

OUTLINE

1. Roots of American Horticulture
 - A. Native Americans
 1. Native Americans grew and used plants for utility, medicine, and ornament.
 2. Cultivated plants as early as 5000BC.
 3. Permanent villages and irrigation developed 2500-1500BC to maintain agriculture-based economy.
 4. North American agricultural cultures varied by region.
 - B. European Settlement
 1. Survival was primary goal – clear forests and prepare arable soil, beginning early 1600s.
 2. Predominantly English small garden influence
 3. Settlers brought seeds and roots from their homelands, some seeds came as hitchhikers and they also relied on the native wild plants the Native Americans showed them for use as food and medicine.
 - C. Economic and Political Influences
 1. Manufacturing
 2. Plantations
 3. Gold Rush
 4. Isolated farms
 5. Louisiana Purchase
 - D. Geography, Physiography and Climate
 1. Unique regional landscape differences exerted influence on the cultural and ethnic patterns of settlement, which in turn affected style of garden design within a region, i.e. Spanish southwest.
 2. Nicholas Polunin – *Introduction to Plant Geography and some Related Sciences* – describes distribution of plant cover on a worldwide basis. Separate generalized land vegetation classification describe the plant communities of the U.S. and are instrumental in establishing the character of American landscape development and landscape design.
 3. Major physical subdivisions of the continent – characterized by substantial differences of soil, rainfall, altitude & temperature which exert significant influence on plant culture.
 - a. Eastern Seaboard
 - b. Mississippi Valley
 - c. Rocky Mountains
 - d. Great Interior Plateau
 - e. Sierra Nevada
 - f. Pacific Slope
 - g. Canada
 - h. Southern Coastal Zone
 - i. Southwest

II. Historical Events

A. Land Division and Exploration

1. Basic Land Ordinance – 1785, Rectangular Surveys
2. Louisiana Purchase –1803, Western settlement
3. Lewis and Clark expedition – 1803-06, scientific knowledge & stimulated Western settlement and commerce

B. Transportation & Communication

1. Turnpike boom – Philadelphia-Lancaster Turnpike, 1790
2. Erie Canal – 1817-25
3. Railroad era – by 1840 the US had 2,328 miles of railroad.

C. Plant Exploration and Collection

1. Growing number of plants in use: From 1,000 in 1629 to 27,000 species in 1850
2. Plant collectors and proliferation of nurseries and seed houses as nation expanded westward gave rise to gardenesque style of design.
 - a. John and William Bartram
 - b. James Alexander
 - c. David Landreth
 - d. Robert Prince
 - e. John Watson
 - f. Andre Parmentier
 - g. John Chapman – aka Johnny Appleseed
3. Garden publications primarily by American nurserymen
 - a. 1806 – Bernard M’Mahon’s *The American Gardener’s Calendar*
 - b. 1841 – Andrew Jackson Downing – *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America*

D. Gardens of the Early Settlement

1. Native American gardens
2. Early colonial gardens depended on convenience and efficient management – Elizabethan era
3. Thomas Jefferson & George Washington – landscape designers and gardeners at Monticello and Mount Vernon
4. Western forma influence – symmetry and geometrical layout
5. Informal garden design styles – naturalism, romanticism and picturesque, spread to America through landscape gardening books, wealthy Americans travelled to Europe and toured estates and gardens and the arrival of gardeners trained in Europe.
 - a. 1795 – Humphry Repton – *Sketches and Hints on Landscape gardening*
 - b. 1841 – Andrew Jackson Downing – *A treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adopted to North America*, first native born landscape gardener of prominence and an advocate for landscapes for modest homeowners.
 - c. 1806 – John Claudius Loudon – *Treatise on Country Residences & 1822 – Encyclopedia of Gardening* – advocated for style he named Gardenesque; wrote extensively on area that contributed to education of landscape architects; advocated for public open space; pioneered idea of greenbelt planning and open space.
6. Rural cemeteries

III. Ethnic and Regional Influences

A. Spanish

1. Colony of New Spain – 1521; St. Augustine (1565), natural flora with little design
2. California – Spanish missions, Mexican immigrants & climate had influence on bringing a European style of horticulture and landscape gardening
3. Father Junipero Serra brought horticulture to 20 missions

B. French

1. New France – engaged in fur trade along Great lakes and Mississippi River
2. New Orleans & Quebec – horticulturally beautiful by lacked strong design
3. Urban design – Mayor Pierre Charles L'Enfant creates plan for Washington, D. C.

C. English

1. 1600's confined to area from Atlantic coast to Appalachian Mountains, kitchen and physic gardens
2. 1700s Pretentious estates with extensive formal gardens
 - a. Governor's Palace, Williamsburg, Va.
 - b. John Bartram's botanical garden, Philadelphia, Pa.
 - c. Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Va.
 - d. Morven, Princeton, NJ
 - e. Monticello, Monticello, Va.
 - f. Montpelier, Montpelier, Vt.
3. Southern coastal and tidal river plantations – terraces of 'falls'
4. Mississippi plantations and affluent town dwellers – formal urban gardens

D. Dutch

1. New Amsterdam – small gardens and enormous patroonships along Hudson, forerunners of riverfront manors and country places.

IV. Regional Differences

A. North America

1. Prairies – settlements along watercourses marked by ribbons of tree and shrub growth. Deciduous trees planted due to need for shade and wood for fuel and fencing.
2. Canada – English style gardening traditions

B. Central and South America

1. Little landscape design in early period because of types of settlements

V. Summary

- A. Earliest landscapes were primarily for survival.
- B. Regional economics, geography, varied immigrant backgrounds and climate influenced types of landscapes created.
- C. 'American' style emerged with establishment of nurseries and rural cemeteries.
- D. Informal garden design styles were adopted due to the proliferation of gardening publications, travel to Europe, and the arrival of gardeners trained in Europe.
- E. Several historical gardens have been restored and can be visited today.