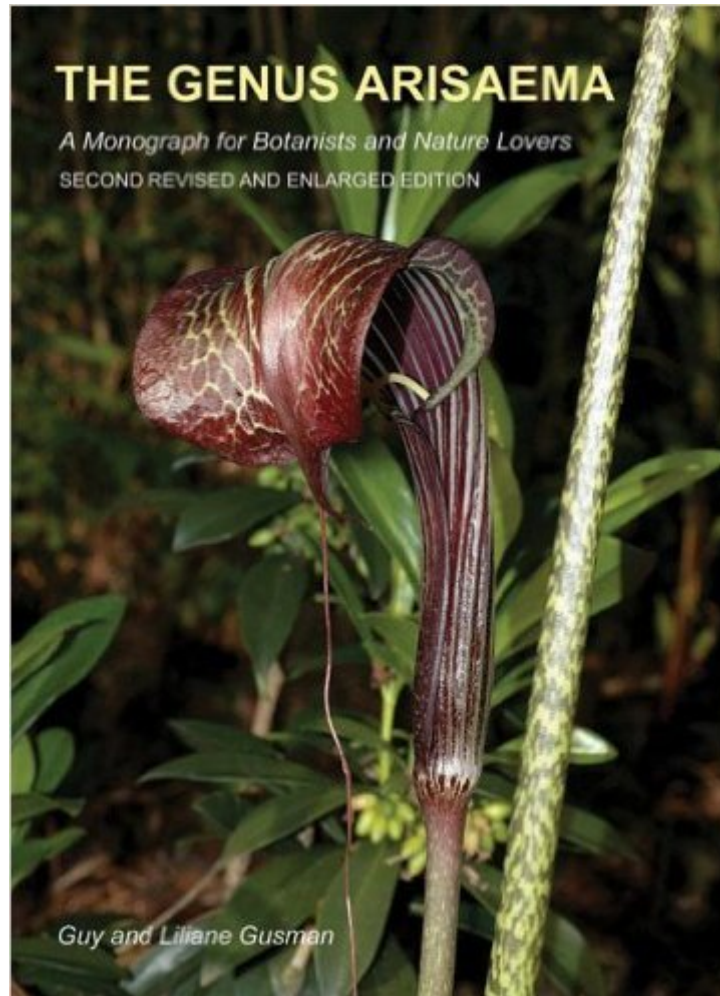


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The Genus Arisaema



Synopsis

Arisaema is a large genus within the Arum family, consisting of about 200 species, subspecies, and varieties distributed widely around the globe. They are remarkable for their exotic-looking inflorescences-which inspired the common name of cobra lily-and for the fact that they can change sex from year to year. The Genus Arisaema (2002) was the first comprehensive study of the genus since 1920, and indeed the first ever in the English language. This second revised and updated edition includes more than 10 new species described since 2002, along with recent developments in taxonomy, geographical distribution of species, revised tables for keying species, and many new photographs. Coverage for each species (arranged by section) includes detailed descriptions of the subterranean stem, shoot, leaf, inflorescence, and fruiting spike, with notes on the flowering period, distribution, and habitat. Fabulous color photographs, many of plants in their natural habitat, are supplemented by color illustrations that clearly identify species. There are chapters on arisaemas in the wild and in cultivation, and on propagation, and cultivation notes are provided for each section. This new edition is the only comprehensive, up-to-date book on the genus Arisaema, and will be welcomed by botanists, plant collectors, arisaema aficionados, and gardeners.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The pictures are wonderful, but I could understand only a basic description of each plant, which is really written for botanists, I believe. I will look some more, then donate it to the Boston Horticultural Society.

The 2nd edition is a markedly improved and extended update of the ground-breaking original. New information, new pictures. The accurate line-drawings for recognizing species by leaf-type have been preserved.

Arisaema is a genus of Aroids currently gaining in popularity and, with the imports from China arriving in the West with shakey IDs to say the least, this is the book you want to sort out the whole mess. Fotos are extremely good, many being from collection expeditions, other from cultured plants. General morphology is beautifully explained, comparisons of leaf arrangements and important floral attributes are clearly illustrated, general habitat is discussed, although only general cultural instructions are mentioned, one does get a good understanding of how to approach these plants in the garden. Also, there is a classification of the tuber under each taxon, blooming and emergence seasons are discussed, essentially, everything that could be included has been included. Coupled with the excellent printing quality, this is a book not to be missing from the botanical library. Nice to read, as well.

Seeing Himalayan species growing in the wild sparked my interest in this genus - until that recent trip, I was familiar only with North American species. This book is clearly written, well-illustrated, and very helpful for old gardeners like me who are not botanists but love to pursue a species in depth. It's never too late to learn. As usual, Timber Press has raised what might be an excellent textbook to the level of art.

Perfect book for the *Arisaema* lover.

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