

EARLY HORTICULTURE IN OREGON:
NURSERYMEN AND PLEASURE GARDENS

by

Robert A. Nisbet Jr.

for

Philip Dole

Architecture 433

University of Oregon

June, 1979

Revised December 1982

submitted to the

The Oregon Historical Society

Reformatted for the Internet, 1998

Reformatted for Adobe Acrobat, 2000

This paper traces the arrival of nurserymen in Oregon, the ornamental plants they introduced, and the arrangement of these plants in the yards and gardens of the settlers. The nurserymen began to immigrate into the territory in the late 1840's with stocks of grafted fruit trees. In 1853 the first substantial shipment of ornamental plants arrived in Astoria, and by the late 1850's the nurseries were offering a variety of ornamentals for distribution. As ornamental plants became available pleasure gardens began to take shape around the settlers' lumber houses. These gardens grew in elaboration with the architectural styles of the 1860's and 1870's.

The Earliest Horticulture

Hudson Bay Company

The first gardens and orchards of the Northwest founded along with the trapping posts and missions. The posts at Astoria and Vancouver, Washington were among the first to practice horticulture. A popular story of how the first fruit seed arrived at Vancouver tells of how young women gave fruit seed to a group of men about to set sail for their new post. Upon arrival at Vancouver these men gave the seed to a gardener James Bruce about the year 1825. As Bruce was an appointed gardener it is likely that he brought fruit seed more deliberately than those given to the men by their lady friends. A 1833 report tells of the farms at Fort Vancouver covering seven hundred acres, including peach and apple orchards (1). In 1836 Mrs. Marcus Whitman visited the fort and in a letter to her mother told of how the barrack grounds were covered with fine trees including apple, pear, peach, plum, and fig trees. There was a vegetable garden arranged with walks on either side by strawberries and a summer house at the end covered with grape vines (2). The grapes at Vancouver were reported to be Catawba and English gooseberry was also grown (3).

Possibly as early as 1830 the first rose was introduced by the Hudson Bay Company traders. This rose was a pink rose with the attar of roses aroma and is referred to as the Hudson Bay rose, Oregon Sweet Briar, or Mission Rose (4). This rose was to be found in the yards of Oregon City, Vancouver, and Portland in the early 1900's (5). Besides the conscious introductions, various grass weed, and flower seeds were introduced in the impure bags of grain imported by the company and many became naturalized in the fields of the Pacific Northwest (6).

Early Immigrants

The first settlers who immigrated to the Northwest in the early 1840's had fruit and rose seed or plants with them (7). Documentation of this would exist in the dairies and journals of these people. The Mission Rose supposedly grew at the Dr. McLoughlin mission and slips were taken until the log cabins and rough homes of the pioneers were adorned with this rose (8). In 1845 William Barlow, son of Samuel Barlow of Barlow Road fame, started for Oregon with a complete assortment of grafted fruit trees.

Upon reaching Wyoming he met men from the Oregon country, among them being Jason Lee (there is some doubt here, as Lee sailed for the east coast in 1844 (9)). The Oregon men told Barlow that old orchards already existed at Fort Vancouver and on French Prairie and discouraged him from carrying the trees any further. Barlow dumped his entire load near Independence Rock, Wyoming and later claimed he threw away fifty thousand dollars by so doing. He estimated this by the fact that there were no grafted fruit trees in the valley at the time and that he would have had a monopoly on such trees. He reported he saved some seed and started a small nursery on upper Mollala prairie (10).

Henderson Luelling

The immigration of 1847 brought nearly five thousand people to the west, among them nurserymen Henderson Luelling. Luelling is credited with bringing the first grafted fruit trees to Oregon, in a wagon frequently referred to as "the traveling nursery" (11). The Luelling family (originally Lewelling, the spelling having been changed by some family members, Henderson included) had long been in the nursery

business. From 1830 to 1837 Henderson and his brother John ran a nursery in Indiana. In 1837 Henderson moved to Iowa and made repeated trips to Indiana to bring varieties of fruit trees, shrubs, and vines back to his Iowa business.

