
DENT, D. R. (ed.) 1995. *Integrated pest management*. Chapman & Hall; London. xii + 356 p. ISBN 0-412-57370-9. Hardback. \$94.95.

The small size of this tome belies its rich information content. Dent has done a marvelous job at bringing together the essential elements of IPM—historical, philosophical, theoretical, and practical—in an uniquely readable and understandable way. In a field that has long been known as multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary, Dent has effectively broadened and redefined the essential elements for an IPM text. This book offers instructors an excellent tool on which to base an introductory course, or even a capstone course after students have taken disciplinary courses in the protection sciences. Long-time IPM practitioners would also benefit greatly from reading this book.

Integrated pest management contains 8 chapters, all authored by Dent, that consider the theoretical and ecological basis pest management; the organizational and management elements of IPM; and the paradigms or approaches to IPM implementation. This is complemented by 4 additional chapters contributed by 6 other authors who describe IPM systems in olives, wheat, cotton, and protected crops (greenhouses). Dent clearly strove for a balanced approach by including philosophy, terminology, and examples from the fields of plant pathology and weed science as well as entomology. In addition, he provides an unusually good treatment of systems analysis, organizational behavior, and personnel management. Remarkably, he succeeded in weaving this all together into a seamless, instructive treatise that is marked by both brevity and readability.

The content of this book appears to be fairly conventional, but it is not. Dent has interjected a strong social science element into his book, rather than the preponderance of biological and technological information usually found in such texts. Yes, we all acknowledge the contributions of economists and other social scientists, but rarely is social science presented in such a central role. What other IPM text contains dis-

discussion of the personality types needed for program planning and implementation? What other IPM text contains detailed discussion of IPM educational programs, including the methodologies used by extensionists? Although the principles underlying IPM are the focus of the book, the breadth of the treatment imparts a "how to" flavor, leaving the reader with the feeling that he or she is prepared to commence the planning, implementation, and evaluation of IPM programs. This is a remarkable achievement for any book, and especially for such a brief treatment of the subject.

I highly recommend this book to any practitioner of IPM. Its value may not be immediately apparent for researchers whose focus is the component elements of IPM, but anyone who has ever tried to implement IPM will recognize its elegance and utility. Anyone teaching an IPM course **must** review this book.

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