

## BOOK REVIEW

DAVID DEARDORFF AND KATHRYN WADSWORTH. 2009. **What's Wrong With My Plant? (And How Do I Fix It?): A Visual Guide to Easy Diagnosis and Organic Remedies.** (ISBN 978-0-88192-961-4, pbk.). Timber Press, the Haseltine Building, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, Oregon 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.timberpress.com, 800-827-5622). \$24.95, 451 pp., 7¾" × 9¼".

*What's Wrong With My Plant? (And How Do I Fix It?) A Visual Guide to Easy Diagnosis and Organic Remedies* is a book written to assist the layperson's issues with their garden, landscape and house plants, and remedy those issues. The use of color illustrations and photographs help the non-scientist make a diagnosis of almost any plant health issue you may face. David Deardorff is a plant pathologist and botanist, bringing a professional and scientific background, while Kathryn Wadsworth relies on her love of gardening and the outdoors to bring a more personal touch.

The book is broken in to three parts: Part 1 provides easy to follow flow charts designed to help the user determine the issue; Part 2 helps you determine the best (organic) solution; and Part 3 is a photo gallery of all the common problems found in your plants. Part 1 has its chapters organized by whole plant or the individual parts of the plant (leaves, flowers, branches, roots, etc.). Part 2 breaks down in to the individual ailments in each chapter (growing conditions, fungi, insects, nematodes, etc.). Part 3 provides photos for all of the problems you've researched in Parts 1 and 2 and has them organized by plant part again, in the same order and fashion as Part 1. Finally, an appendix titled "What's Wrong With My Lawn" allows you to analyze issues you may be having in your yard. This is a very short section, covering most of the basic premises of lawn care as well as some tips on how to maintain a healthy, but sustainable lawn. The book wraps up with a Resources section, a Glossary, References, and an Index.

The flow charts in this book are very well laid out and work very similar to a dichotomous key. Overall, they make it very easy to determine your problem. Even more helpful are the real photographs in Part 3 of actual cases of problems. They're well done and are typically representative of the problems. I was able to diagnose three different issues I was having on my own property (two in the garden and one in my shrubbery) caused by three different issues. All were correct, and the remedies provided in Part 2 were helpful. My only complaint is that it is an organic-based book, so it doesn't really offer much in terms of chemical treatment for insect and disease issues, but it is what it is. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who takes pride in their landscaping or gardening, professionals and hobbyists alike. Plant care is often a delicate balance, and this book provides many of the tools needed to find that balance.—Micah Chambers, SWCA Environmental Consultants, 3901 Arlington Highlands Blvd, Suite 200, Arlington, TX 76018, mchambers@swca.com