

## Book Review

### COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE GROWING

(H. D. TINDALL, Oxford University Press,  
London, 1968. 300 pp. 104 illust. \$A5.45.)

THE author, who has worked extensively in the tropics, and is present Head of the Agronomy Department at the National College of Agricultural Engineering in England, states in the preface of this book, "It is intended that this handbook will provide the commercial grower of tropical vegetables with useful information on cultivation methods, the kinds and varieties of vegetable which are successfully grown in various parts of the tropics and the techniques which can be adopted to obtain the best results". However, as well as being useful to the commercial grower, this book provides much information that can be used by the agricultural extension worker in Papua and New Guinea.

Although based largely on data from tropical Africa, the information is generally applicable to any tropical country. Although many of the operations used in traditional vegetable growing areas are still carried out by hand, the author has stressed the use of modern techniques, whenever their incorporation into traditional patterns has seemed justified. Data on the nutritional value of the various vegetable crops will be useful in the work of improving the quality and variety of the indigenous diet in this country.

The book is easy to read, being set out clearly and logically, with a comprehensive index. It is divided into three parts each dealing with different aspects of commercial vegetable growing.

Part One, *The Economics of Vegetable Growing* deals with the development of market gardening in a traditional village situation and on the outskirts of urban areas, with costs in-

involved in production, with the planning of a new market garden with regard to the resources available, with marketing including preparation of produce for market, and with handling and storing and methods of selling.

Part Two deals with practical applications under the subsection headings of Site Selection and Preparation, and Cultivation Methods. Under these headings are included such things as irrigation, conservation methods, layout, tools and equipment, both hand and mechanical, propagation techniques, fertilization, cultivation methods, and pests and diseases and their control.

In Part Three, a brief description of each vegetable is given under the following headings: Common name(s), botanical name, environmental requirements, areas where it is widely grown, general description of plant, cultivars, nutritional value, uses and agronomy.

Many of the vegetables described will not be familiar to people brought up in a temperate climate and this book is useful even if only to give one an idea of the wide variety of highly nutritious vegetables to be found in the tropics and how to use and prepare them. However, for those whose work is in agriculture this book should fill a large gap in the literature available on tropical vegetable cultivation and how it can be adapted to provide a substantial income or a more balanced diet for the indigenous farmer.

It is an excellent and up to date publication with the added advantages of being easy to read and consult, and of being written for the tropical situation.

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