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978-1-108-07224-3 - A Treatise upon Planting, Gardening, and the Management
of the Hot-House
John Kennedy
Frontmatter
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Until the nineteenth century, the investigation of natural phenomena, plants and animals was considered either the preserve of elite scholars or a pastime for the leisured upper classes. As increasing academic rigour and systematisation was brought to the study of 'natural history', its sub-disciplines were adopted into university curricula, and learned societies (such as the Royal Horticultural Society, founded in 1804) were established to support research in these areas. A related development was strong enthusiasm for exotic garden plants, which resulted in plant collecting expeditions to every corner of the globe, sometimes with tragic consequences. This series includes accounts of some of those expeditions, detailed reference works on the flora of different regions, and practical advice for amateur and professional gardeners.

A Treatise upon Planting, Gardening, and the Management of the Hot-House

This practical guide was first published in 1776: in this reissue of the two-volume 1777 second edition, the two volumes have been bound in one book. John Kennedy (1759–1842) was the gardener to Sir Thomas Gascoigne, the owner of Parlington Hall in Yorkshire, and his book is addressed to landowners and their head gardeners. His concern is with 'the planting of poor wastes, moorlands, and apparent mountains', as well as with hothouse plants such as pineapples and vines, and delicacies including asparagus and cultivated mushrooms. At the other end of the scale, he also provides sections on field-cabbages, carrots and turnips as feed for cattle. In each of these areas, he gives detailed descriptions of the preparation of the ground, the tools needed, propagation techniques, and the subsequent management of pests and diseases. This is a fascinating treatise on the gardening skills needed on a grand eighteenth-century agricultural estate.

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JOHN KENNEDY



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A
T R E A T I S E
U P O N
P L A N T I N G,
G A R D E N I N G,
A N D T H E
M A N A G E M E N T O F T H E H O T - H O U S E .

C O N T A I N I N G

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>I. The Method of planting Forest-Trees in gravelly, poor, mountainous, and heath Lands; and for raising the Plants in the Seed-Bed, previous to their being planted.</p> <p>II. The Method of Pruning Forest-Trees, and how to improve Plantations that have been neglected.</p> <p>III. On the Soils most proper for the different Kinds of Forest-trees.</p> <p>IV. The Management of Vines; their Cultivation upon Fire-Walls and in the Hot-House; with a new Method of dressing, planting, and preparing the Ground.</p> <p>V. A new and easy Method to propagate Pine Plants, so as to gain Half a Year</p> | <p>in their Growth; with a sure Method of destroying the Insect so destructive to Pines.</p> <p>VI. The best Method to raise Mushrooms without Spawn, by which the Table may be plentifully supplied every Day in the Year.</p> <p>VII. An improved Method of cultivating Asparagus.</p> <p>VIII. The best Method to cultivate Field Cabbages, Carrots, and Turnips for feeding of Cattle.</p> <p>IX. A new Method of managing all Kinds of Fruit-Trees, viz. of proper Soils for planting, of pruning and dressing them; with a Receipt to prevent Blights, and cure them when blighted.</p> |
|--|---|

BY JOHN KENNEDY,
GARDENER TO SIR THOMAS GASCOIGNE, BART.

THE SECOND EDITION,
CORRECTED AND GREATLY ENLARGED.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

V O L . I .

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR S. HOOPER, N^o 25, LUDGATE-HILL;
and sold by G. ROBINSON, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

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T O

Sir THOMAS GASCOIGNE, Bart.

THE fruits of my labours,
whatever they may be, be-
long to you: your goodnefs and
generofity have already greatly
over-paid them; yet I never durft
have petitioned for your patronage
and protection for thefe Sheets,
which I prefume to offer to the
public, but from a perfect con-
viction of their utility: being
fufficiently acquainted with your
knowledge in my profefion, and
more fo with the rigour with
which you would treat the errors of

a 2

your

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iv D E D I C A T I O N .

your own fervant when they re-
garded the public.

I have the honour to be, with the
utmost respect and gratitude,

S I R,

Your dutiful fervant,

JOHN KENNEDY.

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having requested him to publish his thoughts upon the Management and Pruning of Fruit-trees in general, assuring him that it would prove a valuable addition to this work.

In compliance with their flattering request he has ventured to lay before the Public a course of many years practice, which he has followed with the greatest success.

The many publications on Gardening and Planting, which have been offered of late years to the Public, might have discouraged the Author of this Treatise from the present attempt; but as most of those that have fallen in his way treat the subject in too general and speculative a method to be of service to practitioners, his intention in the following sheets is not to deliver himself systematically, but, in the most explicit manner, to
5 lay

P R E F A C E. vii

lay before the Public facts that have been successfully reduced to practice by himself.

Each particular subject he means to treat of, he will take up from the beginning, and to give the most minute directions as to the method of culture, labour, and management; together with the seasons that each particular work is to be performed in.

The planting of poor wastes, moorlands, and apparent barren mountains, has been but seldom treated of, and in very few places attempted.

The success the Author has had in planting such grounds, even in the north of Scotland, has induced him to treat that subject rather largely; and he flatters himself that, if his directions are followed, extensive tracts of land which are now useless, may become ornamental and profitable,

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A general system of Gardening not being the intention of this Treatise, the Author will confine himself to the management of Fruit-trees in general, of Vines, Ananas or Pine-Apple, Asparagus, and a new method of raising Mushrooms without spawn.

His method of managing the different Soils proper for Borders, for Planting Fruit-trees, and of Pruning them, if not the best, has at least the merit of being so new, that it differs entirely from any thing he has seen, both as to theory and practice.

The management of Fruit-trees has been treated at large by most of the eminent writers on the subject of Gardening. The Author has read them with attention, and while he sees great objections to all their plans, finds less reason to attach himself to any one of them, as there are hardly
two

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two writers of one opinion ; but it is his business to endeavour to be as accurate as possible himself, and not to criticize on the defects of others.

He would not however have it understood, that by reading this treatise every person who can distinguish a peach from a pear, will be able to undertake the management of Fruit-trees, &c. for if books could make proficients, there would be no occasion for masters in any art or branch whatever.

Neither should any one attempt to plant or prune without having been some time under a skilful person, whose practical instruction being added to a careful observation of the rules here given, cannot fail of succeeding to the utmost expectation of those who follow them, which is the most ardent wish of the Author.

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The directions given on those heads being very different from the general practice, may perhaps make some rather diffident in following them; but the Author avers that they are what he has followed with the greatest success for many years.

Agriculture being now the object of general attention, the Author has added to this Treatise the cultivation of Field-Cabbages and Carrots, induced thereto by the great crops he has himself raised, and the great advantage they are in feeding of cattle, &c.

The growing of Turnips too is become an object of the greatest consequence for feeding of Cattle; the Author, therefore, has from many accurate observations added a chapter on their cultivation; his method has been followed by many who have raised them
with

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with the greatest success for years in different parts of England. The great waste every year, occasioned by their rotting (and the larger they are the more they are liable to it) must be a considerable loss to the grower, which may be avoided in a great measure by pulling and housing them, especially the large ones, in dry weather, which, from repeated trials he is warranted to say, will effectually preserve them.

The instructions given in this Treatise upon Planting, Gardening, and rural Oeconomy, are the result of many years experience; and the approbation his labours have met with is a very ample reward to the Author.

C O N-

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