Book Reviews

DISEASES OF FIELD CROPS


The book is a convenient reference outline on current information concerning diseases of field crops, including barley, corn, millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, Sudan grass, Johnson grass, sugarcane, wheat, forage grasses, alfalfa, sweetclover, clovers, soybeans, cotton, flax, and tobacco. A brief introduction is followed by a chapter on physiological anatomy of plant groups in relation to disease. A rather extended, but selective reference list is appended to each chapter.

Although the diseases are grouped and discussed in the main body of the text primarily from the standpoint of the particular crop affected, they are regrouped in the appendix on the basis of (1) the primary causal factor, a suggested list for class presentation on this basis; and (2) a list of the bacteria and fungi arranged by order and family. A comprehensive subject matter index enhances the usefulness of the book, both for the student and the research worker.

The book is well written, and although primarily intended for the student, it will undoubtedly prove a valuable condensed reference for plant pathologists and agronomists.—R. J. Garber.

FOREST SOILS


The authors state that, "This book was written with two objectives in mind. The first objective was to provide a textbook covering the fundamentals of soil science with applications of the science to forestry which would be suitable for use in the course in soils required of forestry students in American colleges and universities. The second objective was to provide a source of reference to reports of the more important researches on forest soils."

The reviewer feels that some of these objectives have been reasonably well fulfilled considering space limitations in a book of this size. An idea of the contents and sequence of subject matter are given by the chapter headings: Introductory; Soil-forming Minerals; Soil-forming Rocks; Disintegration and Decomposition of Minerals and Rocks; Forest-soil Organisms; The Organic Matter of Forest Soils; Nature and Properties of Soil Colloids; General Physical Properties of Forest Soils; The Water Relations of Soils, Particularly Forest Soils; General Chemical Properties of Forest Soils; Soil Formation; Forest Soil Classification; Soil Erosion and Forest-soil Deterioration.

As regards sequence, the reviewer feels that it would have been more logical to have placed Chapter II, Soil Formation, nearer the beginning of the book, Also placing of Chapter 8, General Physical Properties of Forest Soils, near the beginning would have the advan-