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Nota di contenuto	Foreword; Preface to Second Edition; Preface to First Edition; List of Contributors; 1 Diversity in the Plant World; SUMMARY; INTRODUCTION; CREATING ORDER OUT OF DISORDER; COLONISATION OF THE LAND; COMMUNITIES AND THE DIVERSITY OF LIFE FORMS; CONCLUSION; FURTHER READING; 2 Know Your Plant: Structure and Function; SUMMARY; INTRODUCTION; ENERGY FLOW IN THE BIOSPHERE: PHOTOSYNTHESIS AND RESPIRATION; THE LEAF: INTO THE LABYRINTH; The manufacturing centre; Cells; Layout of the leaf; Controlling gas and water exchange; Protection against harmful radiation Palisade tissues: the sites of photosynthesis The transport system; Movement of water, minerals and hormones in the xylem; Transport of carbohydrates and hormones in the phloem; Producing new xylem and phloem: the cambium; The bundle sheath; Connecting with the stem; Leaf fall; Leaf patterns: phyllotaxy; Variations on a theme; THE STEM: REACH FOR THE SKY; The growing point; Forming new leaves; A tower of strength; Secondary thickening: the formation of wood and bark;

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Storage roots and other modificationsNitrogen fixation; Mycorrhizas;
CONCLUSION; FURTHER READING; 3 Reproduction: Securing the Future;
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TAXONOMY: ORDER IN DIVERSITY; The botanical framework; New
developments; TAXONOMY OF CULTIVATED PLANTS; Distinctiveness;
Uniformity; Stability
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Nomenclatural; Misidentification; THE QUEST FOR STABILITY AND
LINKING INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR THE FUTURE; Stability of botanical
plant names; Stability of cultivated plant names; CONCLUSION;
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Dominant and recessive alleles; BREEDING SYSTEMS
Breeding inbred linesBreeding open-pollinated populations; Clonal
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Somatic hybridisation; RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNOLOGY; Marker-
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CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF SOILS; BIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF SOILS;
ROOTS AND SOILS; CONCLUSION; FURTHER READING; 7 Soil Cultivation
and Fertility; SUMMARY
CULTIVATING THE SOIL

Sommario/riassunto

""A thorough update and the introduction of new topics such as
biodiversity and conservation has greatly enhanced this new edition: it
is a 'must read' for all interested in horticulture and gardening.""-John
MacLeod, RHS Professor of Horticulture Most conventional gardening
books concentrate on how and when to carry out horticultural tasks
such as pruning, seed sowing and taking cuttings. This book is unique
in explaining in straightforward terms some of the science that
underlies these practices. It is principally a book of 'Why' - Why are
plants green? Why should one cut be
