

BOOK REVIEW

Diseases of Fruit Crops. V.K. Gupta and Satish K. Sharma, Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi, 344pp., ISBN 81-7663-616-9, Price: Rs. 175/-

This edited volume is another addition to the already existing edited volumes on fruit crops. Although this volume is not exhaustive, its coverage is wide and holistic giving informations not only on pathogenic diseases but also on diseases caused by nematodes and abiotic factors. The volume contains 23 chapters divided in seven parts, on various fungal, bacterial, viral, phytoplasmal and nematode diseases as well as different important deficiency/toxicity diseases of important tropical, subtropical and temperate fruits. Part I contains ten chapters which deal with symptomatology, causal organism, epidemiology and disease cycle and management of important fungal diseases of tropical, sub tropical and temperate fruits, e.g., apple, mango, papaya, banana, citrus, guava, grapes, etc., Part II deals with the bacterial diseases of banana, citrus, mango stone and pome fruits spread over two chapters giving detailed informations on symptomatology, epidemiology and disease management. Part III deals with diseases of citrus, papaya, banana, pine apple and temperate fruits caused by viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas - contained in three chapters. Part IV contains three chapters exclusively devoted to post-harvest diseases of most of the economically important fruit crops. Pertinent informations available in these chapters are of immense value in post-harvest disease management thereby increasing the shelf life nad transportation life of the perishables. Part V containing two chapters has been devoted to important nematode diseases of tropical, subtropical and temperate fruits. Part VI deals with abiotic diseases caused by deficiency/toxicity of various major macro and micro elements. This would be

helpful in detecting deficiency/toxicity symptoms so that corrective measures could be taken. Part VII contains only one chapter. It is of great practical value as it deals with pesticide application techniques and equipments for fruit crops.

The Editors have made a commendable job by publishing this volume. Several chapters in this volume, e.g., those on nematode diseases, diseases due to deficiency/toxicity and particularly the chapters on post harvest diseases have added to the value of the book. Although fungicidal control of fruit diseases has several negative aspects, it can not be completely done away with. Judicial use of fungicides to manage fruit diseases is still a must and the chapter on pesticide application equipments and techniques giving detailed information on kinetics of pesticide application is of immense practical value. Besides, spray schedule for management of several important fruit diseases, e.g., apple scab, would be much helpful.

To conclude, this book is an excellent compilation of diseases of fruit crops. The compilation has, in a holistic approach, included most of the important diseases of the important fruit crops caused by biotic and abiotic factors. Literature cited has in general been up to date. However, in some cases recent informations are lacking. The coloured plates have added to the value of the book. The price is also reasonable even for the students, This volume will definitely serve not only as an excellent reference material but also as a practical guide for the teachers, research workers, students and orchardists as well. It is also highly recommended for libraries as a reference book. I congratulate the Editors for bringing out this useful and affordable publication on diseases of fruit crops.

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