

CC 56-0195 QH430 MARC  
Waller, John. **Heredity: a very short introduction.** Oxford, 2017. 151p bibl index (Very short introductions, 532) ISBN 9780198790457 pbk, \$11.95; ISBN 9780191831706 ebook, contact publisher for price

From *Accounting to Zionism*, Oxford's "Very Short Introductions" series offers concise primers on a variety of topics that appeal to a broad audience. In this iteration, Waller (Michigan State Univ.) guides readers through more than 5,000 years of history to explore the evolution of the concept that "qualities of body and mind" can be transmitted from parent to offspring. Readers interested in developing a better understanding of the mechanisms of inheritance may be disappointed with the depth of the scientific treatment. In keeping with the style and format of the series, Waller's approach is to trace the evolution of the idea over time and to elucidate the societal impacts of paradigm shifts in the understanding of heredity. The book is organized chronologically, and the coverage is both comprehensive and contemporary. The final chapter, "Progress and possibility," takes a forward-looking approach through the lens of the CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing system. Waller's narrative on both the scientific and sociological implications of this breakthrough technology is engaging and thought provoking. The book is thoroughly indexed and contains a reading guide that is organized by chapter. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. All readers.—*J. A. Hewlett, Finger Lakes Community College*

Botany

56-0196 SB118 CIP  
**The Book of seeds: a life-size guide to six hundred species from around the world**, ed. by Paul Smith. Chicago, 2018. 656p indexes ISBN 9780226362236 cloth, \$55.00; ISBN 9780226362373 ebook, \$44.00

Seeds are key to plant dispersal and propagation and, in the case of some species, represent economically important products. Understanding the structural and functional diversity of seeds, as well as their fruit and propagule forms, is a critical component of efforts to conserve species and to protect the potential diversity of agriculturally important lineages. This book provides a concise introduction to seeds, discussion of their importance, and a review of the evolution of seeds and seed-bearing plants. Following this introductory material, the book provides information on the seeds of more than 600 plant species that represent an evolutionarily diverse selection, emphasizing species that are of particular economic, scientific, or conservation interest, and species that have unique and distinctive seeds, fruits, or propagules. Each species is presented on a single page, complete with beautiful color photographs of their seeds in detail and at actual size. Information on the distribution of the species and text describing distinctive features and related species are included on each page. The descriptions and information provided are easily accessible; the volume makes an appealing addition to a specialist's bookshelf, but ultimately is best suited for general readers. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. General readers.—*A. L. Jacobsen, California State University, Bakersfield*

56-0197 QK917 MARC  
**Carnivorous plants: physiology, ecology, and evolution**, ed. by Aaron M. Ellison and Lubomir Adamec. Oxford, 2018. 510p bibl indexes ISBN 9780198779841 cloth, \$125.00; ISBN 9780191085390 ebook, contact publisher for price

*Carnivorous Plants* is an essential review of numerous recent studies

on the evolution and systematics, physiology, and ecology of insectivorous plants. The field has come a long way since the early works of Darwin (1875) and—more recently—Juniper, Robins, and Joel's *The Carnivorous Plants* (1989). Ellison (Harvard Univ.) and Adamec (Czech Academy of Sciences) enlisted 64 respected contributors to assemble 29 chapters representing a comprehensive study with a focus on current research. The book reads with a surprisingly uniform voice, yet each chapter stands on its own for those reading with specific interests. Each chapter begins with an introduction and concludes with thoughts on future research, which helps maintain consistency. Unexpected but welcome topics include the use of carnivorous plants as models for examining ecology, their uses for biotechnology and drug development, and microbiomes within plants. A few readers may find some treatments rather brief; the text does not replace past works that covered these topics in more detail, but it does serve as an important companion. The updated taxonomic index alone makes this work invaluable. **Summing Up:** ★★★★★ Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*T. P. Owen Jr., Connecticut College*

CC 56-0198 SB466 MARC  
Garmey, Jane. **City green: public gardens of New York**, photographs by Mick Hales. Monacelli Press, 2018. 223p ISBN 9781580934800 cloth, \$50.00

*City Green* invites the reader to explore 25 of New York City's public gardens through photographer Hales's splendid images. Garden writer Garmey's idiosyncratic selection of gardens is intended to showcase a variety of public spaces. Rather than exploring the recreational spaces of parks, she elected to focus on gardens, differentiated as smaller areas earmarked for growing and enjoying plants and trees, revealing a gamut from conventional horticulture to ecology-focused designs. Each garden is introduced by an outline of its history, including the project's initiator, designer, and individuals who have maintained or modified the designs and plantings over the years. Garmey outlines the garden's features, including its plants, trees, and vistas, as well as how the spaces are used today. Out of the descriptions emerge the names of major New York landscapers and generous contributors to horticultural projects, as well as the impact of the city's economic woes of the 1970s and the current enthusiasm for and investment in green spaces. For the serious scholar, the usefulness of this book would be enhanced by a map of site locations in New York, site maps for each garden, and notes with bibliography. Delightful! **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. All readers.—*M. Nilsen, Indiana University South Bend*

56-0199 SB453 CIP  
Holzman, Frank. **Radical regenerative gardening and farming: biodynamic practices and perspectives.** Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. 213p bibl index ISBN 9781538105986 cloth, \$34.00; ISBN 9781538105993 ebook, \$32.00

*Radical Regenerative Gardening and Farming* covers a broad range of gardening topics from design to implementation. In 11 chapters, Holzman (independent scholar) discusses composting, soil fertility and health, plant culture, pest dynamics, and disease management. Included is a brief overview of the biodynamic agriculture movement and method. Blending biodynamic, permaculture, and agroecological principles and practices with traditional organic and French intensive gardening techniques, this book represents its author's accumulated lifetime knowledge as an experienced gardener. As such, it is packed with often inspiring information and nuggets of wisdom. On the downside, the book is also replete with factual errors and occasionally reads like a loosely organized collection of notes; at times, following the author's meaning is challenging. The text contains information gardeners may find useful, but careful fact checking against a more technical gardening or farming