

The Specialist Orchid Grower, by Rentoul, J. N.

This beautiful volume, the culmination of years of work and study, is aimed to provide practical information for the keen orchid grower who wishes to create a specialist collection.

Orchids have been cultivated for 200 years, and J. N. Rentoul's experience of orchid growing extends over one quarter of this period. During his long career he has seen fads and fancies come and go; he has grown and flowered an enormous range of orchids, both in glasshouses and in the open-air; and he has supplemented his practical experience with fieldwork to study orchids in their native habitats.

J. N. Rentoul knows individual preferences and traits of orchids; he knows which habits to encourage and which to modify; he knows the little attentions which will help the plants to give of their best. He is familiar, too, with the problems of overcrowding and the difficulty of saying no! He can speak with authority on Glasshouse design and control of temperature, light, ventilation and moisture; on potting materials and fertilizers; and on techniques of handling, and he demystifies these contentious topics with liberal applications of common sense.

Like all his other books, this volume is enhanced by his beautiful photographs and informative captions

J. N. Rentoul has completed over 50 years of practical orchid growing. Starting as an amateur without formal horticultural or botanical training, he has through practical experience, study and research become a recognized authority on the cultivation of all types of orchids.

His major works, of which the specialist orchid grower is the culmination, include four Growing Orchid volumes, Book 1, *Cymbidians and Slippers*; Book 2, *The Cattleyas and other Epiphytes*; Book 3, *Vandas, Dendrobiums and others*; Book 4, *The Australasian Families*.

He has been a regular contributor to *Your Garden* magazine in Australia for more than 30 years, as well as writing articles for journals around the world.

