

Book review

Journal of vegetable crop production. Edited by M. LeRon Robbins. First published in 1995 by Food Products Press, Binghamton, United States. Samples and subscription information to: The Haworth Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, New York 13904-1580, United States.

With the increasing profile of the electronic media, the appearance of a new journal may well become an increasingly rare event. When the new publication is concerned with vegetables then it is cause for some excitement as most of the horticultural literature is dominated by fruit.

The Journal of Vegetable Crop Production is published biannually by Food Products Press and is, according to the editor, "...dedicated strictly to vegetable crops. The journal brings together in one publication information on marketing, economics, horticulture, entomology, pathology, engineering, soil science, weed science, etc." A tall order!

At first impression the journal meets its stated objectives by containing papers that are full of good practical information and will be of use to both researchers and also those actually producing vegetables.

The format could be improved however, in that the Table of Contents is not displayed on the cover but 16 pages inside after considerable advertising.

This is particularly irritating as one has become accustomed to "Contents" being displayed at either the front or rear of publications and thus to have to waste time searching is irksome. Furthermore, the size of the Journal (A5), whilst being convenient for photocopying, also means that the reader is continually having to orientate the pages in order to be able to read tables etc. Lastly, the placing of advertising, within the portions of the book devoted to text, detracted from the appearance and layout.

As mentioned above, the content of the Journal appears to be a good mixture of the practical and science. It would be unfair to make too many judgments based on one issue, but I would like to make a plea for the editorial board to ensure that emphasis is placed upon science, practicality, and readability. There is a tendency for the papers to be a bit lazy in presentation, leaving the reader to do much of the data synthesis. In fairness this is a common fault with a lot of scientific writing in journals.

In summary the journal is a welcome appearance and I will be subscribing to the first few issues to see if the publication lives up to its early promise.

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