

Green plants are all around us. We are totally dependent on them for food; we cultivate them for our pleasure; and we have used them in a vast number of ways down the centuries to our advantage. But have you ever wondered how plants work? Where do trees get the material to make wood? How does a bulb 'know' to sprout in the spring? Why are flowers different colors and why do they smell? This book answers these questions in a charming and accessible way. From their ability to use energy from sunlight to make their own food to their amazing range of life-sustaining, death-defying strategies, John King explains why plants dominate our planet. Plants might live life at a different pace from animals but they are just as fascinating.

This is not just for keen gardeners and naturalists. This is a book for anyone who wants to understand why the earth is green.

*From the reviews:*

'Chances are that everyone will find what they are looking for in *Reaching for the Sun* ... The book is intended to pique a layperson's interest in plants. It succeeds very well in this respect, and is outstanding in its coverage of such a broad subject in nontechnical terms.' *Wim Vermaas, The Quarterly Review of Biology*

'... ideally suited for anyone who has ever wondered how plants work. King brings excitement and wonder to what is arguably the most active area in botany today.'

*Robert Wise, The American Society of Plant Physiologists*

'... *Reaching for the Sun* is bound to have influence because it could easily be adopted as the text for an undergraduate course ... or as intriguing and enjoyable bedside reading material.'

*Karl J. Niklas, Plant Science Bulletin*

'This is meant to be a popular book and I for one believe that the author has achieved his aim in opening up the attractions of plant science to a general audience.'

*Jeffrey B. Harborne, Journal of Biological Education*

'This is a book to be heaped with laurels, to be awarded the palm.'

*Tim Radford, The Guardian*

*Reaching for the Sun* ... is fun as well as authoritative. It is ideal for the general reader and for A-level biologists.'

*Barrie Goldsmith, New Scientist*

'King is an enthusiast and his breathless enthusiasm is liberally scattered throughout the book.'

*Deri Tomos, Trends in Plant Science*