

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-54453-6 - A Book of Simple Gardening: Especially Adapted for Schools

Dorothy Lowe

Frontmatter

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A BOOK
OF
SIMPLE GARDENING

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A small garden in Somerset

(Five months before this garden was a carpenter's wood-yard)

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BY

DOROTHY LOWE

Cambridge :
at the University Press
1914

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of a school garden is three-fold :

(1) To teach each child to garden.

(2) To produce an attractive garden for which the children are collectively responsible.

(3) To give a sound foundation of practical work and artistic effects, so that at the end of their school career a boy or girl should be capable of managing any garden for which they become responsible, either by their own work, or by gardeners under their orders.

This book has been written with these three objects in view, of which the last is the most important.

I also hope the book will be of use to anyone who wishes to take up gardening in later life, and who needs a simple book which treats the subject from the very beginning.

The most ordinary tools have been described, and the uses to which they are put explained. Blank pages have been inserted at the end of Chapters I, III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX, so that readers may add their own notes when desirable.

There is a simple descriptive chapter on soils and the laying out of gardens, which, although it stands at the beginning of the book, is perhaps chiefly of use to the gardening master or mistress and to elder pupils but its principles may be told even to children to explain why the garden is laid out in a certain style. Besides the children's gardens, the school garden should have a rock garden, rosery, shrubbery and wild garden.

INTRODUCTION

By a shrubbery and wild garden, I mean not only a collection of shrubs in a shady part of the garden, which must be brightened as far as possible by a variety of plants that do well in the shade, but also a collection of some of the many beautiful flowering shrubs growing out of grass in which a succession of daffodils, bluebells, wood-anemones, etc. have been planted.

The older classes might with advantage have a certain section of the real garden to look after : each section should include a piece of mixed border, rose garden or wall roses, shrubbery and grass. I would not advise that girls should do the actual mowing, but rolling, edging and re-turfing both by sowing and sodding might well be under their care. The paths can be utilised to teach them the application of weed-killers.

I think if the older classes had a real responsibility of this kind, they would feel a keen interest in the work and there would not be a tendency to look upon it as an occupation for the little ones.

I shall be pleased to answer any questions with regard to insecticides, etc., and various methods and suggestions recommended in my book. Finally let me recommend every gardener to read Kipling's poem "The Glory of the Garden" (*A History of England*, by Kipling and Fletcher) which, owing to the difficulties of copyright, cannot be reprinted here, but which is, I consider, the best gardening poem ever written.

DOROTHY LOWE.

HINTON S. GEORGE,
CREWKERNE.
September, 1914.

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