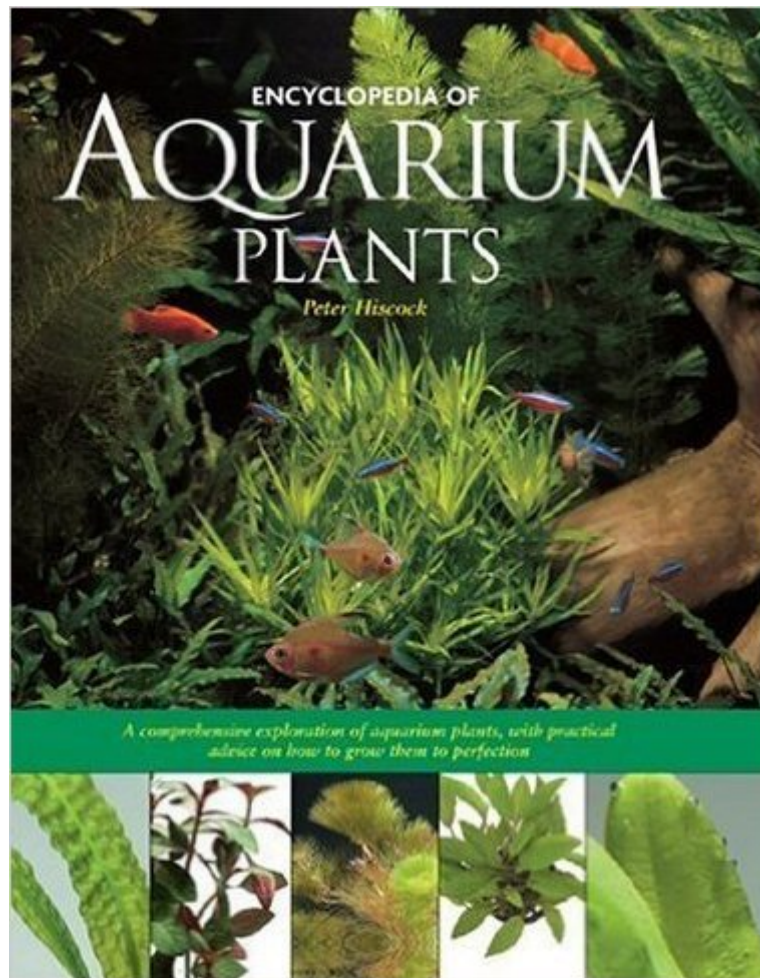


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# Encyclopedia Of Aquarium Plants



## Synopsis

This heavily illustrated volume will prove a blessing to every aquarium hobbyist who has had to settle for superficial plant descriptions in general fish-keeping books. It presents a detailed A-to-Z directory covering hundreds of aquarium plants with high quality color photos and succinct profiles of each plant. Information includes the plant's common name, botanical designation, growth cycle, and general description. The book's additional sections offer details on how to grow and propagate aquatic plants, and how to protect them from parasites and other problems. This handsome volume features approximately 450 color photos and illustrations.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (94 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

When I picked up this book for the first time, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. Finally, an aquarium plant book that is concise, easy to read and laid out in an attractive manner. This book is divided into two parts: the "practical section" and the "plant profiles". The practical section, 121 pages, covers aquatic plants and how to care for them. Selection of substrate, proper lighting and nutrition, ideal water quality, and algae identification/control are all covered in this section. The author also includes some plant-friendly fish and sample aquascapes. The plant profile section is probably why this is called the "Encyclopedia of Aquarium Plants." This 75-page section lists many, many plants along with a brief profile on each type. Profiles include: growth rate, lighting and temperature requirements, propagation, and special notes about that particular plant. I can't say enough about the number of pictures in this book and their quality. Full-color pictures on each page

really help you identify what the author is talking about. Layout of the photos is anything but mundane; each page is different from the last. Even the index of this book is tremendously useful. It is divided into three sections: General Index, Plant Index and Fish Index. Having the three distinct sections to the index makes it easy to pick the book up off the shelf and find what you're looking for. I've even taken this book right to the pet store to select my plants...there's too much information to remember! I also feel inclined to note that this book has a glossy, durable, hard cover, and the pages appear to be bound to the cover by stitching. I can open the book to any page and not have to worry about the pages flipping around when I'm not holding or weighing them down. Overall, the information, photos, layout and general quality of this book make it the best aquarium book I own!

Many of the plant aquarium books readily available are either pamphlets or gorgeous books to dream over. Each has its merits, but this book is headed in the right direction. The balance between fish and plants is a delicate matter and one that should not be taken lightly. There is a lot to be learned and this book is a great place to start. There are a lot of easy to understand color graphics which show how plants and fish need to interact for your aquarium to thrive. The explanation of how water chemistry changes at night is most valuable. The listing of plants in the back is more of a sampling than a true encyclopedia. I hope a version of this book comes out with just a listing of plant species!

The name "Encyclopedia" implies a far more extensive listing of plants than this book actually provides, but what Hiscock lacks in the plant listing he makes up for in other ways. The majority of the book is actually comprised of plant care facts, design tips, and aquarium setup and maintenance, all of which is presented in a very accessible format for novice to intermediate freshwater aquarium plant enthusiasts. It's a great guide for those thinking about setting up a new system or for those with existing aquariums who (like me) are wondering why plant growth has stalled (or is declining). Hiscock does a great job of explaining, in layman's terms, the biological processes and requirements of the aquarium's environment. Despite my initial disappointment over the paucity of plants listed in the second section, the listing is still quite helpful. Hiscock presents information in a very clear and concise way that quickly identifies the necessary lighting, the space requirements, the difficulty level of growing the plant, and more. The listing is a good place to start for plant selection, and can be supplemented by more advanced books (such as Kasselmann and Kotlenga's "Aquarium Plants"). The book as a whole is brilliantly illustrated and the pictures of plants and aquariums are both beautiful and helpful. I have been quite pleased with the book and

recommend it to others. I only hope that Hiscock will publish another book dedicated to plant listings.

The best introductory planted aquarium manual in existence. Covers most commonly available plants, their care, and their uses. Not much here on design or aesthetics, but then the author never intended to address these issues.

This a great introduction piece to plant aquarium and all should read it. Beginners will benefit immensely with many tips on starting a plant aquarium. Also the photos on the plants were excellent. However on a critical note the author has given us a limited range of plants as compared to other books. So to claim the book as an encyclopedia is a misnomer. Secondly as an academic it would be nice to admit that one has changed one's opinion in the search for truth. In his previous book [I forgot the title..I've given it away] it was stated dogmatically that snails must be removed indiscriminately but in this book this animal retains some redemptive value as an algae eater. And there are a few more examples where the author apparently has been converted to another view....perhaps of Diana Walstad? But overall this is still an important contribution to the plant aquarist hobby.

best aquarium planted book i know of for beginners! addresses many important topics in clear, easy to understand fashion. it also has a great variety of common aquatic plants as well as terrestrial plants sold as aquarium plants- these usually perish in aquariums. it is published in the united kingdom so many things are slightly different (substrate and lighting in particular) than in the US and Canada; however, this is easy to overcome and doesn't take away at all from the book. although great for beginners, it doesn't really have enough meat to satisfy the needs of advanced aquatic gardeners. the plant selection, although very good lacks less common and hard-to-find plants.

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