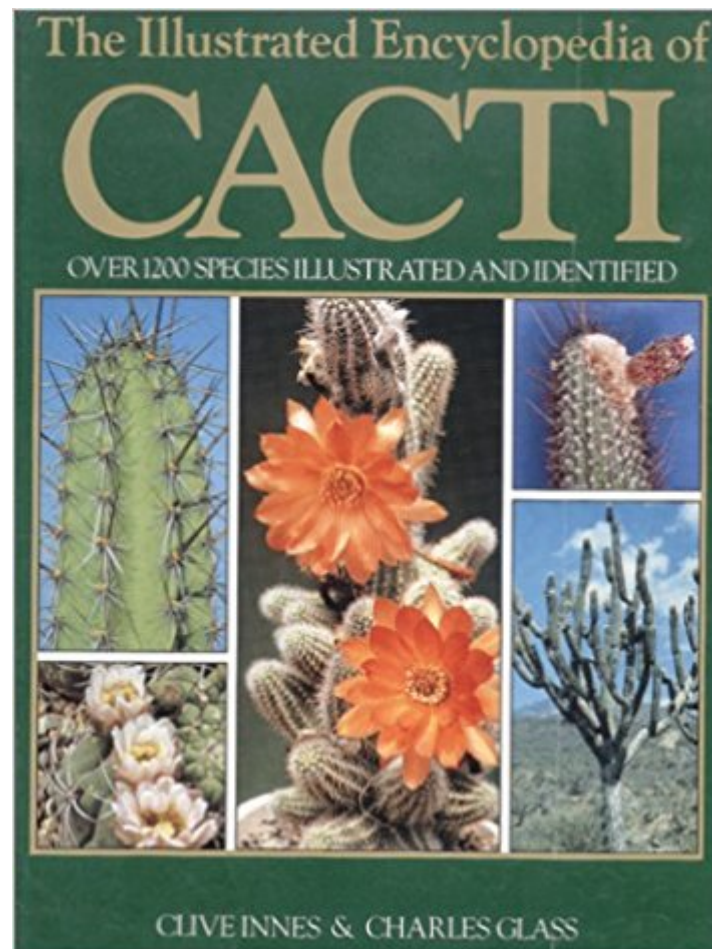




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The Illustrated Encyclopedia Of Cacti: Over 1200 Species Illustrated And Identified



Synopsis

"With over 1,200 entries, each individually illustrated in full color, it is the ideal practical recognition handbook and working reference resource for amateur enthusiasts everywhere, containing all the information needed to identify individual plants and then to select the varieties that will look and grow the best in specific domestic situations."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the most detailed source of cactus information that I have come across in the past eight years. The descriptions are very precise, especially; size, cultural habits, and all the basic growing necessities, with a great number of column cactus included. That's terrific! Most cacti enthusiasts will be overwhelmed by the photos (over 1200), which can captivate anyone into the beauty of cacti. Details such as: number of spines, ribs, and projected size can be a novelty for the amateur collector. Also, there is added information about growing requirements, such as; light, temperature, water, and different soils mixes to be used for certain situations. Mr. Innes and Mr. Glass have put together the best book on cacti that I had found, nevertheless, the price is very affordable.

I'm an avid cactus collector and I get most of my cacti from the local supermarkets and greenhouses. Most of these stores will sell you the plant but will not give you any information about it. This is the reason why I needed a book that would help me identify my cacti and give me care instructions specific to each species. Well, that is exactly what this book will do for you. The author of

the book makes no assumptions about your background (you don't need to be a biologist or anything to benefit from it). The very first section provides a guide that helps you narrow down the possible genera of your cacti by simply looking at its basic shape and other visible characteristics (like type of spines, number of ribs, type of clustering, etc.). Once you've chosen a set of possible genera, you go to the main section and look inside the chapter corresponding to each of the genera you chose. Inside each chapter you will find an item for each species that belongs to that genus. Each of these items contains a color photograph which will make it very easy to make a final decision about what species your cactus belongs to. Each item will give you additional information like a list of synonyms for the species, a brief paragraph describing the plant, its country of origin, cultivation details, the shape of the plant (when fully grown), it tells you whether it is day or night flowering, the length of the flowering period, how much light it needs, the type of compost it needs, and the minimum temperature required. As a bonus, the book contains a brief section about cultivation techniques (only four pages long).

This book is an excellent work for identification of cactus. It describes the proper growing conditions separately for each species, including sun vs. shade, kind of soil and hardiness to cold. Nearly every variety of nearly every genera is listed and shown, with more than one picture of the cactus, if necessary, to facilitate identification (generally, one of the whole plant, one of the flower). Very complete descriptions of the cacti are provided, including the number and color of the thorns and other minutiae. The book has a handy finding-guide in the front, arranged by gross features (columnar vs. barrel vs. sprawling, etc.) to make it as easy as possible to identify an unknown plant. Cactus from all environments are covered, including tropical, epiphytic and desert varieties. Note that cacti, like all plants, are ultimately identified by their flowers; in particular, two cacti from much different native climates - and requiring much different cultivation environments - often look very similar; it is the flowers that distinguish them. This book cannot erase that reality - many cacti (again, like any other plant) cannot be fully identified unless they are in bloom. This book is also not a tutorial for growing cacti. ... This Illustrated Encyclopedia is a reference work, though the beautiful pictures make it an excellent coffee-table book as well. Indeed, opening the book randomly to nearly any page reveals breathtaking photography of cacti at their finest. If you want to have no more than two books on growing cacti, I recommend this Illustrated Encyclopedia

Reviewed for THE AMATEURS' (Cactus) DIGEST BY Dave McRitchie, Toronto, Canada. This new book is a re-issue (November 1997) of the book first published in 1991 and covers some 1200

species. The photography is excellent, at least equal to that of the very popular "Cacti-The Illustrated Dictionary" by Rod and Ken Preston-Mafham and has the additional advantage of showing the columnar cacti which are not included in the latter volume. Of interest to many will be the inclusion of many hybrid species. This certainly has inspired me to want to try my hand at hybridization. For the newcomer to the hobby, there is information re soil, light, temperature etc. for all the described plants plus a section on identification. I don't know if there are any errors in taxonomy or description. I'll leave that up to more knowledgeable collectors than myself.

I purchased this book to help me identify the specimens in my growing cacti collection and while this book is very thorough in covering the subject matter, I found that it made no effort to note which of the many many cacti represented in the various chapters were likely to be the one I'd just purchased from my local retail sources. The photos are wonderful, with very good detail, although I would have preferred a picture showing both overall cactus shape as well as the closeup details of ribs, spines and flowers. Some specimens are only shown as flowers, which does not help with the identification process. And while I understand that there are many common names for the various cacti listed, it would have been helpful to have a few of them listed for each cactus (with a disclaimer of course) and included in the index.

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