

is a good glossary and the index is reasonably comprehensive. It was very good to see a section on basics like proper use of stereo and compound microscopes. Tables and figures are all well set out and informative. The laboratory exercise chapters are well presented with sequences of experiments and procedures, lists of materials, anticipated results sections and questions. The text of the non-laboratory exercise chapters is informative, reads well and is sufficiently comprehensive without going into too much detail. The diagnostics chapter is adequate for beginners. As all chapters are adequately referenced with further suggested reading and sometimes websites, this should direct any reader requiring more detail.

This book is good for a university where plant pathology is taught as a major degree subject, but could be difficult to justify for use with single semester or more specialized courses. However, it is a good source of ideas and information for more bespoke course material to be developed, and the book comes with a CD with PowerPoint versions of the illustrations in the chapters, which are very useful for preparing lectures for such courses. The contributors are from America (especially Tennessee), Portugal and one from Canada, so although a wide range of pathogens are covered, there is an inevitable bias. Overall a very useful textbook.

Adrian Newton

Principles and Practices of Plant Genomics. Volume 1. Genome Mapping. Edited by C. Kole and A. G. Abbott. Enfield, NH, USA: Science Publishers (2008), pp. 393, £61.30. ISBN 9-781578-085255. doi:10.1017/S0014479708007217

Linking phenotype to genotype has become the goal of plant researchers and breeders. This comprehensive review covers the major steps necessary to achieve this goal. To this end the book covers all aspects of genome mapping. It is divided into 11 chapters and starts with an easy-to-follow, well-explained chapter giving a general introduction to the concept of genomes, through the development of genetic and physical mapping to their application. This is followed by a detailed description of the development and of the various types of molecular markers available. The merits of different types of mapping population including polyploids are then covered, followed by an excellent description of the construction of genetic linkage maps that would be of real value to students, breeders and experienced researchers. Mapping of qualitative and quantitative traits on genetic linkage maps is then covered in detail followed by a review of comparative mapping and its applications. Though all excellent, the final three chapters appear slightly out of order. A chapter on bioinformatics and one on computing and software are interrupted by a chapter covering current genome initiatives, which would seem to have been best as a final round-up chapter. This slightly disrupts the flow of the book but in no way affects its value as a resource for both students and experienced researchers alike.

Julie Graham

Soils in the Humid Tropics and Monsoon Regions of Indonesia. By K. H. Tan. Boca Raton, FL, USA: CRC Press (2008), pp. 584, US\$169.95. ISBN 978-1-4200-6907-5. doi:10.1017/S0014479708007229

This text of over 500 pages is unusual in two ways, firstly that it focuses solely on tropical soils found in Indonesia, and secondly it is produced in a large typeface, and probably results in a book some 150 pages longer than might be expected. Whilst unusual to focus on a single country, Indonesia has a wide range of environments, including soils developed on volcanic materials. The first four chapters provide in turn, a historical context to soil science in Indonesia, descriptions of the geomorphology, climate and vegetation. The fifth chapter on soil classification sets the scene for much of the later discussion, by stressing the author's dissatisfaction with many aspects of the US soil taxonomy. There are strong points made in this section, particularly over the omission of terms and properties which the author considers assist in more precisely describing and differentiating soils from tropical regions. The remaining four chapters, contributing the bulk of the text, describe the soils in three regions of Indonesia, lowlands, uplands and mountains, with a final chapter on soils derived from volcanic materials. Surprisingly, given the discussion in Chapter 5, the framework used for soil description is soil taxonomy. These chapters contain useful information about the soils, but frequently the sources of data in tables and figures are not provided. The reference list includes over 300 citations but over 70% are to material published before 1970.

I found this a somewhat disappointing text, though there is a great deal of information, much of it from old sources.

Stephen Nortcliff