
Book Review: Hardy CYPRIPEIDIUM Species, hybrids, and cultivation

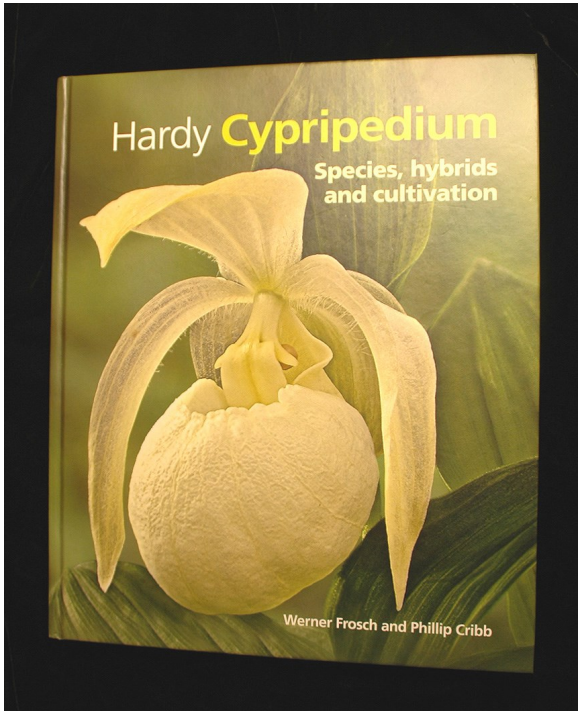
Walter Frosch and Phillip Cribb

Royal Botanic gardens, Kew. 2012. Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB, UK

Distributed on behalf of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in North America by the University of Chicago Press. 1427 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637, USA
Cloth. ISBN 978-184246-464-9

This book merits five stars and more! Whether one is an orchid scientist, a hobbyist, or merely a wildflower enthusiast, this is an outstanding treatment of the *Cypripedium* slipper orchids. Whether you are one who seeks out only the “native” orchids, or an avid greenhouse grower of both orchid species and hybrids, this is the book for you. The reader is treated to high quality pictures from Cribb’s extensive travels in little-known areas of Asia and other areas, and annotated maps point out the range of each species.

It is often repeated that terrestrial orchids cannot be transplanted. However, the truth is that they *can* be, but this *should not* be attempted by the casual individual. In this wise, the 1986 conservation work of restoring *Cypripedium calceolus* to the wild in the UK is discussed and the reader will readily understand a few of the complexities of relocating terrestrial orchid plants. In a similar



vein, the hybridization possibilities of these orchids have received scant publicity. In this volume, years of work by Werner Frosch with the hybridization of members of this genus are illustrated, and the procedures from pollen placement to the outdoor transplanting of plantlets are discussed in detail.

This book is not a mere litany of flower pictures and names. The taxonomy is up to date with the latest molecular research and is presented in a manner easy to follow not only by the orchid scientist, but by the casual hobbyist as well.

This book is one for the serious wildflower fan and it certainly ought to be a mandatory essential in the library of *every* orchidist!