Luelling and Meek

In 1847, after some years of thought, he made the trip to the Oregon country with his family and a wagon full of seven hundred small trees and shrubs, including most if not all the varieties cultivated in Iowa at the time (12). Included were apple, pear, cherry, plum, prune peach trees, grapes, and berries (13). By February of 1848 Luelling had bought out a claim near Milwaukee, Oregon and began clearing the land. By working from four in the morning until ten at night they soon had the land cleared of the fir trees, and had their orchard planted. William Meek, also of the 1847 migration, bought an adjacent land claim and the nursery business of Luelling and Meek was formed.

In 1849 Luelling and Meek built a sawmill, and in 1850 along with W.P. Dolan and Charles Hopkins formed the Milwaukee Milling Company, which owned and operated several sawmills and a gristmill near Milwaukee. In 1850 Henderson traveled east and selected from the nurseries of Ellwanger and Barry (Rochester, New York) and A.J. Downing a large variety of trees and plants which he brought back via Panama (14). This shipment was probably fruit and berry species, with a few ornamentals and roses, but documentation of the contents is lacking.

Seth and John Lewelling

Brothers Seth and John Lewelling came west in 1850 with more seed and grafted trees, and in the winter of 1850-51 made twenty thousand grafts, some of which Seth took to California. Upon returning in 1852, Seth became a partner in the Milwaukee nursery. By 1853 branch nurseries were set up in Salem, near Spring Valley on the Long Tom River, and near Albany, and one hundred thousand grafts were sent out (15). In 1854 Henderson left Oregon to start a nursery business in Alameda County, California, making the fourth state in which he had pioneered the nursery business. Henderson is credited with bringing, the Italian prune to Oregon, and Seth originated the Black Republican and Bing cherries, the Bing being named after a faithful Chinese nursery worker of Seth's

Ralph C. Geer

Ralph C. Geer, another 1847 immigrant with an important horticultural role, established an orchard in the Waldo Hills of Marion County near Salem. Apple and pear trees were started from seed which Geer had brought with him. The roots from these seedlings, as well as those from early fruit trees growing at French Prairie, and wild cherry and plum roots provided grafting stock for Luelling. In return Luelling furnished Geer with buds from the traveling nursery, and both these men were then able to furnish cultivated trees at an early time. In 1848 and 1849 settlers from hundreds of miles came to Geer for scions and young trees to set in the "little doryard" or to start an orchard (16). By 1852 Geer offered forty varieties of apple, fifteen of pear, five peach, and six kinds of cherries for sale (17).

J.W. Ladd

Along with these men, J.W. Ladd set forth for the Northwest in 1850 carrying with him 2300 fruit trees including seventy varieties of apple, forty of pear, fifteen peach, fifteen plum, twenty of cherry, quinces, nectarines, apricots, almonds, walnuts, hickory nut, and currant and gooseberry bushes. All these he took via Panama, and while crossing the isthmus lost many trees due to poor packing and rough handling (18). He settled near Butteville and his nursery was called the Montrose nursery. It operated under Ladd until 1860 when he sold out, advertising his farm in the Oregon Farmer newspaper of Portland. The ad listed the farm as having fruit, shrubbery, and ornamental trees (19).

Joseph W. Lambert

Joseph W. Lambert traveled to Oregon in 1850, and after a short side trip to California, went to work at the sawmill of Luelling and Meek until 1854. In 1859 William Meek sold his share of the nursery business to Lambert and his father in law Henry Miller so that Meek could move to California. Through the 1860's this business offered a great variety of ornamental plants to Oregonians. In 1875 Lambert came up with his famous variety of cherry (20).

The Settlemiers

George W. Settlemier and family arrived in Oregon in 1850 and planted fruit seed he brought with him on a donation land claim near Mount Angel. This farm or nursery appears to have been of minor importance. George interested his sons, J.H., William F., and Henry W. in the nursery business and they started what was to become an orchard near Tangent in 1857. In 1863 son J.H. Settlemier started what was to become the famous Settlemier nursery in Woodburn he stayed in the business actively until 1892. (21).

