BOOK REVIEWS

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF GARDEN PLANTS
Published by the American Society for Horticultural Science and the National Fertilizer Association, Washington, D. C. 1954. 184 pages. $5.00.

Home gardening and landscaping is undoubtedly the prototype of all "do-it-yourself" projects. Here is a unique handbook for those householders who indulge in the pastime for whatever the reason, economic, psychological or sentimental. The helpful information is so varied, reliable and understandable that this volume should earn a wide readership; and perhaps as a medium for disseminating scientifically founded agronomic principles on a popular level, it will turn increasing numbers of city dwellers and farmers as well to the profits and pleasures of gardening.


Sixty-five color plates help the reader diagnose nutrient deficiencies and insect damage in various plants and fruits.

The book offers a welcome answer to much misleading and unfounded information on "organic" gardening. The need for organic matter is not challenged; but the reader is advised of its practical cost in sufficient quantity alone to be beneficial. Authors point out that organic matter and commercial fertilizer complement each other, and are both needed in the average garden.


BIG DAM FOOLISHNESS

This book is a clear exposition of the fallacy that big dams will control floods when the infiltration of rain water at the point where it falls on the earth is the only real prevention. It presents evidence that diversion as flood prevention on farm demonstrates that national dividend paying investments for conserving and improving the farmer's earning powers. For the diversion of runoff water by infiltration into the soil, a flood by big dams in the lower streams, is the proper approach to the flood problem in the Mid-continent.

Now that the fact is slowly dawning on us, that population calling for high food standards cannot be attained on shrinking numbers of arable acres of grain production, it is high time that we knew about our soils and the rain water moving off to the sea in what is appropriately christened the name of "land-soup". It is high time also that not only rural folks, but the urban population as well, become alert to the political developments formulating the policies of "flood control". The author convinces us that a flung call for a righteous indignation against this control that fails to rise above all that he found.

ASIA, EAST BY SOUTH

Whether friend, foe or neutral, the southeastern European continue to have considerable influence on the life of the American for some time to come. Joseph E. Spencer presents the latter a detailed description of that important part of the world, and an urgently needed explanation of the varied peoples and nations of southeast Asia and the stamp and character by which they are known to the rest of the world.

In this timely volume, Joseph Spencer, speaking to the western reader, explains the environmental and particular cultures which have developed in southeast Asia. Soil scientist and agronomist will appreciate the soils, plants, geomorphology and mineral geography. Other topics include the geography of animal distribution, fish and fishing in regional economy, the geographie and disease. Of particular interest to the American is the breakdown into separate discussions of each country: Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Persia, Turkey, Thailand, Indonesia, Malay, the Indies, the Philippines, Manchuria, Tibet, Korea and Japan.

To understand the complexities of political, economic and military action with or against any one or any combination, one must be familiar with the unique local conditions which helped create individual political entities. Spencer points these out clearly and reliably. During World War II, he became intimately acquainted with his subject when he was with the Ministry of Finance of the Chinese Nationalist Government. Wartime service took him further in India and western China. He is now chairman of the department at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Science Reports of the Research Institutes, Tohoku University Series D (Agriculture) Vol. 5. Tohoku University. Research papers in English of which the following are representative: "Response of rice plant varieties to amount of sulfur," "Physiological behavior of hydrogen sulfide plant," "Observations on the behavior of soft-rot rhizosphere of Chinese cabbage."

Soil Science Annual, 1954. Polish Soil Science Society, Balatonfured. This publication is not available at this time.

Published January, 1955