

Book Review

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Diseases of herbaceous perennials

American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, 2009, ix + 281 p., 933 colour images. – ISBN 978-0-89054-374-0. Price 79 \$.

This full-colour book published by the American Phytopathological Society contains information on general types of diseases which attack herbaceous perennial ornamentals. As the popularity of these plant species continues to rise, there is a demand for their protection and successful cultivation. Although the book focuses on North America, the diseases mentioned may appear on other continents as well, due to global trade of these ornamentals. The book will help to recognise major diseases and manage them effectively.

It consists of an introduction and a section which describes how diseases of herbaceous perennials can be diagnosed and managed. It is followed by a section with a short description of general types of diseases, namely fungal leaf spots, powdery mildew, root rots caused by fungi and fungus-like organisms, rusts and smuts, vascular wilts caused by fungi, downy mildews, bacterial diseases, phytoplasmas, virus diseases and nematodes. The main section of the book is organised alphabetically by genus. Each host genus of the more than 160 popular perennial plants is characterised by its cultural requirements and description of commonly found diseases. It is accompanied by more than 700 illustrative colour photos which can help distinguishing between fungal and insect diseases, and assist in accurately diagnosing the disease. A common and Latin name of plants directory, a glossary and an index of plants and pathogens will help readers quickly to find particular information.

This practical and scientifically reviewed book helps to recognise diseases and provides information on how to keep popular ornamental plants healthy. It is therefore recommended to all plant growers and plant pathologists.

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