Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture

VOLUME

Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture

Volume I

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Preface

The writers have felt for a number of years that there was a great need for a brief but reasonably comprehensive book on tropical and subtropical crops. As originally contemplated, it dealt only with selected horticultural and agronomic subjects. However, as the writing progressed, it soon became evident that broader coverage of allied material would make the treatise more useful to the reader whether he be a student in college just beginning his career, a plantation manager or small farmer with some experience, a technician specializing in certain phases of a given crop, or an administrator whose responsibilities include land use development and evaluation of general agricultural policy, particularly in the underdeveloped countries of the tropics and subtropics. There is, of course, ample justification for including a wide range of crops. Despite the trend toward specialization in response to demands for greater uniformity of agricultural products, there has been a growing diversification on plantations and small farms to lessen the impact of crop failures, fluctuating prices, and changing market requirements. Crop plants, especially many ideally suited for culture in the tropics or subtropics, afford a virtually untapped reservoir of raw materials for modern technology. The present-day horticulturist or agronomist not only must know more about each crop with which he deals, but he also must have a working knowledge of an increasing number of them. At the same time, the pressures of growing demand and population in many areas make it necessary to utilize every means possible to increase the productivity of the present cultivated land and to reclaim territory from forests, swamps, deserts, and mountains. More than ever in the past, the horticulturist or agronomist in the tropics or subtropics must have a thorough understanding not only of crops but also of the other components of the agricultural environment.

The first portion of the book represents the firm belief of the writers that horticulturists or agronomists should have the broadest

possible background in climatic factors, formation of soils, soil fertility, soil management, cultural practices, control of diseases and other pests, crop improvement, economic possibilities for the future, and the food value of tropical crops. There is no pretense to completeness in this general section, as each of these subjects is a field in itself. It is hoped, however, that sufficient material is included to enable the reader to gain an adequate appreciation of their importance with respect to the production of crops. Selected references are given at the end of each chapter so that the reader can delve more deeply into topics of interest.

About three quarters of the book is devoted to descriptions of the various crops. The list of plants which could have been included is almost endless; therefore it was necessary from the beginning to select certain ones for treatment. These were chosen partly on the basis of their world-wide importance and partly to afford representation to different areas of the tropics and subtropics. In a number of instances, notably fruit crops, species virtually unknown outside of a limited region were included because of their merit. On the other hand, species of equal promise have sometimes been excluded by reason of space limitations. The description of each crop follows a similar pattern: general information including world production, botany, botanical description, varieties, breeding and selection, climatic and soil requirements, culture, harvesting, processing, uses, and lists of diseases and other pests. Some or all of these sections have been combined in the case of minor crops. In others, additional ones such as flower biology, pollination, or future possibilities have been included. As in the general part of the book, selected references are given at the end of the chapters. Descriptions of certain of the oil crops, fiber crops, and field crops have purposely been made short. Many of these like the soybean, peanut, sesame, cotton, rice, maize, sorghum, and tobacco are grown over such vast areas and under such diverse conditions that to do them adequate justice would require a separate volume for each. Fortunately, there is a large body of readily available information on all of these crops.

The purpose of this book as stated above was to collect together a body of information about selected tropical and subtropical crops and allied subjects in brief yet reasonably comprehensive form. The writers feel that there is a further purpose without which no book can achieve its full value; namely, to stimulate the reader's interest sufficiently for him to explore the literature. There are several reasons for this: First, the writers recognize only too well that space has precluded the inclusion of numerous details. Second, there are many other crops which could be studied and grown to advantage, for example plants producing various drugs. Third, and most important, agricultural science is dynamic, as witness the changes which have taken place in the past 15 years. There is every reason to assume that these will continue and accelerate in tempo. The reader should, therefore, keep abreast of current information in his field by constant perusal of periodicals and other sources.

This book is the result of the combined efforts of four men with diverse backgrounds. Primary responsibility for the chapters was divided as follows: M. J. Dijkman contributed the articles on crop improvement (Chapter 6), tea, rubber, and cinchona, as well as part of cacao and the chapters on soil fertility (4) and soil management (5). C. Wehlburg wrote the article on sugar cane and furnished the illustrations used therein. J. J. Ochse and M. J. Soule, Jr., contributed the remainder. The latter also acted as editor for the entire book. All drawings not otherwise credited were made by M. J. Dijkman.

Botanical descriptions of the crops were derived from four principal sources: Fruits and Fruit Culture in the Dutch East Indies and Vegetables of the Dutch East Indies, by J. J. Ochse, and Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture and Manual of Cultivated Plants, by L. H. Bailey. Botanical names, except citrus, follow those given in the last-named reference. Those of citrus follow names given by W. T. Swingle in The Botany of Citrus, Chap. IV, Vol. I, of The Citrus Industry, edited by H. J. Webber and L. D. Batchelor. Data on world production of the various crops were obtained principally from Yearbooks of Food and Agricultural Statistics, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.

Many countries, particularly in Africa, have changed their political status, and in many cases their names, while this book was being completed. With few exceptions, the names applied to countries prior to 1956 have been used throughout the text, since these were readily available in published material. The principal changes to date are listed here: French Morocco = Morocco (1956); French Tunisia = Tunisia (1956); Anglo-Egyptian Sudan = Sudan (1956);

Gold Coast (British) = Ghana (1957); French West Africa = Mauretania, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Sudanese Republic, Upper Volta, Dahomey, Niger (1958, French Community), Guinea (1958, independent), and Republic of Togoland (1960, independent); French Equatorial Africa = Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Republic of the Congo (1958, French Community), and Cameroon (1960, independent); Belgian Congo = Congo (1960); Madagascar = Malagasy Republic (1958, French Community); Nigeria (British) = Nigeria (1960); Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, and Nyasaland = Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1956). The Hawaiian Islands became the fiftieth state of the United States in 1959.

