

pedestal, made in that shape so that they might be more readily driven into the ground.

From Greece gardening spread to Rome and there it reached such a stage of extravagance that it was confined to the wealthy. The Roman gardens were, I suppose, the most extravagant that the world ever had or will have. A voluptuous, sensuous style. However, they are so well known, either by description or picture to you and I will not stop to describe them.

From Rome gardening spread westward and entered Britain at the time of the Roman invasion. Of these early gardens we now have no record whatsoever, but since we know that the Romans built villas in England of a similar design to those built in Italy, although probably less pretentious, we may reasonably suppose that gardens also surrounded these villas of a similar nature to those in Rome itself.

During the subsequent invasions by the barbarians these villas and gardens were all swept away and for a considerable period gardening was almost dead in England. It was only kept alive by the various religious orders. A certain amount of gardening went on in the monasteries and convents, but it was on a very limited scale and the plants grown in them were either for food or for the purpose of decorating the churches. The people of those days lived in castles or walled towns and there was no room within the walls for gardening and it was not safe to do it outside.

As time passed and peace came again to the country we have the beginning of the gardening that we know in England; the old-fashioned manor house garden. We have the manor house type of architecture with its strictly formal garden surrounding it. Now it was the custom in those days for the man who designed the house to design the garden, and it was very successful for that time, because in those days horticulture was in a very elementary condition and the materials to be used in the garden were very limited. Therefore it was not necessary to know very much about it. These gardens were quiet and restful and full of old-world charm. This period I may say is the sixteenth century. We have practically no records of gardens in England earlier than the sixteenth century. As time passed, in the seventeenth century, a change came over the public mind. Plants new and rare were imported from the continent. Architecture was advancing. New ideas had been brought in on gardening from other countries, particularly France, Holland and Italy, and the public demanded something better than it had had before.

It was just about this time, the middle of the seventeenth century, that a very famous school of garden design came into existence. It was a French school, headed by the most famous garden designer that I suppose we have ever had—

LeNotre—who was gardener for Louis XIV. It is interesting to remember that LeNotre began life as an architect but gave up that profession to become a garden designer, and before the French King met him he laid out a great number of very beautiful French chateau gardens. He also went as far as Italy and designed some of the Italian villa gardens, and it was due to some of his excellent work that Louis XIV engaged him to construct the famous garden at Versailles. I do not know how the cost of these gardens compares with those of Rome, but they cost more than anything we have had since the seventeenth century. It was then that gardening reached its zenith.

LeNotre acquired a knowledge of the application of living materials to design. The lack of that knowledge is the reason why it is difficult in these days, when horticultural materials are so abundant, for an architect to undertake the whole work of design himself. Although his academic knowledge of design may be perfect, I think it will be admitted that an architect capable of producing a perfect design for a building, would not be looked upon as entirely efficient if he had no knowledge of the materials of which the building was to be constructed. It is necessary also to have a considerable knowledge of the materials of which a garden is constructed in order to make a successful garden.

There is no reason why that knowledge should be denied the architect, but when I have approached architects on that subject they have said that their training already included about half a dozen professions and they had not time to devote years of study to the knowledge of plants.

I may say here that although a knowledge of plants is necessary in order to design a garden, a knowledge of architecture is also necessary and that is why Le Notre became the most famous garden designer we have ever had. It was because of the architectural training that he had in his youth. It is doubtful whether Le Notre ever came to England. There are some who believe that he went to America, but I do not think he did. However that may be, he trained a great many students, and his students went pretty well all over Europe and laid out gardens in Germany and in England.

Charles II was a very great admirer of the French Court, and wished to imitate it as closely as he could. I do not know whether his wish was humbler, but his achievement in gardening certainly was. He wished to follow the French style of gardening as nearly as possible, and sent his gardener, a very famous man by the name of Rose, to study under Le Notre, and on his return he laid out St. James Park and other large pieces of work in England, including the front portion of Hampton Court Palace, that part which comprises the large semi-circle and