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978-1-108-04445-5 - A Gardener's Year
H. Rider Haggard
Frontmatter
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A Gardener's Year

H. Rider Haggard (1856–1925) is best known as the successful writer of adventure stories with exotic backgrounds such as *King Solomon's Mines*. However, he also served on a number of royal commissions, and in managing his wife's Norfolk estate became a recognised expert on agricultural matters. His *A Farmer's Year* (1898, also reissued in this series), recounts the work of the farm, together with observations on rural life and the state of agriculture in general. In 1905 he published this work, a diary of his garden in 1903. After an introductory chapter (with a plan) describing the the garden, orchard and glasshouses, and the staff he employed, the diary begins, relating the tasks and experiences of the year, from spraying against red spider mite in January to decorating the house with greenery on Christmas Eve. This beautifully written book reveals the horticultural taste and practice of the Edwardian era.

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A GARDENER'S YEAR

“I list not seeke the common colours of antiquitie; when notwithstanding the world can brag of no more ancient monument than Paradise and the Garden of Eden; and the fruits of the earth may contend for seignoritie, seeing their mother was the first creature that conceived, and they themselves the first fruit she brought forth. Talke of perfect happinesse or pleasure, and what place was so fit for that, as Eden the garden place, where Adam was set to be the Herbarist? Whither did the poets hunt for their syncere delights, but into the gardens of Alcinous, of Adonis and the orchards of Hesperides? Where did they dreame that heaven should be, but in the pleasant garden of Elysium? Whither do all men walke for their honest recreation, but thither where the earth hath most beneficially painted her face with flourishing colours? And what season of the yeere more longed for than the Spring, whose gentle breath inticeth forth the kindly sweetes, and makes them yeeld their fragrant smells?”

GERARDE'S HERBALL,

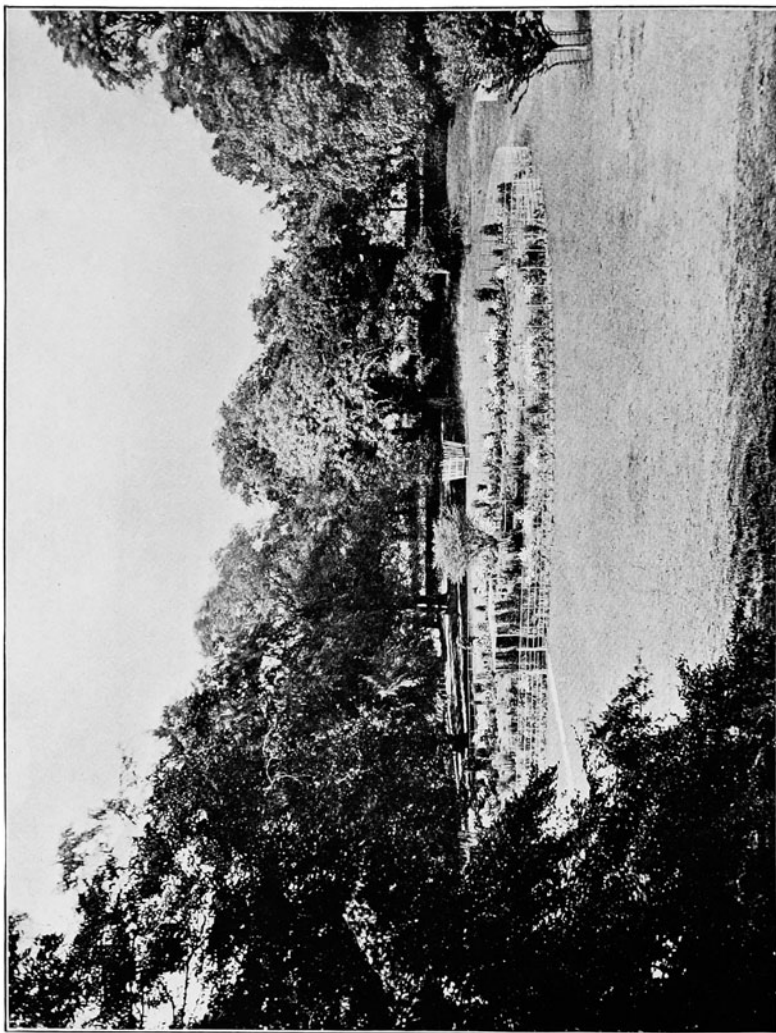
“*From my house in Holborn, Dec. 1st, 1597.*”