Other Nurserymen

Other nurserymen who were primarily involved with the fruit industry in the state include George Walling, Albert Walling, Thomas Frazier, James Stevens, Henry and David Prettyman, Daniel Brock, and Henry E. Dosch.

The 1840-1854 Period

The early period of Oregon horticulture from 1840 to 1854, was marked by a tremendous interest in the growing of fruit, and much less so in ornamentals. Fruit trees represented food on the table and a valuable investment. While a few roses were being spread around the Willamette Valley, fruit was the primary interest, as it was with American pioneers across the country. A writer in the Horticulturist magazine believed more attention was being paid to fruit growing in Oregon than any state in the union (22). The gold mines of California created a high demand for Oregon fruit and helped stimulate the fruit industry growth in the state. The valleys and foothills of the state were said to abound in choice spots for fruit cultivation. A Gloria Mundi apple grown in Benton County in 1856 reached nearly six inches in diameter and weighed forty-two ounces (23). By the end of the 1850's the California orchards had matured to the point to where it was no longer profitable for Oregon growers to send fruit to the south. The Settlemier son's orchard near Tangent never sold enough fruit to pay expenses and several hundred thousand trees were dug up and burned (24).

Flower and Ornamental Introduction

J.R. Cardwell

Dr. J. R. Cardwell, an Oregon immigrant of 1852 and president of the Oregon Horticulture Society during the late 1800's and early 1900's, has written a few brief accounts of horticulture in Oregon which give some insight into early roses. *He* describes the first rose in the state as the Hudson's Bay or Mission Rose. *He* himself brought what he considered to be the second variety, the Chinese Daly (or Daily). He had set out for Oregon in 1852 with a wagon of fruit and ornamental plants. On the banks of the Snake River the wagon overturned and the entire load was lost into the river except for one Chinese Daly which he then nurtured for the rest of his life. Cardwell describes the third importation as the Gillette rose, imported in 1853. He calls this the most valuable and most widely distributed of the early importations (25).

Percy W. Gillette

Percy W. Gillette is credited with the first importation of ornamental shrubbery into Oregon. Gillette immigrated to Oregon in 1852 and settled south of Astoria, near Old Fort Clatsop. The following May he received three boxes of trees, ornamental shrubs, and seeds from his father's nursery in Ohio. Twenty-five varieties of roses were reported to have been in this shipment (26). Cardwell recalled he made his first considerable order from Gillette in 1855. He "had the tree setting craze and had it bad", and said the mania was infectious with the front and back yards of towns being filled with trees (27). From the Gillette stock sprang a large proportion of the roses, shrubbery, flowering shrubs, and berries of early Oregon (28). More research is needed as to exactly what species were available from Gillette. With Gillette making his ornamentals available to the public, Oregonians had the potential for true pleasure 'gardens and landscaping. In 1862 Gillette entered the legislature of Tillamook and Clatsop Counties and in 1867 moved to Portland to engage in real estate. He was actively promoting his nursery business from 1855 to 1862.

Seth Lewelling Ornamentals

The small notebooks that Seth Lewelling used to keep notes in from his nursery business are of help in determining his involvement with ornamentals. In 1853 his records include the sale of roses, lilac, dahlia, a rose sharon (*Althea* spp.), and flowering almond. This early sale shows the nursery had these plants, at least on a small scale in this year or before. In 1855 his records include a note to order magnolia, paeonia, and mulberry from William Prince of Long Island who operated one of the largest nurseries on the east coast. By 1860 his sales included catalpa, alanthus, English walnut, snowball, and althea (29). The arrangement with Prince was important because virtually any ornamental plant in the country could be purchased from the Prince nursery. Other nurseries in Oregon and California also could order ornamentals from several large east coast nurseries during the 1850's, with delivery coming by ship. This new service would dramatically increase the species available to the gardeners of the Northwest.

Oregon Farmer Advertisements

The Oregon Farmer newspaper of Portland ran an ad for Lewelling and Merrick (evidently a new partner) of Milwaukee in December of 1858. The ad offered fruit trees, roses, dahlias, paeonias, mammoth rhubarb, lilacs, flowering almonds, alanthus, catalpa, and two mulberries. The ad of David D. Prettyman offered fruit and flowering shrubs, roses, and other plants. Dahlias, lilacs, and seeds were also available (30). Seeds were especially easy to ship from the east coast and many new plants were introduced in this manner.

