
The review of this new book which appeared in the July-August issue showed the wrong date of publication. We hope that any who observed that date will note this correction.


Crop ecologists and many agronomists will find this book a desirable text or reference source. The book is derived from a course entitled "Crop Adaptation" taught by the author at Iowa State University. The undersigned reviewers, who completed the course under Dr. Wilkie, heartily endorse the book as a much-needed text in the field of crop ecology or adaptation.

The subject matter is well organized, easily followed and readily understood. Part I deals with general principles and concepts (e.g., plant distribution and limiting factors, adaptation and natural selection, the ecotype concept and the origin of cultivated plants). Part II treats climatic classification and the major environmental, physiographic, edaphic, and biotic factors. Discussion of biotic factors, as such, is somewhat brief, particularly the effect of insects and diseases on plant distribution. Part III is entitled "Crop Distribution on a Climatic Basis." Representative crops of the tropics, subtropics, and the intermediate climates are discussed. The concept of "ecological optimum" is well covered.

This book will find use not only as a text in the crop ecology course, but also as a valuable reference for plant breeders and other plant scientists.—D. W. BEATTY, South Dakota State College; D. E. GILBERT, Ohio State University; and F. C. STICKLER, Kansas State University.


As the title implies, this is a listing of publications in agricultural meteorology, with over 11,000 references, including references from over 25 languages. The references cover a wide range of subjects related to agricultural meteorology.

Chapter I contains general material on the subject of agricultural meteorology, including textbooks and earlier bibliographies. Chapters 2-5 deal primarily with plants in terms of the physical factors affecting plant growth and development; chapter 2 is on radiation, chapter 3 on temperature, chapter 4 on moisture, and chapter 5 on related factors. Chapters 6, 7, and 8 cover microclimate, observation and instrumentation primarily from the plant standpoint but with some animal applications. The emphasis is shifted to animals in chapters 9 and 10. Plant pests in chapter 9 and livestock and domestic fowl in chapter 10. Chapters 11 and 12, on phenology and environmental control, cover both crops and animals. Chapter 13 covers agronomic weather forecasting.

With this range of subject matter wide coverage of the literature has been accomplished. It should relieve the investigator in the field of much tedious labor and library search.

The book is highly recommended for specialists in the field of agricultural meteorology, as well as those working in areas which are related to this field.—ROBERT H. SHAW, Iowa State University.


This volume is one in the World Crops series dealing with individual crops or groups of crops of world importance. It is concerned with the cultivation, utilization, production problems and identity of the large fungi that are used as foods in various parts of the world. The book is divided into two sections and is based on the author's fields of research, one on mushrooms and the other on truffles.

Mushrooms and the associated fungi are included on diseases of mushrooms and truffles, while fungi that compete with commercial species in different habitats are included on the fungi that compete with commercial species in different habitats. One chapter deals with animal pests of mushrooms and the final chapter is a discussion of food value and use as animal feed and other miscellaneous purposes.

The book is well illustrated, and brings together in one place much information about these fungi. It should prove to be a valuable reference source of use to many research workers. —H. TIFFANY, Iowa State University.


The authors state that this book has been written for a one-semester introductory course in probability. They indicate that a mathematical knowledge of 1-2 years of high school algebra is required as background. The mathematical difficulties associated with limiting distributions have been restricted wherever possible, to particular problems that are assumed to be finite.

Chapter 1 contains a brief discussion on the basic definitions and is followed by chapters on organization of distribution, analysis of data and elementary probability distributions followed by chapters on the binomial distribution, random sampling, testing hypotheses (sampling distribution), the sign test, regression and correlation, and index numbers, time series, F-distribution, and criterion analysis of variance.

The book is well written and illustrated with examples which are drawn from many fields.