“We wreathe our dead with flowers: they are the best which we can offer them, to whom the gold and frankincense and myrrh of this world have no longer any meaning. Flowers, we believe, strew the path they tread; flowers undreamed of droop from the trees that wave above them in the fields which they have won. To our imagining, the heaven we hope for is a land of flowers. At least, we are told that the lost Eden of our race was a garden. Gethsemane also was a garden, and, if he will but read them, to each human soul as he wanders through life's Gethsemane such flowers as blow in it have a message. Should any doubt, let him visit a children's Hospital and see how the sufferers there turn their pale faces to the flowers as the flowers turn their faces to the sun. I remember writing, I know not where, that even in a flower there dwells some shadow of the glory of its Maker. This I believe, and so I say, 'Good luck to those who conjure such shadows to the earth; good luck to the gardener and good luck to his gardening;' for he does something to brighten this grey, ungracious world.”

H. R. H.—*One and All Gardening*, 1899.

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FRONT LAWN AND POND GARDEN

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BY

H. RIDER HAGGARD

With Plan and twenty-five Illustrations

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I DEDICATE

THESE MODEST BUT, AS I TRUST,
NOT UNINSTRUCTIVE PAGES

TO

MY FRIEND AND FELLOW-GARDENER

MRS. ROBERT MANN

DITCHINGHAM,
16th August 1904

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

THE GARDEN PAST AND PRESENT	1
JANUARY	16
FEBRUARY	55
MARCH	88
APRIL	125
MAY	155
JUNE	186
JULY	214
AUGUST	264
SEPTEMBER	300
OCTOBER	332
NOVEMBER	350
DECEMBER	372
INDEX	397

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978-1-108-04445-5 - A Gardener's Year
H. Rider Haggard
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

