Expl Agric. (2011), volume 47 (1), © *Cambridge University Press 2011*
doi:10.1017/S0014479710000712

Soybeans. Chemistry, Production, Processing and Utilization Edited by L. A. Johnson, P. J. White and R. Galloway. Urbana, Illinois, USA: AOCS Press (2008), pp. 850, US$225.00. ISBN 9781893997646. Available from CRC Press/Taylor and Francis, Boca Raton, FL, USA.

Soybean is one of the oldest and most versatile crops. This book provides complete and up-to-date information on soybean, beginning with a detailed treatise on its history. There are 21 chapters by 37 authors. Four chapters are devoted to production (breeding, harvest and post harvest management, pests and diseases, and economics), five focus on chemistry (seed quality, lipids, proteins, carbohydrates, and minor constituents and phytochemicals), three go into details of processing (oil recovery, purification and modification) and seven discuss the details of utilization (food and feed uses of whole soybean, oil and protein, and bioenergy, biofuels and biobased products). The last chapter is devoted to soybean production and processing in Brazil.

The quality of each chapter shows the merit of undergoing multiple reviews, as well as effective editing. The authors of each chapter have taken care to bring in up-to-date information on their topics with comprehensive list of references so that readers can obtain further information. The chapters on production provide the latest developments without going in to too much detail. The economics of soybean production, processing and utilization are critically analysed within past, present and future scenarios. Chapters on chemistry and utilization present the latest information in great detail. In addition to the list of contributors, a list of reviewers is also included.

The authors and editors should be congratulated for producing this informative book on soybean, which is intellectually and professionally rewarding. The book is a valuable asset to students, teachers, researchers, producers and those in the processing industry.

S. Shanmugasundaram

Expl Agric. (2011), volume 47 (1), © *Cambridge University Press 2011*
doi:10.1017/S0014479710000724

A History of Weed Science in the United States Edited by R. L. Zimdahl. London and Burlington, MA, USA: Elsevier Inc (2010), pp. 207, £54.99. ISBN 978-0-12-381495-1.

The area of weed science is worthy of a historical perspective, but there is only rather limited coverage, compared with entomology and plant pathology. This is surprising, given the importance of weeds in causing losses in both crop yield and quality and the importance of the global herbicide market. This rather short but intriguing book provides an interesting journey though the history of weed science in the USA in its early chapters.

The chapter on the development of entomology and plant pathology in comparison with weed science is well covered and illuminating, as is that on the early days of the study of weeds. An alternative narrative structure might have been a more effective and informative approach to the history of the founders of weed science, the list approach gives little sense of the connectivity and influence of one upon another, an aspect which is always illuminating with regard to differing views and perspectives. The crucial role and development of university weed science programmes and regional weed societies is well covered, as is the area of herbicide development. The final three chapters, covering the changes in agricultural practice, the agrochemical industry and future developments are less satisfying and somewhat repetitive, with too much philosophy and personal perspective for this reviewer. More detail on the areas of herbicide resistance and GM technology would have been useful. A final point that the publisher should reconsider is the lack of an index in the hard copy of this book and others in this series. This seriously hampers the reader in effective use of what is a small but useful, if rather expensive contribution.

Keith Dawson