

BOOK REVIEW

SARA OLDFIELD. 2010. **Botanic Gardens: Modern-Day Arks**. (ISBN-13: 978-0-262-01516-5, hbk.). MIT Press, 55 Hayward Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142-1493, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.mitpress.mit.edu, 800-405-1619). \$29.95, 240 pp., 10½" × 8½".

Botanic Gardens: Modern-Day Arks, a book by Sara Oldfield, offers the reader an insight to many botanical gardens of the world and precautions that are taken to ensure that these gardens remain protected from any harm. Images of numerous botanical gardens of the world and the species of plants which encompass them enable the pages of Oldfield's book to stand out. These vivid images are the best part of her entire book because they show every detail of each plant even down to their extensive root system. By providing such unique images it is almost as if Oldfield is placing you directly into the botanical gardens from which these plants hail. Despite a lot of information given about necessary precautions needed to conserve such plant species, and information on the types of flora which inhabit many parts of the world, Sara Oldfield could have utilized the immense amount of extra blank space throughout her book to incorporate more information on the living environments of the plants she mentions.

Oldfield does a really great job in elaborating about plant species threatened of extinction and programs built on how to restore the habitats necessary for these plants to thrive in. This book could be of good use during field work seeing how it provides some very useful information on plant species, but the book itself is too bulky to carry around from location to location and does not have an easily accessible reference guide.—*Chloe Otieno, Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 1700 University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3400, U.S.A.*