

Population biology of plants.

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Abstract: Population biology has developed largely as a zoological disciplin reason a book such as this which defines a science appropriate for plants is welcome. In this comprehensive and well-written book the author has succe attempted to collate such present knowledge concerning plants as may be understanding of their population biology. The first of the 24 chapters provi history of the development of population theory and experimental models, a diagrammatic model of population behaviour, which thereafter appears th book in slightly modified forms. The remaining chapters are grouped into fix

the first of which includes a detailed description of seed dispersal, dormanc bank and the nature of the environmental sieve determining the recruitmer populations. The second and third sections concern the effects of neighbou predators, and encompass extensive experimental results on the influence density on yield, mortality, form and reproduction, on interspecific competiti effects of leaf, seed and fruit predation. Section four provides detailed infor annuals, biennials, herbaceous perennials and woody plants. The final section the most relevant to students of plant breeding and genetics, as evolutional concerning variation in reproductive capacity are discussed and the existen physiological and genetic potential for profound changes in life-cycle strates demonstrated. Forces of selection acting within plant populations are discusted ecology is interpreted as evolution in action. Comprehensive coverage of the combined with the inclusion of many examples from the literature and useful summaries, make this a valuable reference book for both students and reservances.

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