



Book Review by Margaret Hodgson

Kalmia, Mountain Laurel and Related Species by Richard A. Jaynes,
Timber Press, Inc. Portland, Oregon, 1997.
295 pages, approx. 140 colour photos,
Bibliography, Index.
Hardbound, \$47.50

Richard Jaynes, a geneticist and horticulturist, resigned from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in 1984 to establish and continue his innovative work with laurel at the Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden, Connecticut. He has received several awards for his work on chestnut trees and laurel, including the Jackson Dawson Medal for horticultural achievement presented by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He has

been the designated National Registration Authority for *Kalmia* since 1977 and the International Registration Authority since 1978 by the Council of the International Society of Horticultural Science.

As pointed out on the jacket cover of the book, ***Kalmia, Mountain Laurel and Related Species***, *Kalmia*, a member of the heath family along with rhododendrons, azaleas and blueberries, grows well in most temperate climates, but is more drought tolerant than rhododendrons. *Kalmia* is not an easy plant to domesticate, but in this third edition, Jaynes details all seven *Kalmia* species and more than 80 recognized cultivated varieties, 35 of which were selected or bred by the author, and he also includes history, characteristics, cultivating and landscaping ideas.

The book is organized into Part I and Part II with three Appendices, Bibliography and Index following Part II. Part I leads the reader through a logical sequence of twelve chapters discussing such topics as the perfect laurel, laurels in the wild, propagation by cuttings, grafting and layering. Chapter 5 is followed by 140 colour photo plates before continuing on to further topics of seeds and germination, garden care of laurels, landscaping, pests and diseases. Many of these topics are further illustrated with good black and white diagrams.

Part II is devoted to breeding better laurel, delving into more specialized topics of pollination and fertilization, species hybridization, intergeneric crosses, techniques for controlling crosses.

Appendix A lists research needs.

Appendix B lists Gardens with *Kalmia* Collections throughout the USA and Europe

Appendix C lists laboratories, mail-order nurseries and growers of *Kalmia*