

Book reviews

Wagenführ, R. and Scheiber, C.: Holzatlas. 2nd revised edition, 720 p., 850 figs., 59 tab. Leipzig 1985: VEB Fachbuchverlag. Cloth DM 185,-

The Wood Atlas by R. Wagenführ und C. Schreiber, first published in 1979, was well received and soon sold out. A second edition could already be published in 1985. The general concept has been maintained, but most chapters were thoroughly revised and enlarged, thus updating the nomenclature, the IAWA terminology was generally applied. Also the methods to determinate the wood species were extended and the number of species, described in detail, encompass now a total of 148.

The wealth of information contained in this book with its 720 extra large pages (21×29,5 cm) is divided into 8 chapters. Chapter 1 (33 pp) describes the forests of the world with the various ecological types and their characteristic species. Chapter 2 (23 pp) deals with the production of raw wood and wood products (e.g. plywood, particleboards, pulp and paper). In chapter 3 (24 pp) the important wood characteristics of softwoods and hardwoods are elaborated. Chapter 4 (55 pp) gives an extensive description of defects in raw wood followed by chapter 5 (56 pp) with wood damaging microorganisms, insects, and other animals, and by chapter 6 (7 pp) with a brief outline on wood preservation. Chapter 7 (11 pp) introduces with methods of wood species determination the main part of the book, chapter 8. It describes on 444 pages nearly 150 wood species. For each one a short monograph is given to the extent possible with details on nomenclature, distribution, anatomical characters, physical, mechanical, and chemical properties, workability, fields of uses and trade, illustrated by a color photo of the macroscopic appearance and micrographs of cross- and longitudinal sections.

Thus, the Wood Atlas contains far more information than its name may indicate. It is most informative, especially for practical questions, well written, ample illustrated and an easy reference for many questions with more than 800 references. The "Atlas" is widely known and does hardly need any recommendation, the more as its price is quite modest in relation to its content.

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