

Gleanings

Books

Native trees for North American landscapes
Guy Sternberg with Jim Wilson. 2004
Timber Press, Portland, OR

An authoritative and beautifully illustrated volume that should become a key reference, as well as a coffee table book, for all gardeners and arborists.

Plant Adaptation: molecular genetics and ecology
edited by Q.C.B. Cronk, J. Whitton, R. Ree and I.E.P. Taylor.
2004

NRC of Canada Research Press, Ottawa

Proceedings of a conference, held at UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research in December 2002. The papers are technical, but as far as I know this volume is the first book to show the diversity of research opportunities at the frontier between plant ecology and molecular biology.

Journal articles

Farming and the fate of wild nature
R.E. Green, S.J. Cornell, J.P.W. Scharlemann and A. Balmford.
2005

Science 307: 550-555 (January 28th 2005)

A major article that proposes two solutions to address the profound effects of farming on wild species. Wildlife-friendly farming may lower agricultural yield but boost wildlife densities on farmland.

A land-sparing approach minimizes demands for land by increasing yield. The authors present results from developing countries that support the view that high-yield farming may allow more species to persist

Nature conservation in an era of indifference

Don Gayton. 2004

BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management 5 (2): 1-4

A paper arguing that traditional school and park nature programming are relatively ineffective and that fundamental social change are required if the conservationist sector is to grow.

Litter decomposition in British Columbia forests: controlling factors and influences of forestry activities.

C.E. Prescott, L.L. Blevins and Staley, C. 2004

BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management 5 (2): 44-57

A Discussion Paper on the influences of forestry practice on litter decomposition, especially some fundamental errors that exist in the measurement methods. Pursuit of well designed experiments and careful observation suggest that many of the predictions about rates of decomposition and nutrient availability are little more than guesses. Both researchers and forest managers need to rethink many of their fundamental assumptions.