J.Q.A. Warren, nurseryman of San Francisco, offered plants available to Oregonians through the Oregon Farmer in 1858. His supplier was Thomas Mechan of Philadelphia, and he offered seeds of magnolia, tripetela, Scotch fir, laburnum, Irish yew, larch, Norway spruce, strawberry tree, Pinus, censtra , maritima , austraca , American elm, yellow locust, Spirea alba , Corsican pine, syringa alba , Chinese arbor vitae, mountain ash, American holly, trumpet vine, tulip poplar, Philadelpha cononarius , and others.

An interesting comparison can be made between the plants available from the Glen Dale (later Glen Run) nursery located three miles northwest of Corvallis, during the years 1859 and 1860.

| 1859 | 1860 |
|--------------------------|---|
| 36 Dahlias | 50 Dahlias |
| 15 Roses | 45 Roses, mostly Perpetual |
| 10 paeonias | 16 paeonias |
| 5 lilacs | 4 lilacs |
| 4 figs | 20 hyacinths |
| honeysuckle | 8 tulips |
| silver maple | 4 pomegranate |
| 10 flowering shrubs (31) | 20 flowering and ornamental shrubs (32) |

The proprietor, Phillip Ritz, announced in 1859 that the plants he had not sold in Corvallis would be lifted and put on a selling tour to Starr's Point, Eugene City, Harrisburg, Peoria, and Albany. He wanted to dispose of his plants and order new varieties from the states.

Hyacinths, tulips, and Dutch bulbs were advertised as available from Adolph Boremann of Versailles, Kentucky in 1861 (33). With the Glen Run nursery and Miller and Lambert offering bulbs from Holland for sale during the 1860's, these plants became available to Oregonians. These showy perennials offered a whole new medium to garden design. While I have found no references to-it, the iris would likely have been introduced along with other bulb plants.

The first evidence for lawn grass being sold in Oregon comes in 1860 when Knapp, Burnell, & Co. of Portland advertised a variety of pasture grasses and English lawn grass for dooryards for sale (34). In 1862 the same firm offered seeds of petunia, portulaca, mignonette, sweet alyssium, balsam, morning glory, lupine, and nasturium for sale. Black locust seed became available in 1863. With the introduction of lawn grass, annual flower seeds, bulbs, varieties of ornamental and flowering shrubs and decorative trees, the Oregon homeowner of 1862 could landscape his or her garden similarly to gardeners of the east coast.

The Miller and Lambert nursery offered imported seeds from England and Boston, Dutch bulbs, rare plants from Belgium and France, and trees from around the world during the 1860's. Some of the imported trees included Lebanon cedars, Austrian black pine, and ginkgo. In 1870 Miller quit the business and moved to Portland. By 1872 he had established himself as Portland's first florist, cultivating roses, English violets, and pink and white camellias under glass, supposedly the only ones in the city at the time (35).

Peter Britt

The horticultural achievements of Peter Britt of Jacksonville, Oregon rival those of Luelling, Gillette, and Miller of northern Oregon. Britt came to Oregon in 1852 and built a cottage in Jacksonville in 1854. In 1859 he had the cottage remodeled into the Gothic style house that was to be the centerpiece of his elaborate gardens.

In 1853 the Jacksonville to Crescent City trail was completed giving southern Oregon a direct trade route to San Francisco. *This* tied southern Oregon more closely to California influences than to Portland. In 1857 Britt purchased fruit and grape cuttings from a peddler from California and soon after planted a twenty acre orchard. By 1860 he was selling peaches, apples, and pears, and had started the southern Oregon fruit industry.

Most of the flowers, ornamental shrubs, and non-indigenous trees of southern Oregon's early settlers came from the Britt gardens, called Britt Park. Many of Britt's imports came from the Henry A. Dreer nursery of Philadelphia, and he later had eastern contacts in Virginia, New York, and was sent plants by the director of the national botanical gardens in Washington, D.C. By 1870 the Dreer catalog was a familiar site in many western homes.

