

FLOWERING AND ITS MANIPULATION

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The flowering plants now dominate the terrestrial ecosystems of the planet, and there are good reasons for supposing that the flower itself has been a major contributing factor to the spread of the angiosperms. The flowers of higher plants not only contain the organs of plant reproduction but are of fundamental importance in giving rise to fruits and seeds, which constitute a major component of the human diet.

This volume opens with a chapter describing a model for the evolution of the angiosperm flower. Chapters 2 to 5 describe the core development of the flower and include floral induction, floral patterning and organ initiation, floral shape and size, and inflorescence architecture. Chapters 6 to 8 focus on more specialised aspects of floral development: monoecy, cytoplasmic male sterility and flowering in perennials. Chapters 9 and 10 address more functional aspects: flower colour and scent. The book concludes, appropriately, with a chapter on flower senescence.

Applied aspects are stressed wherever appropriate, and the book is directed at researchers and professionals in plant genetics, developmental and molecular biology.

This volume has been designed to complement an earlier volume in our *Annual Plant Reviews* series, O'Neill, S.D. and Roberts, J.A. (2002) *Plant Reproduction*.

The Editor

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