

reviews



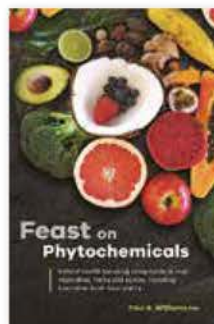
WORKING WITH NATURE

Jeremy Purseglove

ALLEN & UNWIN. 2019. \$32.99

Environmentalist and author of *Taming the Flood*, Jeremy Purseglove, considers his work as gardening on a global scale: "Early on in my professional life I came to realise that there is often a creative way of managing landscapes, which can bring us their potential benefit without destroying their beauty and diversity." Here, Purseglove describes the struggle between the demands of businesses, such as agriculture and mining, and the environment, but from the perspective of someone who knows that roads and dams will be built. As he tells of his work in places such as Iraq and Borneo, Purseglove is clearly distressed by the damage that has been done, but he has worked with engineers to come up with solutions. As he writes: "If abused, nature can take revenge on us, but it is also wonderfully forgiving."

Leanne Croker



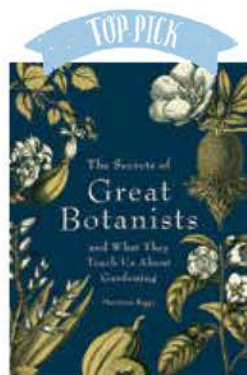
FEAST ON PHYTOCHEMICALS

Paul R Williams PhD

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SCIENCE.
2019. \$24.95

This excellent Australian book taps into the surging interest in phytochemicals (antioxidants, polyphenols and more) that give plants more generally, and our foods in particular, their colours and flavours. Williams explains that phytochemicals are produced by plants to combat pests, predators and diseases, as well as attracting pollinators and seed dispersers. He looks at which phytochemicals are found in which fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices (including Australian natives) and what the health benefits are for humans. The book is well researched – exemplified by 42 pages of references. With all the superfood hype, it's important to have access to quality information; this book is the right place to start. Self-published, the book is available from: phytochemicalfeast.com

Penny Woodward



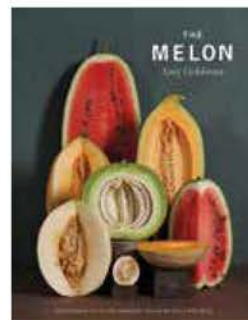
THE SECRETS OF GREAT BOTANISTS

Matthew Biggs

EXISLE. 2019. \$34.99

Trivia question: name a botanist (other than those who write for *Organic Gardener*, appear on ABC TV, or travelled on the *Endeavour*). Can you do it? If not, perhaps it's time for a history lesson. You could do worse than start here, with British gardener Matthew Biggs' guide to 36 great botanists, past and present, from Pedanius Dioscorides (he was on the tip of your tongue, wasn't he?), an herbalist with the Roman army, to Frenchman Patrick Blanc, who is alive and well and credited with inventing the green wall. You'll not only gain insights into what makes these botanists so important, but also tips on growing some of the plants associated with them. (If you want to grow Joseph Banks' banksia, remember to skip the phosphate.)

Simon Webster



THE MELON

Amy Goldman

CITY POINT PRESS. 2019. US\$50

Amy Goldman loves melons. And she loves producing beautiful books about melons. Readers may be familiar with *Melons for the Passionate Grower*, which, back in 2002, seemed like it couldn't be surpassed in terms of melon majesty: the photographs and descriptions were loving tributes as much as educational material. But 10 years later, Goldman realised she'd learnt so much more, and needed to share it. So she embarked on the epic process of producing this book. She offers profiles of 120 melon varieties, from the everyday to the obscure, illustrated with extraordinary photographs by Victor Schragar, as well as chapters on growing, pollinating, harvesting and saving melon seeds. Like a ripe watermelon on a summer's day, it's big and beautiful and something to be savoured.

Simon Webster