

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04939-9 - The Book of Garden Management
Edited by H.P.D.
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The Book of Garden Management

This anonymous work (the name of H.P.D., the author of the preface, is not known) was probably compiled by Samuel Orchart Beeton (1831–77), the publishing entrepreneur who made his wife's *Book of Household Management* one of the best-selling titles of the century. Published in 1871, it is a complete guide to gardening for the enthusiastic middle-class amateur, with instructions on everything from choosing the site to garden design, plants and cultivation, 'fountains, fish-ponds, and ornamental waters' to the use of colour, interspersed with a detailed calendar of tasks to be carried out each month. It is illustrated with line engravings and twelve plates (which can be viewed in colour online at www.cambridge.org/9781108049399), providing both practical information and a fascinating insight into the plants available to the Victorian gardener, the techniques for cultivating flowers, fruit and vegetables, and the then current trends in design and display.

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THE BOOK
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GARDEN MANAGEMENT.



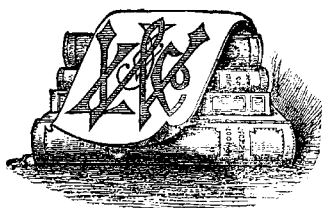
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THE BOOK
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GARDEN MANAGEMENT:

COMPRISING INFORMATION ON

LAYING-OUT AND PLANTING GARDENS.
FRUIT, FLOWER, AND KITCHEN GARDEN MANAGEMENT.
BUILDING, ARRANGING, AND MANAGEMENT OF GREENHOUSES, AND
OTHER GARDEN STRUCTURES.
WINDOW GARDENING.
SPADE HUSBANDRY AND ALLOTMENT CULTIVATION.
MONTHLY OPERATIONS IN EACH DEPARTMENT.
ORCHARD CULTIVATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF ORCHARD-HOUSES.
MIXED FLOWER AND KITCHEN GARDENS.

Copiously Illustrated with Coloured and Plain Engravings.



LONDON
WARD, LOCK & CO., WARWICK HOUSE,
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P R E F A C E.



The Book of Garden Management has been so long before the public that little need now be said by way of preface. Its merits, and its defects also, are well known. It is, however, with the view of removing the latter, and making the volume even more popular than it has been that the proprietors put forth this new edition; after a decade of existence, every book upon gardening needs emendations and additions that may adapt it to the requirements of the present times. Gardening is one of those active sciences which disdain at any time to be called perfect. With Floriculture this is especially the case, for here something new is ever occurring—not only new plants, but new modes of cultivation are continually being introduced, for in few matters is the spirit of enterprise more rife than in botanical research. Our best firms have correspondents in all quarters of the globe, and each succeeding catalogue brings to our notice something, of the very existence of which we had no previous knowledge: with new plants come also new and improved modes of treatment. It has been the aim of the editor to make his remarks as practical as possible; theoretical knowledge on such a subject as gardening being of small worth unless it results in practice. This is strikingly “put” in an anecdote related by Sir E. L. Bulwer Lytton, in his delightful series of *Essays on “Life, Literature, and Manners.”*

“A certain nobleman, very proud of the extent and beauty of his pleasure-grounds, chancing one day to call on a small squire whose garden might cover an acre, was greatly struck with the brilliant colours of his neighbour’s flowers. ‘Ay, my lord, the flowers are well enough,’ said the squire; ‘but permit me to show you my grapes.’ Conducted into an old-fashioned little green-house, which served as a vinery, my lord gazed with mortification on grapes twice as fine as his own. ‘My dear friend,’ said my lord, ‘you have a jewel of a gardener; let me see him.’ The gardener was called—a simple-looking young man, under thirty. ‘Accept my compliments on your flower-beds and your grapes,’ said my lord, ‘and tell me, if you can, why your flowers are so much brighter than mine, and your grapes so much finer. You must have studied your profession very profoundly.’—‘Please your lordship,’ said the man, ‘I ben’t no scholar; but as to the flowers and the grapes, the secret of treating them as I do just came to me by chance.’”

The “chance” was this:—Being in London, he had accidentally overheard a discussion between two medical men on the merits of charcoal in

cholera; one of them mentioning its good effects on sickly vines, and, says he, "see how a sprinkling of it will brighten up a flower-bed." The young gardener followed up the hint, and tried the charcoal dressing.

"And that's how the grapes and flower-beds came to please you, my lord; it was by a lucky chance that I overheard these gentlemen, please your lordship."

"Chance happens to all," answered the peer, sententiously; "but to turn chance to account is the gift of few."

"His lordship returned home, gazed gloomily on the hues of his vast parterres and scowled at the clusters of grapes; he summoned the gardener, communicated what he had seen and heard, and produced a bunch of grapes he had brought from the squire's vines.

"My lord," said he, "Squire ——'s gardener must be a poor ignorant fellow to fancy he has discovered a secret in what is known to every horticulturist. Liebig, my lord, has treated of the good effect of charcoal dressing to vines especially, and it is easily explained;" and therewith the wise man entered on a very profound explanation, of which his lordship did not understand one word.

"Well, then," said the peer, cutting short the harangue, "since you know all this so well, have you ever tried it on mine?"

"I can't say I have, my lord; it did not chance to come into my head."

"Nay," replied the peer, "chance did put it into your head, but thought never took it out of your head."

The result was, that my lord begged the young gardener of the squire; he took some pains to educate him, and he became my lord's head forester and high bailiff.

