

BOOK REVIEWS

WHO KNOWS THE RAIN? Nature and Origin of Rainfall in South Florida. Leonard Pardue, Jessie Free-ling, Leonard J. Greenfield and Patrick T. Gannon. Foreword by Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Friends of the Everglades, 3744 Stewart Avenue, Coconut Grove, FL 33133. 1982. \$3.50.

Rainfall is the sole source of water in south Florida. Those of us who live in south Florida wonder each year if the rainy season will arrive in time to avert water rationing. It is especially critical for those of us who make our living in the nursery and landscape trades.

And, as anyone who has studied plant communities is aware, the water regime is one of the major factors determining which community will exist in a given place. Changes in the water regime will lead to successional changes in the plant community. Abrupt, ill-considered changes made by people will cause major instability and usually unwelcome changes in the plant assemblage. Those acquainted with the wetlands communities of south Florida, particularly the Everglades and the Big Cypress, know that these systems are severely stressed by drainage and patchwork water management systems.

This small book by a distinguished group of scientists was written to explain the rainfall system of south Florida (a unit including the Kissimmee drainage basin and all land south of the Caloosahatchee and the St. Lucie Canal). The discussions are within the context of general hydrological theory, which allows a much better understanding than a mere description of the specific case, which is typical of most books written for laymen. Maps, graphs, and diagrams are included, and superb chapter summaries eliminate the need for notetaking or searching for a preceding passage.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas commissioned this book to present the reasons why there is a movement urging restoration of the original water regime in what remains of the Everglades and Big Cypress as the only feasible means of assuring both the survival of existing parks and refuges and a continuing water supply for the developed areas of south Florida.

• Laura Brinkley