The metric system of weights and measures is used in many parts of the tropics and subtropics and consequently, with a few minor exceptions, has been employed throughout the book. Most English-speaking countries, however, adhere to the British or United States systems. Rather than to encumber the text with a dual system, a table is presented following this Preface to facilitate conversion of the various units.

Finally, the writers wish to express their heartfelt appreciation to Miss Helen Louise Dudak, Orlando, Florida, for typing the manuscript.

Gainesville, Florida May, 1960 J. J. Ochse M. J. Soule, Jr. M. J. Dijkman C. Wehlburg

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Conversion Factors

Length *

1 millimeter (mm.) $= 0.0394$	1 inch (in.) = 2.54 centimeters
inch	= 25.4 millimeters
1 centimeter (cm.) = 0.394 inch	1 foot (ft.) $= 30.48$ centimeters
I meter $(m.) = 39.37$ inches	1 yard (yd.) = 0.914 meter
= 3.281 feet	1 mile (mi.) = 1.609 kilometers
1 kilometer (km.) = 3281 feet	= 5280 feet
= 0.621 mile	

Area

1 hectare (ha.) $= 2.4711$ acres	I acre $(A.) = 0.4047$ hectare
1 square meter (sq. m.) = 10.764	1 square foot (sq. ft.) = 0.0929
square feet	square meter
1 square centimeter (sq. cm.) =	1 square inch (sq. in.) $= 6.452$
0.1550 square inches	square centimeters

Weight

1	gram (g.) = 0.0353 avoirdu-	1 avoirdupois ounce (oz.) =
	pois ounce	28.35 grams
1	kilogram (kg.) = 2.2046	1 pound (lb.) $= 0.4536$ kilogram
	pounds	1 hundredweight, short (cwt.)
	$= 1000 \mathrm{grams}$	= 45.36 kilograms
1	quintal $(q.) = 220.46$ pounds	= 100 pounds
	= 100 kilograms	

 $^{^{\}circ}$ Approximate values of 1 inch = 2.5 cm. or 1 meter = 40 inches are frequently used where exact figures are not necessary.

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Weight (cont'd)

1 metric ton (m. ton) = 2204.6 pounds =1.1023 short ton

 $= 0.984 \log ton$

= 1000 kilograms

1 hundredweight, long (cwt.)

= 50.8 kilograms = 112 pounds

1 short ton (ton) = 0.9072 met-

ric ton = 2000 pounds

 $1 \log \tan (1, \tan) = 1.0161 \text{ met}$ ric tons = 2240 pounds

Capacity

1 milliliter (ml.) = 0.03382 fluid ounce

1 liter (l.) = 1.057 U. S. quarts = 0.2642 U. S. gallon= 0.220 Imperial gallon

= 1000 milliliters

1 hectoliter (hl.) = 2.838bushels

=100 liters = 0.1 cubic

meter

1 fluid ounce (oz. fl.) = 29.573milliliters

1 fluid quart (qt.) = 0.9463 liters

1 U. S. gallon (gal.) = 3.785 liters

= 4 quarts = 8 pints

= 128 fluid ounces

1 Imperial gallon (gal.)

= 4.546 liters

= 1.201 U.S. gallons

1 bushel (bu.)

= 0.3524 hectoliter

= 2150.4 cubic inches

= 1.2444 cubic feet

= 0.03524 cubic meter

Volume

1 cubic centimeter (cc.)

= 0.061 cubic inches = 1000 cubic millimeters

1 cubic meter (cu. m.)

= 35.314 cubic feet

= 264.17 U. S. gallons

1 cubic inch (cu. in.)

= 16.387 cubic centimeters

1 cubic foot (cu. ft.)

= 0.0283 cubic meter

= 1728 cubic inches

= 7.481 U.S. gallons

Volume (cont'd)

- 1 cubic meter (cont'd) = 28.38 U. S. bushels = 1.308 cubic yards
- 1 cubic foot (cont'd) = 28.316 liters
- 1 cubic yard (cu. yd.) = 0.7646 cubic meter = 27 cubic feet

Field

- 1 kilogram per hectare (kg./ha.) = 0.89 pound per acre
- 1 hectoliter per hectare (hl./ha.) = 1.1484 bushels (60 lb.) per acre
- 1 quintal per hectare (q./ha. or 100 kg./ha.) = 1.4869 bushels (60 lb.) per acre
- 1 metric ton per hectare (m. ton/ ha.) = 0.446 ton (short) per acre

- 1 pound per acre (lb./A.) = 1.121 kilograms per hectare
- 1 bushel (60 lb.) per acre (bu./A.) = 0.871 hectoliter per hectare = 67.26 kilograms per hectare
- 1 ton (short) per acre (ton/A.) = 2.242 metric tons per hectare

Pressure

- 1 atmosphere (atm.) = 14.696 pounds per square inch
 - = 760 mm. of mercury $(0^{\circ}C.)$
 - = 1036 cm. of water

inch

- 1 gram per square centimeter (g./sq. cm.) = 0.4912 pound per square inch
- 1 kilogram per square meter (kg./sq. m.) = 0.20482 pound per square foot = 0.0014223 pound per square
- 1 pound per square inch (lb./ sq. in. or psi.) = 70.307 grams per square centimeter
 - = 703.07 kilograms per square meter
- 1 pound per square foot (lb./sq. ft.) = 0.48824 gram per square centimeter
 - = 4.8824 kilograms per square meter

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