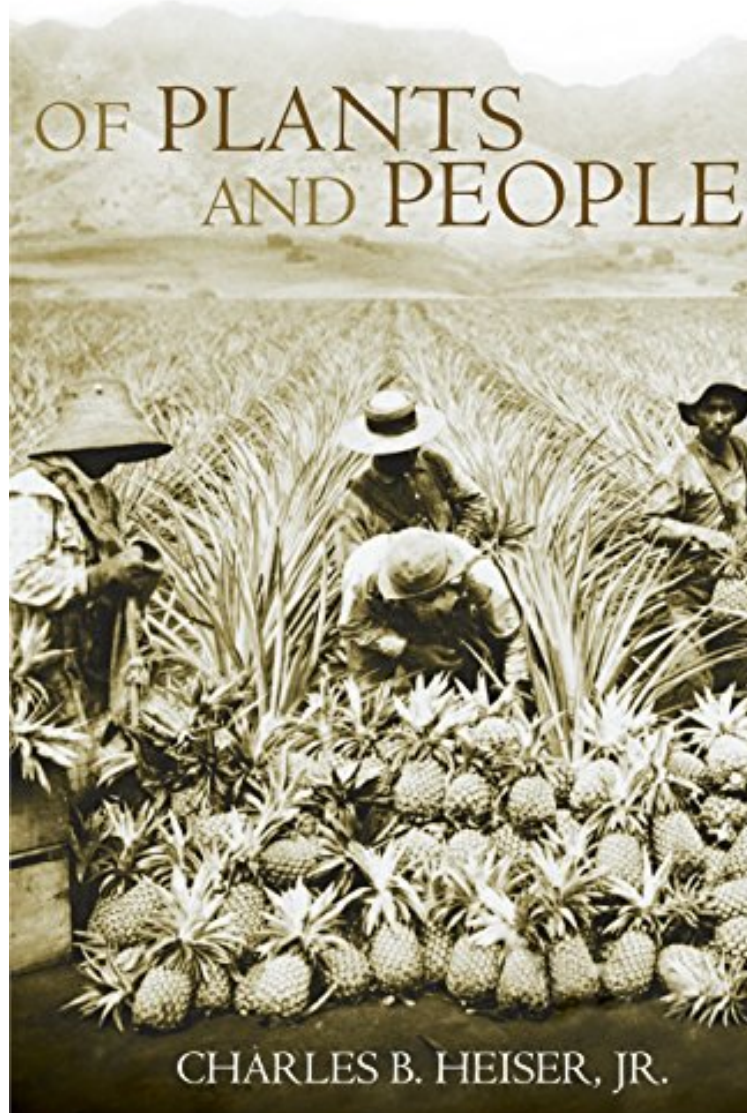


[Download] Of Plants and People

Of Plants and People

Charles B. Heiser

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



 Download

 Read Online

#2404925 in Books University of Oklahoma Press 1992-03-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .78 x 5.50l, .70 #File Name: 0806124105252 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Charles B. Heiser : Of Plants and People before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Of Plants and People:

What are the origins of agriculture? How did people learn to domesticate plants? How did they come to improve some? How did they learn special techniques for processing certain plants for food? In these highly personal and

informal essays—old-fashioned botany, the author calls them—noted botanist Charles Heiser investigates those and other questions raised by the interactions of plants and people. His purpose is to try to find the origins of some of our domesticated plants and to consider other plants that might someday contribute to our food resources. In *Of Plants and People*, Heiser examines the origins of pumpkins, squashes, and other cucurbits. In *The Totora and Thor*, he digresses from food plants to trace the spread of the totora reed from South America to Pacific islands. *Little Oranges of Quito* is about the domestication of a wild plant, the naranjilla, that is going on today. *Chenopods: From Weeds to the Halls of Montezuma* concerns the uses of the Andean quinoa and its relatives, and *Sangorache and the Day of the Dead, A Trip to Tulcn*, and *Chochos and Other Lupines* all examine Latin-American domestic plants that could contribute to our own foods. *Green Tomatoes and Purple 'Cucumbers*, the tomate and the pepino, respectively, describes two other crops that have received scant notice in the United States. The subject of "How Many Kinds of Peppers Are There?" is the genus *Capsicum*, with its sweet green and hot red peppers and all their related species and varieties. Heiser again writes about nonfood plants in the essay "Peperomias," but in the next chapter, "Sumpweed," he discusses a plant that was once used for food but that has been neglected in favor of others. And in "A Plague of Locusts" the author compares the honey locust tree with a close relative to try to determine what gives particular plants advantages in certain environments. In his final essay, *Seeds, Sex, and Sacrifice*, Heiser relates myth, anthropological evidence, and botanical findings to review the connection between religion and the origin of agriculture. The audience for this book will include botanists, horticulturists, anthropologists, and any reader interested in the interrelationships between plants and people.

About the Author Charles B. Heiser, Jr., received the Ph.D. degree from the University of California at Berkeley and was Professor of Botany in Indiana University. He authored several books on botanical subjects, among them *The Sunflower*, also published by the University of Oklahoma Press.