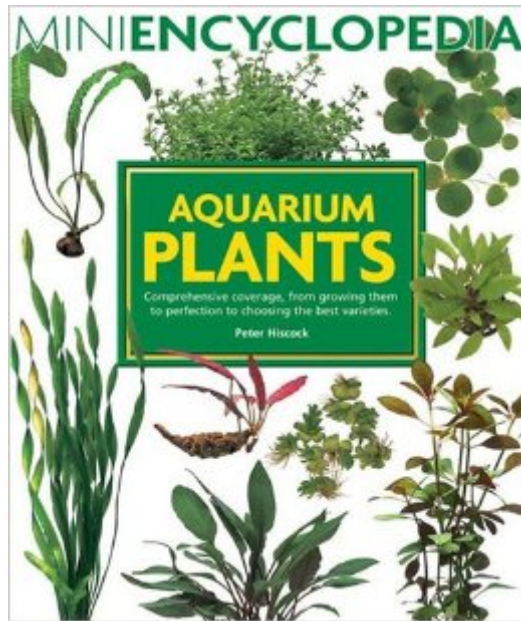


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# Aquarium Plants (Mini Encyclopedia Series For Aquarium Hobbyists)



## Synopsis

Hundreds of different aquarium plants are illustrated in color with detailed descriptions of each plant, its common name, botanical designation, and information on its growth cycle and general care. A brand-new title in the growing Mini Encyclopedia Series for aquarium hobbyists, this book helps aquarium owners plan, create, and maintain a colorful and interesting environment for fish and aquatic life. Each volume provides in-depth information and instruction on a specific subdivision of fish keeping. Complementing the text are sets of illustration panels filled with full-color photos, each with its own detailed and instructive caption. The team of authors, all recognized aquarium experts, show readers how to set up an aquarium, select species, and maintain an optimal environment for the tank's aquatic and plant life. Approximately 250 color photos and illustrations in each volume.

## Book Information

Series: Mini Encyclopedia Series for Aquarium Hobbyists

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (50 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #223,136 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Fish & Aquariums](#) #528 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Plants](#) #2697 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides](#)

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book specifically because it has a guide to diagnose plant problems. The leaves are turning yellow? That means something specific! There are holes in the leaves? That means something else entirely! Well worth the price if you're having problems growing healthy plants or are just starting out in the hobby.

This book is a great buy for the price. It has the most recent information (2005 edition), is nicely organized and formatted, and the illustrations and descriptors are very good. The sections on individual plants is very helpful with most popular plant types illustrated and described. I especially

like the fact that the descriptions, while brief, are very to the point and provide essential information in a clear concise way (plant height, light and other requirements, overall ease of maintenance, growth rate, suggested placement in tank etc). Not as comprehensive in listing species as some other books, but more than enough for most avid aquarists (I have had aquaria and live plants for over 25 years!). If you buy only one book, make it this one!

Hiscock's book is correctly titled a "mini" encyclopedia. For first-time planted tank owners, it is a godsend. It describes in detail the lighting, CO2, and substrate issues every planted tank has. It then shows layouts for many types of tanks, and how the plants might be placed in them. He explains that there are hundreds of plant species available, and that he has hit on the most common ones. The back part of the book, with the plant species, is the first place I look when I'm considering a new plant. Each plant is shown and a chart is given describing the growth conditions required, how fast it grows, and how to propagate it. With Hiscock's help, I have planted 5 tanks so far, with plans to expand to my others soon.

This book provides an excellent start for anyone who wants to start using real plants in an aquarium. Part 1 of the book covers: plant biology and photosynthesis, water quality/filtration, substrates, planting, lighting and feeding, propagating, and aquarium maintenance. His explanations are clear English which do not require an M.S. in botany to understand. He gives you enough information to help you understand what is happening "behind the scenes" in your tank regarding your plants' growth and how light, substrate, water quality, food, and dissolved gases in the water all influence plant health and growth. Part 1 also includes a few sample biotopes with suggested types of fish for each one (unlike one review that claims this book is solely for planted aquariums sans fish). He also gives a brief introduction to placement of your plants. Part 2 covers over 150 aquatic plants (after all, it's a MINI-encyclopedia). He presents both Latin name as well as the common name of the plants. Each plant is accompanied by a short narrative about the plant plus data: origin, maximum height, growth rate, area of placement, light needs, temperature, how to propagate, and difficulty of maintaining. The book includes excellent photos and diagrams to better illustrate the points he makes. If you are an aquatic botanist this book probably won't tell you anything new. If you have or are starting an aquarium and want to go beyond some Java Fern and don't want to toss money in the trash by buying plants not suitable for your setup, then I believe this book is an excellent choice.

I found this miniencyclopedia to be very valuable. The pictures are in color and quite detailed. It

covers how to take care of your plants, how to decorate different regions of the aquarium with the right plants, then maintenance of your hard work! Definitely recommend for a beginner or experienced aquarist.

If you know nothing about planting in the aquarium and want to learn, this is a good start for \$10. That's the good news. The bad news is, it will leave you hanging and wanting to know more. I suspect the book was severely edited so it was more a picture book than a typical hobbyist book. A few more paragraphs would have clarified several points. As it is, I read it and was done in less than an hour. The pictures are great but there are too few of them and as many as 3 species are discussed on a single page. I found that confusing. I rate the book 3 stars overall. You will need to find more resources, this is not enough.

If you're into aquascaping with freshwater aquarium plants, you need this little guide. It shows a great variety of plant species with clear pictures and details their growth habits and needs. Whether you're just getting into planted tanks, or looking for something new to perk up your existing setup, this will give you a lot of information.

Absolutely fascinating book. This is now my full time poop companion and what I read when my wife wants to talk about "feelings". I have learned a ton about freshwater plants and how to care for them. I can't wait to apply some of this knowledge to one of my larger tanks and make it a beautiful underwater jungle.

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