

Colocasia esculenta * r	P. distichum * o
Cordyline australis r	Pennisetum clandestinum * a
Cortaderia fulvida l (AK)	Phlaris aquatica * o
C. jubata * c	Phyllostachys ?aurea * r
C. selloana * r	Potamogeton crispus * o (AK)
Crocoshia x crosmiiflora * lc	Schoenoplectus validus lc
Cyperus eragrostis * c	Tradescantia fluminensis * lc
Eleocharis acuta lc	Typha orientalis l
Festuca arundinacea * o	

Book Review

New Zealand's Economic Native Plants by R.C. Cooper and R.C. Cambie. Oxford University Press, 1991. \$49.95.

The native flora of New Zealand is to be treasured not only as among the most ancient in the world but also as a valuable resource. The authors of this treatise cover a vast amount of ground in their survey of human impact on, and utilisation of, this resource; the book is richly furnished with interesting tid-bits of information which are frequently backed up by references to further information.

The contents are wide-ranging, from a brief introduction to the New Zealand flora, through the history of its utilisation, to chapters on plant use in gardens (here and overseas), the timber industry, conservation, fibre and paper, grasses, food and beverages, potions and poisons, chemical products and fragrances and flavours. And the often overlooked elements of the plant world - algae, bryophytes, lichens and fungi are not forgotten.

This volume has its roots in Brooker, Cambie and Cooper's Economic Native Plants of New Zealand published by Botany Division of DSIR in 1988. Where that publication was cheaply produced by black and white offset printing and staple-binding, the volume under review has been professionally published by Oxford. Its hard-covered 234 pages are well-illustrated with plant portraits, including 16 colour plates. It is remarkable that a book containing so much - information included - can be produced in the 1990s to retail at under \$50. Highly recommended.

Anthony Wright