Khachatourian, G.H.G., McHugheen, A., Scorza, R., Nip Wai-Kit, Hui, Y.H.: **Transgenic Plants and Crops.** – Marcel Dekker, New York – Basel 2002. 876 pp., USD 225.00.

This compendium includes altogether 55 articles and most of them deal with plant transgenosis. As some chapters have more authors, the overall number of authors is 130. They are representatives of many countries all over the word, even if Canada and USA prevail. It is probably the largest contemporary compendium on the topic of plant transformation.

The book is divided into four parts. The first part, which is the largest one (391 pp.), is entitled Principles and Applications. It contains general chapters concerning, for instance, the contemprary views on plant genome organization, or questions of development, science, and sociology of agriculture and food crops. Parly it deals also with general topics of transgenosis (articles on the direct DNA delivery into plant cells and tissues or on improvement of crop performance through transgenic modification of flowering and, last but not least, on political and economic consequences). The following parts of the book are unique in the sense that they deal with individual cultured plant species and their transgenosis. Each article contains basic information on the crop as well as information on the methods of transformation, current transgenic lines and their release into the environment for field experiments, obstacles, drawbacks, and perspectives.

The second part of the book deals with fruit plants such as apple, avocado, banana, melon, cranberry, grapevine, kiwifruit, mango, papayas, strawberry, and raspberry. The third part is called Vegetables and contains chapters on asparagus, beans, beet, carrots, cassava, cauliflower, lettuce, potato, and other crops. The last part is called Grains and other seeds. It deals, for instance, with barley, flax, oilseed, sunflower, or wheat.

The compendium presents very broad, contemporary source of information on plant transgenosis. The number of citations reaches several thousands. Of course, it still can not cover all the problematics of plant transgenosis by exhaustive way. Neverteless, the book will be of great help to those who are interested in plant transgenosis and especially its application in plant breeding.

M. ONDŘEJ (*České Budějovice*)