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Giles W.: **Encyclopedia of Exotic Plants for Temperate Climate** - Timber Press, Portland 2007. 440 pp. USD 49.95. ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-785-6.

For years, growing of exotic plants in the climatic conditions of temperate zone has been an unrealizable ambition of many gardeners. Will Giles brings this dream into a reality in his new book.

The "Encyclopedia of Exotic Plants for Temperate Climate" is a comprehensive publication, which describes more than 1500 plant species and cultivars including bromeliads, succulents, palms, aroids, bamboos, ferns and many others. Text is richly replenished with over 500 colour photographs most of which is the work of the author. Individual entries contain Latin and English botanical names, description of given plant, information of its geographic origin, preferred microclimatic conditions, as well as detailed growing procedure. Some entries are also accompanied by interesting remarks, e.g., where the botanical name "passionflower" (*Passiflora*) came from. This book also includes contact information about recommended nurseries and seed companies in the United Kingdom, North America and Central Europe.

The author is a head of The Exotic Garden in Norwich and an internationally recognized expert in

gardening of exotic plants in climatic conditions of Great Britain. Initially, he was working as an illustrator and photographer for botanical books and magazines. Over the past ten years, Will Giles has been leading tours to outlying parts of the world, e.g., Sri Lanka, Caribbean, or Madeira Island, all with a botanical theme. Nowadays, he is a regular contributor to several television and radio gardening programs. His passion and invaluable first-hand experience with growing of exotic plants is noticeable throughout this book.

This book is written in a clear, very readable style, which makes it accessible to both non-specialists and professionals. The encyclopedia is destined for all enthusiastic gardeners of all levels, who will find in it inspiration and courage to carry out experiments with new plants, and create extraordinary flowerbeds in their gardens. Excellent photographs even enhance this inspiring and reliable resource. Last but not least, recommended price of the publication seems surprisingly low comparing to its quality.

I. BOUŠOVÁ (*Hradec Králové*)