



A Plantsman's Paradise

Travels in China

Roy Lancaster

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- A long-awaited new edition of a much sought-after book, with newly revised text and many new color pictures
- A fascinating account of the enormous variety of Chinese plants and their application to Western gardens
- Some 1,000 plants are described in their natural habitats

China truly is a plantsman's paradise: it is so rich in variety that there are upwards of 3,000 native plants on a single mountain in China, compared to around 2,000 in the whole of the British Isles. And, in the province of Yunnan alone, there are 137 species of oaks and oak relatives – in Great Britain there are just 2! This book successfully combines a most enjoyable and detailed account of the well-known author's many journeys through China. First and foremost, *Travels in China* provides a practical assessment of the Chinese plants that are either of ornamental merit or botanical interest to gardeners in the West. Roy Lancaster follows in the footsteps of the great Victorian plant hunters and describes in this, his *magnum opus*, some 1,000 different plants in their natural habitat. He provides an eminently readable account of a fascinating country, its people, and the plants that have done so much to enrich the gardens of Europe and North America. Nearly 1,000 of Lancaster's own attractive and colourful photographs illustrate the text, showing the wealth of Chinese plants in the wild and in Western cultivation: the rare, the exotic and the surprisingly familiar. The informative text is interspersed with fascinating descriptions and anecdotes from his travels.

Roy Lancaster has had a long and distinguished career as a plantsman and is known internationally for his writing, lecturing, television work and as a regular panellist on Radio 4's 'Gardeners' Question Time'.