

## **Book review**

### **An Introduction to the Grasses**

By G.P. CHAPMAN and W.E. PEAT, CAB International, Wallingford, UK. November 1992, 120 pages. 9.95 pounds.

This is an informative little volume for the beginning student of the grass family. It will also be useful for those who want to refresh their knowledge of basic taxonomy, physiology, morphology and reproductive diversity in grasses. It is directed at the grass family, often using cereals and temperate species as examples. It does, of course, mention tropical grasses of interest to tropical pasture agronomists but this is not a focus of the book.

The book notes the increasing importance of grasses as colonists of disturbed lands. Interesting

comments are given on the history of evolution of grasses and there is discussion of the taxonomy debate between the classification system of Clayton and Renvoize (1980) and that of Watson (1990).

An extensive list of terms is given in the glossary and is a very useful reference. The book is well illustrated with line drawings and is competitively priced at 9.95 pounds in the UK. Unfortunately, no price is given for Australian buyers.

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