Britt wished to prove how mild the Rogue River Valley was, and made special efforts to import tropical species. Among his importations were magnolias (imported in the 1850's), jasmine, Chinese wisteria, German edging, rhododendron, imported Ore-on a-rape, Monterey cypress, California Sequoia, sweet bay tree, Japanese persimmon, Smyrna figs, English chesnut, ginkgo, olive, yucca, a palm tree, and the *Musta Enseta* banana, the most widely cultivated of all decorative bananas (36). Britt had a shelter erected each winter to protect the palm and bananas which were moved inside the structure. In a solarium Britt grew cactus, kumquats, pomegranate, lemon, orange, and coffee trees. Britt Park became a showplace of southern Oregon and was featured in Northwest Railroad advertising for twenty years.

Other Roses

Two other roses that appear early in the west are the white moss rose and Harrison's yellow rose. The white moss was planted at the John Johnson farm at Pedee, Oregon along with a pink Mission rose and also a red Webley rose. The garden there dates to 1865 (37). The Harrison's yellow rose was widely distributed over the west with early settlers and miners (38).

Settlemer Catalogue

The only nurseryman's catalogue I was able to locate is that of J.H. Settlemer. The catalogue remarks that the business is twenty years old, which would roughly put the date around 1880. Settlemer appears to have always stayed in the tree and shrub market, rather than enter into the sale of flower seeds and bulbs. The trees and shrubs offered in the catalogue are listed in table 1.

Table 1, J.H. Settlemer Catalogue circa 1880

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| American chestnut | Lombardy poplar |
| Spanish chestnut | yellow poplar |
| beech | mountain ash |
| birch | golden, weeping, kilmarnock, |
| red and white elm | basket willows |
| larch | sycamore |
| black walnut | American linden |
| almonds | red oak |
| filbert | bur oak |
| fig trees | tulip tree |
| mulberry | magnolia |
| black Spanish walnut | catalpa |
| English walnut | red cedar |
| pecan | Irish juniper |
| hickory | Norway pine |
| persimmons | Scotch pine |
| sugar maple | Norway spruce |
| soft maple | American arborvitae |
| box elder | Coos bay myrtle |
| honeylocust | rhododendron |
| hackberry | valley laurel |
| red bud | barberry |
| snowball | sumach |
| Chinese box | lilac |
| honeysuckle | |

Sources of Horticultural Thought for Oregonians

National Publications

There were a number of horticultural publications both national and state, which were received by early Oregon gardeners. On the national level, the *Magezine of Horticulture* (sometimes called Hovey's *magezine*) ran from 1835 to 1867, and was founded and edited by Charles Mason Hovey. This was the most popular horticulture periodical in America. A friendly rival, never surpassing Hovey's periodical was *The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste*, called the *Horticulturist* for short. This was founded by A.J. Downing in 1846 and was edited by him until his death in 1852, with the *magezine* surviving until 1876. In the early 1850's there were reported to be thirty subscriptions to this *magezine* in Oregon City alone (39). Other important national *magezines* were the *Gardener's Monthly* (1859-1887) and the *American Agriculturist*. *Gardener's Monthly* had a flower and pleasure garden section, and occasionally a gardening for ladies and landscape gardening section. It was only after the Orange Judd Company took over publication of the *American Agriculturist* in the mid 1850's that substantial gardening articles began to appear in that periodical. Through Q.A. Warren of San Francisco just about any agricultural journal in the United States could be obtained including such popular *magezines* as *The Country Gentleman*, *Cultivator*, *Genesee Farmer*, *Farmer's Magezine*, *Life Illustrated*, and others.

West Coast Publications

On the west coast three publications, the *Oregon Farmer* (Portland 1858-1863), *The California Farmer* (1854-a few years), and the *California Culturist* (1859-a few years) were sources of gardening information. Other Oregon publications listed by J.R. Cardwell include the *Oregon Agriculturist*, published in Salem from 1870 to 1872, and the *North Pacific Rural Spirit*, published in Portland beginning in 1867. Of the last two publications only the latter is available in the major historical libraries of the state (University of Oregon-Oregon Collection, state library in Salem, and the Oregon Historical Society library) and this only after 1879. E.M. Waite, who helped publish catalogues for early Oregon nurserymen, also published a paper for a time in Salem (40).

