nunciation of Latin names. I have heard *Scleranthus* pronounced at least a hundred ways, and would have appreciated some help avoiding the social embarrassment of mispronouncing plant names in front of true plant geeks. Finally, while you can pick hardness zones by state, be aware that not all zones in a state will be offered as choices. Be prepared to use your knowledge of the local climate in selecting the best grasses for your area.

Like the book, the CD-ROM is intended for gardeners across a wide range of situations and climates, and draws from the experience and creativity of great gardens and gardeners from around the world. Combined with the GeniiSoft interface, The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses on CD-ROM is a valuable tool for landscape architects, garden designers, nursery professionals, and home gardeners seeking to extend their knowledge of these beautiful and useful plants, or show off their favorite grasses to friends and associates. If you like studying plants on the computer, and appreciate ornamental grasses and their allies, you definitely will want this CD-ROM in your reference collection.

**BRIAN MAYNARD**  
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Kingston


For the past decade there have been few textbooks that offered students and their instructors more than generalized information on vegetables and their cultivation. *Vegetable Crops* offers the vegetables, the cultivation, the industry, and end-use together in one solidly written textbook. Written as a reference for the horticulture professional, as well as a textbook for students, *Vegetable Crops* is a usable, organized, informative, and comprehensive discussion of vegetables in today's agri-culture.

Among its special features are a unique section on vegetable uses and an overview of the nutritional value of vegetables. Useful for health and food professionals, these chapters also offer the horticulture student, producer, or marketer an opportunity to understand the complete vegetable from the field or garden to the table. These elements are continued in the second half of the text in which the author has provided a more detailed discussion of over 35 individual vegetables, bundled appropriately into their families. Other features include review questions, selected references, and Internet sites for each chapter. There are not, however, some of the accoutrements of other textbooks, such as a glossary or self-quizzes for the student.

While the photographs are generally well-chosen, it might be wished that at least some vegetables might appear in "living color." However, the use of black-and-white photography, in some ways, is sufficient to the well-planned layout and renders the text less expensive.

This textbook avoids over reliance on scientific nomenclature, choosing instead a style that affords use in a variety of instructional settings. It employs terms that are straightforward and sections that will actually be used, answers to questions that formerly lay separately in half-a-dozen other books. For example, the cultivation, problems, and uses of each vegetable is preceded by a listing of its names in other languages, its history, and its most common cultivars. Carrot is ninjin in Japanese, garden pea seeds have been dated to 7000 B.C., and spinach is classified by leaf-types and, like cabbage, has a savory type.

In a word, this textbook is comprehensive offering in one place a variety of information with a variety of readers in mind. Whereas in other cases this multiuse approach could create serious problems in organization and writing, in Decoteau's hands, it works well, proving you can please all of the people all of the time.

**WAYNE J. McLaurin**  
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The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species has become the standard reference book on orchid species, and is in the library of nearly every professional and amateur orchidist. The Manual was first printed in 1981 and this is the second printing of the third edition which was first printed in 1992. Gary Wilfret reviewed the first edition of the manual for HortScience (17:421). He stated: "This manual provides orchid enthusiasts with the most comprehensive description of orchid species in cultivation today." This statement is still true today.

The format for The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species consists of several introductory chapters on taxonomy, morphology, culture and ecology. The main thrust of the book is the description of species. The third edition includes an additional 140 genera and nearly 300 more species. Over 1000 species are now described, 864 of which are illustrated with a color photograph! The text for each species includes information on distribution, history, synonym, closely related species, as well as, a description of the plant with details on the stems, leaves, inflorescence and flowers. The descriptions are extremely lucid and provide distinguishing information for identification. Besides the great descriptions, the color photographs by Helmut Bechtle are superb. The combination of text and photographs, make it quite easy to key a species.

Besides the increase in the number of species, the third edition contains an expanded and updated treatment of orchid taxonomy. However, this updated taxonomy is now out-of-date. Since the first printing of the third edition, many monographs and revisions have been published. Several of the species names (i.e., *Phalaenopsis violacea* vs. *P. bellina* are now incorrect. It would have been more appropriate to write a new fourth edition, instead of running a second printing of the third edition. Another reason for writing a fourth edition is that the third edition uses Robert Dressler's 1981 system of orchid phylogeny and classification. In 1993, Dressler significantly revised his thinking and proposed a new system of phylogeny and classification (R.L. Dressler, 1993, *Phylogeny and Classification of the Orchid Families*, Dioscorea Press, Portland, Ore.).

Even though this second printing uses substantially outdated taxonomy,