
This book is primarily intended for horticulture, crop science and food science students, as well as professional growers. It contains a wealth of information on crop origin, botany, taxonomy, breeding, pests and diseases, postharvest handling and utilization. In terms of this goal, the book does an excellent job of covering all these areas of information for these crops. The focus is primarily on carrots and celery, since the greatest amount of information available is concerned with these two crops. However, the authors provide information on numerous lesser and little known umbellifer crops as well. The diagrams and photographs are excellent and provide good demonstration of the discussions in the text.

Chapter 6 deals with diseases, disorders and other pests of the umbellifer crops. Within this subject area, postharvest diseases and disorders are discussed briefly. However, literature citations for information presented is sporadic. Therefore it may be difficult for a reader to obtain more detailed information regarding a particular postharvest disease or disorder. However, the information presented in the chapter regarding postharvest issues serves to give a student or professional reader a reasonably good awareness of postharvest diseases and disorders.

Chapter 7 deals with harvesting, postharvest handling and storage of primarily carrots and celery. The authors provide a surprising amount of information on other root, leafy and seed umbellifer crops. The photographs on the harvesting and handling operations are excellent. The strength of the presentation for this chapter is that it truly international in content. Various approaches to harvesting, handling and storage are presented from several countries in the world. One weakness is that the chapter is not completely up to date on more recent advances in postharvest technologies.

There are several concerns regarding Chapter 7 — Harvesting, Postharvest Handling and Storage. While the authors present a large amount of information, there is only sporadic reference to literature they relied upon to make specific statements or conclusions. This becomes an issue in several instances. For example, on page 250, the authors discuss the problem of odour transfer to celery when it is stored with ‘incompatible crops’. They give no further discussion or references regarding this topic. This is a very important issue in terms of handling and transport of celery and lack of detailed discussion or a reference to further information is a major oversight by the authors. Another example occurs on page 245, where the authors describe ‘low temperature preconditioning’ as an approach to reduce weight losses in long term low temperature storage of carrots. Their statement is inaccurate and, if a reference had been provided, the reader could at least have had access to the original information.

Chapter 7 also has some errors which can be attributed to oversights in editing. One example comes to mind, it occurs on page 250. The authors state ‘Because shelf-life is relatively short without refrigeration, the product is mostly mar-
keted near production areas'. They must be referring to a specific situation where cooling is not readily available or to very out-dated information. A reader could logically assume from this sentence that celery is always marketed near the site where it is produced. However, celery is marketed over long distances routinely using refrigerated trucks in North America. I would recommend that such issues be corrected in future editions of this book.

Despite some of the errors and inaccuracies in Chapter 7, it provides a good overview on the harvest, handling and storage of the wide range of umbellifer crops. The compilation of this information into one source benefits those learning postharvest handling, in that they can see how to extend information from major crops to lesser crops. The integration of information regarding alternative practices also gives the student and experienced grower a broader view of options for harvesting, handling and storage. This may be particularly useful for small-scale operations and in developing countries, where modern equipment and/or cooling facilities may not be as readily available.

This book is a useful general reference on the production and handling of umbellifer crops. It will be an important addition to a horticulture teaching library. The information in Chapters 6 and 7 regarding postharvest issues serves to give a good, general overview of the diseases, harvesting practices, and recommended handling and storage practices for these crops. Nonetheless, the postharvest researcher and practitioner may find that the information in the latter chapter is too general and that some important details and recent developments for storage and handling have not been discussed.

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