

Koopowitz, H.: **Clivias**. - Timber Press, Portland - Cambridge 2002. 384 pp. USD 34.95. ISBN 0-88192-546-2.

The attractive book "Clivias" is a botanic/gardening monograph analyzing in an accomplished form this decorative, and presently widely cultivated South African genus. The species and cultivars of this genus are well known as home or garden plants, but in reality it is difficult to find detailed survey of this genus in such a form like it is in this book. The information is based on the study and experience of the author, a professor of ecology in University of California, who developed broad contacts with professionals as well as amateurs from all continents, specialized or interested in the genus *Clivia*.

The introduction summarizes and illustrates the historical situation of clivia growers in 19th and 20th centuries, from the genus home to distanced continents. It is continued by detailed information about development of the taxonomy. The botanical analysis of *Clivia* species is supplemented by a characteristic of a closely related genus *Cryptostephanus*. The chapter "Biology of a *Clivia* Plant" analyzes the genus from morphological and histological to ecological points of view, including questions of the conservation of the genus. A survey of suitable conditions for growing clivias in various climates is accompanied by a part informing about diseases

occurring in the nature as well as in culture.

The main part of the book is the description and illustration of garden forms of clivias. This complete survey of cultivars represents a unique balanced body hardly found elsewhere. The description is accompanied by an analysis of *Clivia* colours in relationships to individual pigments, and methods and goals of generative propagation and hybridization. To encourage further hybridization the not yet used genetic potential is outlined.

The text is finished by information about world sources of plants, specialized societies, a glossary, a map of South Africa, and references on further literature from all coherent spheres.

The book contains many illustrative photographs, ideally completing the text, and especially those from the natural habitats of *Clivia* species are of a special value.

Generally, the book presents a very detailed analysis of the genus *Clivia* and a wide spectrum of information from botanical, genetic, gardening, social and cultural points of view. This is the special merit of the book. Thus the book will be appreciated worldwide by grower of outdoor or home plants as well as by botanists.

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