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The Cactus Primer



Synopsis

The Cactus Primer presents the amateur cactophile with an excellent introduction to cactus biology and provides the informed reader with an invaluable summary of the last forty years' research. This book goes far beyond books that instruct readers in the propagation, growth, and care of these plants; addressing matters of more scientific interest, it takes an integrated approach to the presentation of the form, physiology, evolution, and ecology of cacti. The book is unique in that it combines the descriptive morphology and physiology documented in the scientific literature with more general observations found in popular publications on cacti. It provides a new generic classification of the cacti and contains much new information, including data on photosynthesis, heat and cold tolerance, computer modeling of ribs, and the effects of spines. Enhanced by over 400 illustrations and supplemented with an extensive glossary, this book will appeal to cactus enthusiasts interested in the classification and growth of cacti, as well as to plant biologists who use cacti to illustrate desert adaptation and convergent evolution. Written in accessible style, The Cactus Primer is bound to serve a dual function as both an instructive tool and a reference work in cactus biology for years to come.

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Customer Reviews

If you want to learn more than you ever wanted to know about cacti, this is the book...They've summerized a lot of research and put it in a readable format. I grow cacti as a hobby and grow them from seeds and have several hundred, so I'm a true enthusiast. I'm also a scientist and can

appreciate the information that they cover. They cover stomata opening, CO2 transport and it's relation to humidity, calcium oxalate crystals in the plant and more. The key thing I got out of it was the roots and moisture and soil issues. I've been able to develop my own soils based on the information. My primary soil performs better than the miracle grow cactus/succulent soil for height and mass gain. With additional research and experimentation, one variety actually let promotes branching which is not covered in the book. This book contains references for the information contained within the covers so you can follow up on the papers and find what has been done since. This is truly a primer for the cactus geek.

Absolutely wonderful! Probably more information than the casual cactus enthusiast wants, but goes a long way to explaining why the cactus wants to be cared for the way it does.

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