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## Population biology of plants.

Author(s) : [Harper, J. L.](#)

Author Affiliation : Sch. Pl. Biol., Univ. Coll. N. Wales, Bangor, UK.

Miscellaneous : [Population biology of plants.](#) 1977 pp.xxii + 892pp. ref.many

Abstract : Population biology has developed largely as a zoological discipline. The 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 successfully attempted to collate such present knowledge concerning plants as may be of use to the understanding of their population biology. The first of the 24 chapters provides the history of the development of population theory and experimental models, a diagrammatic model of population behaviour, which thereafter appears throughout the book in slightly modified forms. The remaining chapters are grouped into five

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

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