids and cultivars), habit and life form, height, description of flowers and leaves, flowering time, cultivation requirements, and hardiness zone. Each is also illustrated with a photograph, usually a close-up of the flower, but occasionally of a group of flowers or the whole plant scrambling on an appropriate structure (fence, rose-bush, *etc.*). For someone planning a garden and seeking appropriate colors and textures, this catalogue is invaluable.

Overall, *An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Clematis* lives up to its advance billing. It is an elaborate and exhaustive reference for horticulturalists and gardeners. The photographs are exquisite and show off *Clematis* in all its variety. This book will complement coffee tables and garden workshops equally well. — Aaron M. Ellison, Harvard Forest, PO Box 68, Petersham, MA 01368.