With regard to the present edition, it may be well to draw attention to the fact that the illustrations have been very greatly improved and increased. "Our coloured plates," which were executed in Paris at a great expense, will, it is hoped, add much to the interest and value of the work, at the same time that, together with the numerous page engravings, they serve to make the reader acquainted with many of those choice floral beauties which the skill and perseverance of our great horticultural firms have recently introduced. In conclusion, the editor's best thanks are due and are here tendered, to his many friends who have so kindly and so generously placed their information and experience at his disposal, for the benefit of the public.

H P. D.

LONDON, *April, 1872.*

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LIST OF BOOKS

*Which may be profitably consulted by all Persons who take an
 interest in Gardening.*

-
- Book of the Garden. By Charles McIntosh. 2 vols.
 Elkington's System of Drainage.
 The Grasses of Great Britain. By Parnell.
 Practical Treatise on the Grape Vine. By W. Thompson.
 The Practical Planter. By T. Cruikshanks.
 The Gardener's Assistant. By R. Thompson.
 Greenhouse Botany. By Agnes Catlow.
 Garden Botany. By Agnes Catlow.
 The Kitchen Garden. By E. Delamer.
 The Flower Garden. By E. Delamer.
 Favourite Flowers, and How to Grow Them. By A. G. Sutton.
 British Ferns. By Thomas Moore.
 The Flower Garden. By Geo. Glenny.
 Gardener's Dictionary. By R. W. Plant.
 Fruit Garden in Miniature. By T. Rivers.
 Corden's Training of Fruit Trees. By Brehaut.
 Encyclopædia of Gardening. By J. C. Loudon.
 Encyclopædia of Plants. By Mrs. Loudon.
 The Rose Amateur's Guide. By T. Rivers.
 Ladies' Botany. By Dr. Lindley.
 The Fruit Grower's Instructor. By G. Bliss.
 Science and Practice of Gardening. By George Johnson.
 Construction and Management of Orchard House. By J. R. Pearson.
 Hints on the Cultivation of British and Exotic Ferns and Lycopodiurus.
 By B. S. Williams.
 The Orchid Grower's Manual. By B. S. Williams.
 Instructions in Gardening for Ladies. By Mrs. Loudon.
 Profitable Gardening. By S. Hibberd.
 Our Garden Friends and Foes. By Rev. J. G. Wood.
 The Rose Garden. By W. Paul.
 Cottage Gardens. By R. Adamson.
 Amateur Gardener's Year-Book. By Rev. H. Burgess.

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- Fruit, Flower, and Kitchen Garden. By P. Neill.
 Paxton's Botanical Dictionary.
 The Ladies' Companion to the Flower Garden. By Mrs. Loudon.
 Practical Hints on Planting. By Messrs. Standish and Noble.
 How to Lay-out a Garden. By E. Kemp.
 The Apple and Its Varieties. By R. Hogg.
 The Peach and Nectarine. By G. McEwen.
 The Strawberry. By G. McEwen.
 The Pine Apple. By J. Hamilton.
 The Gardener's Useful Book. By W. Jones.
 Indoor Plants and How to Grow Them for the Drawing-Room, &c. By
 E. A. Maling.
 Glenny's Gardening for the Million.
 Every Man His Own Gardener. By F. Mawe.
 Choice Garden Flowers. By Andrews.
 Roses in Pots. By W. Paul.
 American Plants. By W. Paul.
 Plants of the Land and Water. By Kirby.
 Gleanings from French Gardens. By W. Robinson.
 Fruit Trees. By Du Breuil.
 The Fern Garden. By S. Hibberd.
 Cropping a Kitchen Garden. By H. Allnutt.

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OUR COLOURED PLATE.—No. 1.

1. *Saccolabium ampullaceum roseum*.—A lovely variety of the genus *Orchidaceæ*. This genus is a very large one, and embraces some of the most curious and interesting of tropical plants. Their habits are very distinct. Many require pot culture; many root best in rotten wood; and many cling as parasites to the branches of other plants, rooting in the air. All the stove species delight in damp and shade.

2. *Clematis Veitchii*.—Much has been done of late years to improve the hardy and half-hardy climbers which come under the name of Clematis. *C. Veitchii*, which our artist has drawn, is a very pretty variety; and along with it, as novelties, may be mentioned *C. Jackmanni*, *C. Sophia*, *C. Rubella*, and *C. rubro-violacea*. All the clematis flower best upon trellis-work against a wall, and with a south or warm aspect; but they are very effective when planted in masses in beds, pegged down, and allowed to run into each other.

3. *Lilac: White and Violet*.—Few things are more useful for shrubberies and plantations than the common lilacs. They are so well known as to require no description. Those figured in our plate are the Persian varieties. They are more compact and delicate than the common sorts, and admit of being pruned into well-shaped shrubs. A standard, either of the white or violet, in the centre of a bed has a very good effect. They may be trained to a single stem and the head bent down over wires.

4. *Auricula*.—In our chapter upon Florists' Flowers will be found many useful hints upon the cultivation of the Auricula. All the choice varieties should be grown in pots and kept under cover of glass, well shaded; for wet and sun soon spoil their delicate colours. The more hardy sorts form very pretty edgings to beds on lawns. Grown in this way, they should be taken up and divided about every three years.

5. *Azalea: Fascination*.—Cultivation has done, and is still doing, a great deal to improve our stock of greenhouse azaleas. Every year produces not only novelties in colouring, but improvement in the shape and size of the flowers. The lovers of these showy plants are greatly indebted to the skill and care of Mr. James Ivery, of Dorking. Fascination is one of his seedlings, and he has several others of equal merit.