Books

Some of the books which may have influenced Oregon gardeners were Downing's *Gardeners Assistant*, *Breck's Book of Flowers*, and a rural manual on gardening offered from a New York firm. All of these books were advertised through the *Oregon Farmer*. Other major gardening books tended to be how to manuals and were not trend or style setters.

Agricultural Societies

The beginnings of agricultural societies in Oregon came in the late 1850's. In the summer of 1858 the first territorial agricultural society was formed in Portland with summer and fall meetings arranged for fruit exhibits. In the next few years all the counties of western Oregon formed agricultural societies and arranged annual county fairs. The Yamhill County fair offered best exhibits of flowers and best herbarium awards in 1862, and other fairs probably offered similar awards and exhibits. The Oregon State Horticultural Society was formed in 1889 in Portland. Quarterly meetings were held at various locations where the local horticulturists would display fruits and flowers, arrange for music, and give tours. Papers would also be read (41).

Academic

Academic influence from Oregon colleges was close to nothing in relation to ornamental gardening in the nineteenth century. During the early years of Oregon Agricultural College (later Oregon State University) the emphasis was on research to best fit grass and fruit species to their' most favored localities.

Dooryards and Pleasure Grounds

Arrangements

The early nineteenth century garden was similar to that of the eighteenth century in that locations of flower, vegetable, and fruit grounds were selected for convenience and appropriateness in relation to the house and other structures. Gardens or yards were enclosed by wooden fences, brick walls, or hedges to keep animals out and to support vines and climbing roses. Fences and plantings were also used to screen areas where the daily chores would take place. Fruit trees were scattered among the flowers or against walls, the overall effect being an orderly plan.

By 1840 new landscape concepts were being introduced emphasizing a natural and graceful style. The individual tree or plant in the total design was taken into account. In 1841 A.J. Downing published his famous treatise on landscape gardening which had a great effect on eastern gardens and to a lesser extent on Oregon gardens (42). Ornamental horticulture was undergoing a great boom with the increased interest in landscaping. In 1848 *The Horticulturist* reported great progress in refinement in the United States through the rapid increase of taste for ornamental gardening and rural embellishment (43). For the pioneers, horticulture was reported contributing to the development of local attachments. It was called one of the most powerful forces yet found to charm man to one spot of earth, the panacea that really settles mankind." (44).

The horticultural magazines of the 1850's spoke of the lawn as being the part of the garden of first importance. No other object was considered to give the constant satisfaction through the seasons. Mowing with scythe or mowing machine was to be as often as the machine could "bite the grass" (45).

On the lawn, shrubs, shade trees, and evergreens were to be gracefully grouped. Several authors point to beauty in small gardens coming not from a great variety of plants, but to simplicity and high keeping. *The Gardener's Monthly* stated, "Every single plant, group, or row will show that they were planted for a purpose, and the whole will be a combination of nature and design" (46). Single tree plantings were favored, with evergreens preferred to hardwoods. A few especially lovely hardwoods such as magnolia, tulip tree, linden, horse chestnut, mountain ash, and weeping willow were acceptable. The single tree would grow to develop natural habits and proportions which would always be beautiful and attract admiration (47). Trees were also used along yard edges for privacy and to conceal fences.

Shrubs were recommended to hide fences and unsightly structures, to plant near the house and walks, and planted alone or in small groups on lawns. The single plants could develop the full potential of the loveliest, symmetrical varieties (48). Smaller yards could be made to look larger using smaller trees and shrubs.

Flowers were encouraged along borders or in separate beds, and not among trees. Tastefully grouped, mass plantings of flowers were encouraged (49).

Kitchen gardens were not considered aesthetic and were encouraged to be set apart from the lawn and ornamental grounds by a hedge or trees of some sort. Curved walks were considered best, but were also inconsistent and inconvenient in limited space.

