Harding, J., Singh, F., Mol, J.N.M. (ed.): **Genetics and Breeding of Ornamental Species**. - Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht - Boston - London 1991. 429 pp.

Breeding of cultivated plants requires to basic processes - the induction of genetic variability and its exploitation by selection. The objectives of this publication are to describe recent methods of creating or controlling genetic variability, both on the chromosome, population and molecular level. The first section "Cytogenetics" deals with the chromosome evolution and aneuploidy of ornamental species, further with protoplast fusion and somatic hybridisation and with chromosome transformation. The second section "Quantitative traits" brings together reviews on the selection of physiological and production traits in flower crops and breeding for disease resistance. Probably the most interesting section for most readers is the third section "Molecular genetics". The reviews summarize the recent discoveries in the field of molecular aspects of flowering, modulation of flower color and its intensity, gene expression and flower senescence, engineering for novel flower color, routes for the development of disease resistant ornamentals *etc.* The data are not limited to ornamental plants, *e.g.* the chapter on tagging floral structure genes presents data obtained in experiments with the weed *Arabidopsis thaliana*. This publication will be use to all breeders interested in new molecular aspects of breeding, not only of ornamental plants.

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