

BOOK REVIEW

'Western Grasses' by *B.R. Roberts and R.G. Silcock*

This splendidly written and illustrated book is well bound and produced, in layman's language. It will withstand rough handling, frequent use and will never be outdated.

For those who earn their livings in the animal industries; for those who merely have a lively interest in things about them, this delightful little book is absolutely essential reading; a book for presentation, a gift, but above all one that will work just as faithfully and as hard as your best stockhorse or dog, and will be regarded as kindly.

It is all there! Botanical names, common names, local names, true portrayals in black and white line drawings by Dr. Gillian Scott, protein content, phosphorus values of most grasses, favoured soil types and

so on. Plus a positive storehouse of knowledge which is not generally known (or available) to a lay person.

For example, what is the difference between a grass and a sedge? What are the factors which can enable you to identify one from the other? Or for that matter, what is a sedge? How do you distinguish between bull Mitchell and barley Mitchell?

Don't know? Well then, you should get a copy of this great little book and discover for yourself.

The authors are careful to state that the book refers specifically to south-western Queensland, but from my experience and observations, it will be equally as valuable to someone living in the Gulf of Carpentaria or to someone as far south as Wentworth in New South Wales and east as far as Emerald.

Robert J. Martin