Favored Species

Desirable trees for one's yard included hemlock, pine, Norway spruce, balsam fir, linden, poplar, horse chestnut, elm, and maple. Ailanthus, which had been widely cultivated in the east because it was a fast grower, was being discouraged by this time due to its malodorous and suckering tendencies. Popular shrubs included quince, forsythia, flowering almond, roses, currant, tamarix, viburnum, snowball, spirea, lilacs, syringa, azaleas, and others (50). Flowers of special interest included dahlia, pansy, petunia, balsam,

Chinese aster, portulaca, purple candy tuft, Drummund's phlox, convolulus, carnation, columbine, crocus, daisy, paeonia, and zinnia (51).

Horticultural Thought in Oregon

Home Beautifying

Oregon Farmer articles of circa 1860 give examples of ideas published within the state, and available to Oregon gardeners. Some of the articles were reproduced from other sources such as the Genesee Farmer. A simple outlook between gardening (home beautifying) and the goodness of man was expressed. The adornment of the farmhouse reflected the refinement of the farmer. One article stated,

A vine arbor, a flower bed, a grass plat, a rose bush, a gravel walk, a shade tree, a pleasant yard are easily had, especially by farmers and villagers. No one should be without such adornments to his home. A child even can plant a flower seed or shrub... (52).

With the yard and house beautified on the outside, the inside could be beautified with Christian love between family members.

One man described the most home-like Oregon place he had seen, which was a plain log cabin in the center of a square quarter acre property. The yard was a few fruit trees interspersed with flowers and small shrubs. There was a flower bed on either side of the walk from the gate to the door. Walls were hung with morning glories and honeysuckles. While Oregon houses were not among the greatest of the world, taste and refinement could be displayed in beautifying that added "sweet enchantments" to homes (53).

Climbing plants were said to be a necessity, as no good gardener would have any bare fences or verandahs. Virginia creeper, honeysuckles, Virginia or silk periploca, Chinese wisteria, climbing roses of almost any color, and bigronia or trumpet flowers could be used on trellis, pillar, or fence (54).

An Oregon Farmer article of February, 1861 entitled "Embellishments of a Country Home" was written in the state and gives a detailed description of home beautification.

We have spoken of lawns, gardens, and shrubbery. Nothing has a finer effect as you approach a dwelling than a green grass plat. Trees should never be planted so as to shade a dwelling... A class of shrubs, of the size of a large lilac, the snowball, the spireas, the corchorus, the rose accacia, the native currant, the wieglia rosea, the native ceanothus, would produce a beautiful effect planted about the lawn... Roses of the hardy ever-blooming varieties, should also be planted about in clumps, without any particular mathematical order; let the eye direct...

The flower garden, for convenience, should be on each side of the walk. There are many annual flowers which are beautiful and which we might name, but their cultivation involves much labor that can scarcely be spared from the farm. The fragrance of the mignonette is always acceptable; the petunia blossoms for a long period; the portulacca is a favorite flower--and all of these are of easy cultivation. Then there are the German and China asters--always beautiful. But to save labor and to have always flowers in their season, a few herbaceous perennial plants are desirable. The new varieties of the phlox are lovely and they come into blossom after June roses and continue until fall. Then there are several varieties of herbaceous spireas, lilies, paeonias, chrysanthemums, and the beautiful new plant from China known as dielytras pectabilis, a very attractive plant, hardy as an oak, throwing out early in spring long racemes of beautiful variegated pendulous plumes (55).

Woman's Role

Women had long been the principle cultivators of ornamental and flowering plants, and this did not change in Oregon. An Oregon Farmer article told how women ought to study botany, as horticulture is botany put into practice. As farmers study agriculture, their wives and daughters should study horticulture, including small fruit and vegetable gardening. "She may sprinkle her garden well with flowers - a snowball in this corner, a rose in that, a dahlia bed there, and a moss border here will not be out of place" (56). Children could be given their own flower beds. If the American farmer had no taste for flowers, his wife and daughter would.

