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### **Botany and Horticulture**

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 subdisciplines 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.

### **General View of the Agriculture of the County of Lancaster**

The author and schoolteacher John Holt (1743–1801), who lived near Liverpool, wrote novels, historical works, and many contributions to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, including a monthly meteorological report. This survey of agriculture in Lancashire was published in 1794, with an enlarged edition (reissued here) following in 1795. The book begins with the detailed plan of the Board of Agriculture for obtaining regional surveys, such as the 'Rural Economies' of William Marshall (several of which are reissued in this series). It goes on to describe the geography, climate and soils of Lancashire, its land holdings and land use, noting the manufacturing as well as the agricultural areas (and the improvement to the latter's soil by the spreading of 'night-soil' from the growing cities). A detailed examination of the livestock, agrarian and horticultural products of the county follows, with figures on farming costs and crop yields. This remains a fascinating resource for social and agricultural historians.

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# General View of the Agriculture of the County of Lancaster

*With Observations on the Means of Its Improvement*

JOHN HOLT



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