

CACTACEOUS PLANTS: THEIR HISTORY AND CULTURE

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Cactaceous Plants: Their History and Culture by Lewis Castle

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LEWIS CASTLE

**CACTACEOUS PLANTS:
THEIR HISTORY AND
CULTURE**



SAGUARO TREES (see page 44).

CACTACEOUS PLANTS:

THEIR

HISTORY AND CULTURE.

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

BY

LEWIS CASTLE.

(FORMERLY OF THE ROYAL GARDENS, KEW.)



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PREFACE.

Most subjects connected with horticulture, as in other departments of literature, have been so thoroughly exhausted by numerous writers that there is little room for additional contributions. It is strange, however, that no treatise in the English language has hitherto been solely devoted to the large, peculiar, and interesting family of Cactaceous plants which long held a prominent position in popular estimation. Much has been written respecting them by skilled botanists and cultivators, but the information they have afforded is scattered through so many works and periodicals that it is inaccessible to the majority of amateurs and gardeners. Being persuaded that there are still many admirers of these plants I have endeavoured in the following pages to give a brief review of the whole family, noting the most handsome species, their culture and history, as succinctly as possible, to compress the work into a compass that would admit of its sale at a small price. A period of several years' study in the Royal Gardens, Kew, afforded me special facilities for observing the characters and requirements of the Cactæe, and the information thus obtained, together with many facts my position on the editorial staff of the *Journal of Horticulture* has enabled me to gain, is embodied in the treatise now submitted to the public.—L. C.

November 10th, 1834.

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