

Review

Reviewed Work(s): An Account of the Sempervivum Group by Lloyd R Praeger

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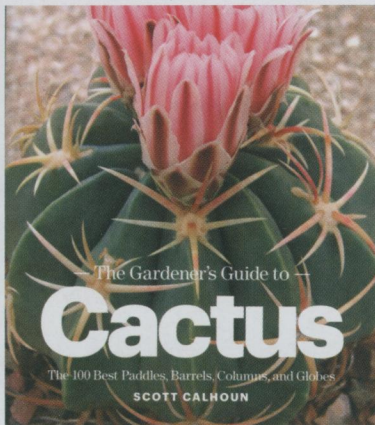
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scientifically and technically correct term 'cacti' and the awkward 'cactus-es' in favour of the easy and plain 'cactus'. He goes on to explain that he hopes to bring gardeners into the 'prickly fold' by using the term 'cactus' to indicate both singular and plural.

In essence this sums up the book which is, as the title suggests, a book for gardeners who wish to use cacti (sorry, cactus!) in their garden plantings or as container specimens. Apart from the stunning photographs there are useful sections on cultivation, pests and diseases and even tools and growing media. Dealing only with North American cacti, this is not a 'must have' book for the dedicated cactophile but is certainly a useful beginners' book and as it is reasonably priced, is worth owning for the lovely photographs alone.

Praeger, Lloyd R An Account of the *Sempervivum* Group

J Cramer in Borntraeger Science Publishers. (1932) reprint 2012.
ISBN 978 3 443 50036 8.

Published price €34.90.

vi, 265 pages, 107 figures. 24x15.5cm.
Hardbound with illustrated boards.

Praeger's classic work of 1932 provides a systematic description of the *Sempervivum* group (*Crassulaceae*). This reprint has been produced from the 1967 reprint where the author's name is stated as L R Praeger. However the original 1932 edition published by The Royal Horticultural Society clearly shows the author's name as R Lloyd Praeger and this is of course, the correct name. This unfortunate error however does not deter from the contents.

The book is in two parts. The first part provides a general introduction to the systematics and history of the group as well as looking at variability and hybrids, cultivation and hardiness in gardens, and even economic uses (very few).

The second part is the 'meat' of the book and provides descriptions and illustrations (detailed black and white line drawings) of the plants in

the *Sempervivum* group, namely *Sempervivum*, *Aichryson*, *Aeonium*, *Greenovia* and *Monanthes*.

An addendum with garden names and an index with species names and synonyms complete the volume.

If you do not have the original or the 1967 reprint, then this high quality hardback edition is well worth buying if you have an interest in this group of plants. This is a classic monograph on the group and the original is now a collectors' item, especially if in good condition.



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