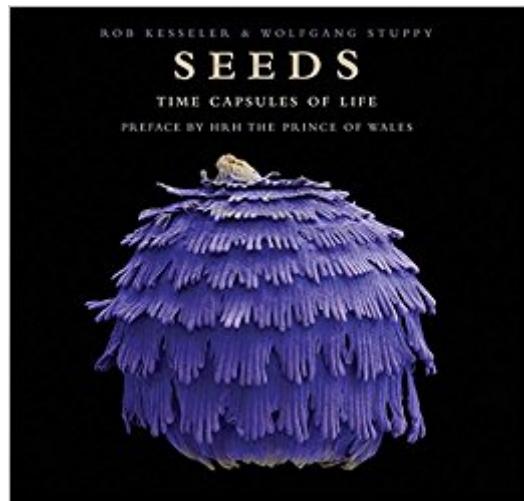


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Seeds: Time Capsules Of Life



Synopsis

In this lavish collection, a natural history of seeds is presented, illustrated with close-up photographs and scanning electron micrographs. With its studied narrative and beautiful photographic eye, this keepsake volume is a stunning tribute to the beauty and marvel of seeds. In this lavish collection, artist Rob Kesseler and seed morphologist Wolfgang Stuppy of the Millennium Seed Bank at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, present a natural history of seeds, illustrated with close-up photographs and scanning electron micrographs. The images afford an unprecedented view into a most astonishing microcosm, where even the tiniest examples are exquisitely beautiful and sophisticated. In fact Kesseler's work has been called "mystifying," "astounding," and "awe-inspiring" by scientists and critics around the world. Seeds constitutes an essential source book not only for those fascinated by the natural world, but also for artists, designers, and anyone interested in the development of biological structures. This brand-new edition features a preface by HRH the Prince of Wales, himself an avid conservationist. With its studied narrative and beautiful photographic eye, this keepsake volume is a stunning tribute to the beauty and marvel of seeds. Seeds are the most complex organs plants ever produce. A major keystone in the evolution of land plants, the first seeds appeared some 360 million years ago. Since then they have developed into highly sophisticated propagules that have enabled plants to dominate the Earth's surface and conquer almost every possible habitat from the Antarctic to the hottest deserts. The diversity of shapes and sizes encountered in seeds is nearly endless and ranges from the impressive Seychelles nut at twenty kilos to the dustlike seeds of the orchids. No matter how small, packed into every seed is the complete genetic information needed to give rise to a new plant, whether it is a tiny herb or a giant rainforest tree. True time capsules of life, seeds may travel thousands of miles and, if necessary, wait for hundreds of years before germinating.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wolfgang Stuppy is the seed morphologist at the Millennium Seed Bank Project, an international initiative dedicated to seed conservation managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He holds a doctorate in comparative seed morphology and anatomy and lives in London.

I own "Pollen" and "Fruit" and have long wanted "Seeds" in the same series. I was very disappointed as this book seems to have been much reduced in size from the original size of the other two books so that the text is practically illegible.

This beautifully illustrated and very well written book will keep you coming back to marvel over the amazing seed. As a biology major 40 years ago I endured the required botany course. This book lured me in with the spectacular photosmicrographs and the simply written text taught me more about the plant world in one weekend than a whole semester.....but this not an academic book per se. My only criticism is that the font was too small and that reading white on a black background or atop an illustrated background made the reading way more difficult than it had to be. In my opinion this book should have been published in in a larger traditional " coffee table" size. The extra cost would have been worth it and there would have been room for more reasonably sized font and all text could have been dark on white or light colored background without sacrificing the way the colored seeds pop against the dark background. Maybe in the second edition ??

I am biased as all get out. Even though electron microscope work tends towards more art than the nitty gritty ID plates we scientists are so often seeking this book as well as the Pollen companion helps show my friends & family why I'm so passionate about seeds. Especially the microscopic sized itsy ones. It's a lovely book to lay out on your coffee table or on your guest room night stand. It sooths your senses now and again when you need a break away from the grind of actual seed work. Awe these bizarre colors and beautiful images magnified hundreds if not thousands of times

yet crisp and focused. Such a delight and treat now and again...sitting outside on a calm day relaxing with a glass of ice tea. I'm so glad I have this book and the Pollen one too. I find the price listed here today a bit over the top. And no I don't want to re-sell my copy back to or at all for that matter. I got my copy for under 30.00 just two years ago and though a used copy it was like brand new. Not a book to use to ID but one to inspire.....relax and enjoy and yes even relish when you are a seed person.

Gorgeous photos, truly inspiring. We have nature and great microscope technology and photographers to thank. Lovely arrangement of the images on the page. BUT!!!! Terribly difficult to read because the graphic designer used extremely small, light-colored type on black background with too much leading between the lines. The designer was trying to be "artistic" and original but did not make the text easy to read. Same problem with "The Bizarre and Incredible World of Plants" by Stuppy, Kessler, and Harley. Maybe reduce the number of words and enlarge the font size.

Although I purchased the first edition of Seeds, I ordered this edition thinking it would have more new images, but found that many were repeated. But it is still a very beautiful book.

Pictures are beautiful, but the type is so small I can't even read it even with readers on. I would like to see this book reprinted and someone enlarge the type. There is plenty of room to do so.

Book is very educational and beautiful-but, is hard to read because some pages are very dark and the printing is not bright enough for me, at least. Otherwise, it is a wonderful book.

I used this book to not only enlighten myself but to motivate my 8 year old granddaughter on where plants originate. This stimulated her to use the magnifying glass but also the microscope and start her own collection. "Seeds" is just a marvelous book.

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