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Agricultural Seed Production. By R. A. T. George. Wallingford, UK: CABI (2011), pp. 204, £65.00. ISBN 978-1-84593-819-2.

This practical book is based on the author's lifetime experience of crop seed production systems worldwide, particularly in developing countries as a consultant to UN FAO. The text is highly readable with avoidance of too much jargon and covers a wide range of temperate and tropical cereals, grasses, forage and grain legumes, oil seeds, forage crucifers, quinoa and grain amaranths. A consistent style is used to provide seed crop agronomy and harvesting information for each species. A particularly useful feature is a list of possible seed-borne pathogens for each crop. This crop-specific information is preceded by a six-chapter section on principles (variety authenticity, isolation and fertilisation, seed harvesting, processing, storage, testing, distribution). This section is commendably broad in scope, but does overlap with the author's *Vegetable Seed Production* (3rd edition, 2009), while the overall contents are similar to parts of *Encyclopaedia of Seed Production of World Crops* (co-authored with A. Fenwick Kelly, 1998). This repetition is necessary in order to provide an introductory, stand-alone text for those new to seed production – particularly those joining the agricultural seed industry – whether as members of multinational commercial or local not-for-profit organisations. Moreover, at less than one-fifth of the cost of the 1998 text, it is clearly far more accessible to that market. On its own, *Agricultural Seed Production* is unlikely to satisfy as an honours degree-level text, but its wide scope, further reading lists and extensive reference list provide a robust initial framework for self-directed learning.

Richard Ellis

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Genetics, Genomics and Breeding of Grapes. By A.-F. Adam-Blondon, J. M. Martinez-Zapater and C. Kole. Boca Raton, FL, USA: CRC Press (2011), pp. 390, US \$139.95. ISBN 978-1-57808-117-4.

This book focuses on grapevine, economically the most important perennial fruit crop in the world.

There are good concise prefaces to both the series and this volume at the start of the book with a content's list and a useful complete list of authors' details.

It comprehensively covers basic plant information, economic impact and variation in germplasm resources. It then goes on to update the reader on recent developments in the field of molecular genetics with chapters on association mapping, linkage mapping, the connection between genetics and physical maps, marker-assisted breeding through to transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics with bioinformatic tools covered before the final chapter on future prospects.

While there is a tremendous wealth of information in this book as well as a full and appropriate list of references, I did find variation in the quality of chapters. The book is also difficult to read at places with some areas ambiguous in their interpretation. This aspect may be the result of translation issues. Nevertheless, I would recommend this book to colleagues and students who have a specific interest in modern applications to grapevine cultivar improvement.

Julie Graham

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Genetics, Genomics and Breeding of Cool Season Grain Legumes. Edited by M. P. de la Vega, A. M. Torres, J. I. Cubero and C. Kole. Boca Raton FL, USA: CRC Press (2011), pp.448, £95.00. ISBN 978-1578-0876-55.

It is timely for a book on the use of genomics for breeding legumes. Complete sequences of two legumes are available, full sets of sequences of transcribed genes are in databases for many legume crops and work from other species is showing how genomics, genetics and biodiversity can be applied to plant breeding.