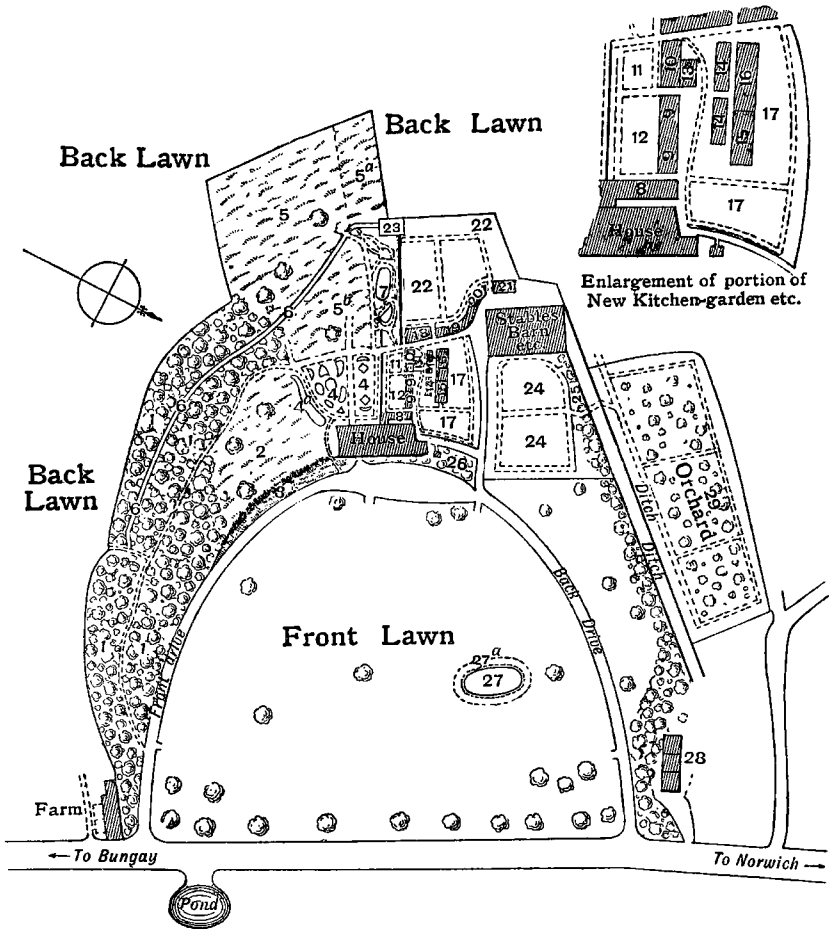
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[More information](#)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FRONT LAWN AND POND GARDEN	<i>Frontispiece</i>
PLAN OF GARDEN	<i>facing page</i> 1
VIEW OF FLOWER GARDEN	„ 3
ROOT OF AMPELOPSIS VEITCHII, AS DRAWN FROM SOFT WATER DRAIN	} „ 32
MASDEVALLIA TOVARENSIS	
CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE	„ 55
CÆLOGYNE CRISTATA	„ 69
CATTELEYA TRIANÆ	„ 105
MARUM GRASS AND SAND THEREBY ACCUMULATED AT FOOT OF CLIFF, KESSINGLAND GRANGE	„ 137
APPLE BLOSSOM ON YOUNG TREES IN NEW GARDEN	„ 155
LILAC AND LABURNUM	„ 169
CLEMATIS MONTANA ON GARDEN ARCH	„ 173
ELM-TREE GARDEN	„ 175
BANKSIAN ROSE IN BLOOM	„ 186
LAWN POND	„ 199
GERANIUMS, ETC., IN GARDEN OF REINA CRISTINA HOTEL, ALGECIRAS, SPAIN	„ 205
ROSE BORDER, STABLE GARDEN	„ 214

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 978-1-108-04445-5 - A Gardener's Year
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 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xii	LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	
	ROSE BORDER, FLOWER GARDEN	<i>facing page 232</i>
	BEECH TREES ON OLD LAWN	„ 264
	OLD VINERY BORDER AND COLD ORCHID-HOUSE	
	BED	„ 277
	CORNER OF ELM-TREE GARDEN	„ 289
	MASDEVALLIA HOUSE	„ 301
	CORNER OF FLOWER GARDEN, KESSINGLAND	
	GRANGE	„ 321
	AMPELOPSIS VEITCHII ON GARDEN WALL	„ 339
	FLOWERING SCAPE, CYMBIDIUM TRACEYANUM	„ 357
	FRONT LAWN IN SNOW	„ 372



KEY TO MAP OF GARDEN

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 Shrubby | converted into Mush- | 19 Peach-house |
| 2 Old Lawn | room-house, &c. | 20 Fig and Tomato-house |
| 3 Bank with Yew Fence on top | 9 Greenhouses | 21 Old Dog-kennel |
| 4 Flower-garden with ornamental beds | 10 Cold Orchid-house | 22 Old Kitchen Garden |
| 4a Open Flower-border | 11 Flower Bed | 23 Pond recently enlarged |
| 5 Tennis Lawn | 12 Old Vinery-border | 24 Stable Garden |
| 5a New addition | 13 Boiler and old Mushroom-houses (now Potting-shed) | 25 Rubbish Yard |
| 5b Grass | 14 Pits | 26 Shrubby with Dog-kennel |
| 6 Sunk Walk | 15 Warm Orchid-house | 27 Water Garden |
| 7 Elm-tree Garden with old Yew Fence | 16 Cool Orchid-house | 27a New Pond Border |
| 8 Old Potting-shed, &c., now | 17 New Kitchen Garden | 28 Cottages with Shrubby |
| | 18 Intermediate-house | 29 Orchard |
| | | ===== Garden Paths |