HORTICULTURAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
FIXED EQUIPMENT AND BUILDINGS

Science in Horticulture Series

General Editor: L. Broadbent, Emeritus Professor of Biology and Horticulture, University of Bath

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HORTICULTURAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY FIXED EQUIPMENT AND BUILDINGS

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PREFACE

I have often felt that 'horticultural engineering' lies uneasily between the horticultural sciences and pure engineering. The horticulturist or plant scientist often finds engineering principles difficult to grasp, while the pure engineer usually lacks the practical knowledge of plant behaviour or requirements.

The modern horticulturist is heavily reliant on engineering by way of mechanisation at all stages from establishment to marketing. A working knowledge of engineering will help in three ways: awareness of what is available, ability to specify requirements in broad terms and improved efficiency of operating equipment.

In writing this book I have tried to establish the basic engineering principles of which the modern horticulturist must be aware, and to describe the equipment that is likely to be encountered. It is also hoped that students or practitioners of engineering will be able to grasp the basic applications requirements of the horticultural industry.

Obviously, as the book has to cover such a wide range of engineering sciences, some cannot be explored in great depth, and consequently the reader will have to continue by way of the books cited in the bibliography. Attention is also drawn to the companion volume: *Horticultural Engineering Technology — Field Machinery*. In line with the majority of the engineering industry, the two books are written entirely in SI (Système International) metric units; conversions to Imperial and other common units will be found in appendix A.

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