Native Plants

Oregonians were quick to realize that many of the native plants in their new land were suitable to their dooryards. The first issue of the Oregon Farmer stated,

The immense number of indigenous trees and shrubs, and plants that are scattered so profusely through the woods and forests affords faculty for the beautifying and decoration of the pleasure garden which are too often overlooked." (57).

At times a nurseryman would import a new plant from the east only later to find a better one here in the wild. Oregon Sycamore maple (bigleaf) was promoted as a fine shade tree in Gardener's Monthly in June, 1861. Oregon grape received attention in the Wisconsin Farmer in February, 1861, as a beautiful shrub for gardens and on the north side of fences and buildings (58). Oregon's red flowering currant was collected and became a popular English garden plant. J.R. Cardwell described Oregon elder as a unique tree of unsurpassed elegance and rare beauty on the lawn or in the forest. He also spoke of Oregon grape as making a showy lawn plant. From this kind of evidence it appears that Oregon nurserymen and gardeners new the value of, and grew native Oregon plants beginning in the late 1850's.

Conclusions

Pioneer Yards

From the settlement of Oregon in the early 1840's until Lewelling and Gillette began the sale of ornamental stock around 1853 the basic yard plants of early houses were apple and pear trees, and roses. A good number of pioneers brought fruit and rose seed with them to start on their new homesteads. These fruit trees were set directly around the house, and along with a simple doorway planting of rose and a wooden fence around the yard, the design was complete. The yard of Daniel Albright near Silverton shows a fence of square pickets surrounding an orchard on three sides of the house. There was no lawn but seasonal grass (59). An 1860 Oregon Farmer article confirms the early yard-orchard design by asking Oregonians to make their homes more attractive by replacing crowded yards of ill shaped fruit trees with ornamentals. Apple, pear, and plum trees were termed unsightly, while cherry trees qualified for retention. Shrubs, not fruit trees were to be grown in town.

The First Ornamentals

By 1853 Seth Lewelling was selling a few ornamentals, and in the same year P.W. Gillette received his ornamental stock, which as noted before, has been labeled the stock from which came a large proportion of early Oregon roses, shrubbery, and flowering shrubs. With these introductions dooryards were made more varied and attractive. Through the second half of the 1850's had the simple look discussed in the Oregon Farmer--a rose bush in this corner, a snowball in that, a dahlia bed here. The trellis with vines was appropriate on the house, and the gate and next to the front door would harbor roses or some other ornamental shrubs although trees could also be sued on the sides of the gate.

Increasing Variety of Plants

By the late 1850's the orders of Oregon nurserymen were being sailed to the Pacific coast with hundreds of new plants and varieties. By 1860 bulb plants and lawn grass were available, and by 1863 (if not earlier) seed of annual flowers was available from Knapp Burnell & Co. of Portland. These additions expanded dooryards into true pleasure gardens. Introduction of the lawn mower (in the 1850's on the east coast, and probably 1860's in Oregon) made lawns easier to manage and more uniformly and neatly cut, creating finer garden spaces. Throughout the 1860's bulbs and annuals became more important. The grounds around stylish Gothic homes needed flower beds intended as eye catching ornaments. Tulips and other bulbs, being brightly colored and showy were ideal for the purpose. Massed annuals could achieve the same purpose (60).

True Landscaping

Only in the 1860's with the new lawn and plants available could the landscape designs which first became popular in the 1840's on the east coast be realized. Slowly fine lawns with isolated evergreens or symmetrical hardwoods or shrubs began to appear. Roses might be placed in a short row on the lawn, the house hung in vines or climbing shrubs, and outer fences planted with shrubs or trees for privacy and to blend in with the lawn.

With steamboat transport of the 1860's and railroad shipping in the 1870's ornamentals could be moved in greater quantity in Oregon, and this was a time of great pleasure garden expansion. The bold Italian and Queen Anne styled houses of the 1880's brought further need for more showy flowers, and taller, large blossomed, and variegated varieties were employed. It should be remembered that with these elaborate and landscaped yards became the fashion, the simple dooryard combinations were still in use in small yard spaces and for people of limited means. More research is needed into the yards and gardens of the 1870's and 1880's, as well as for the earlier period, where gaps of information exist.

Bibliography

American Agriculturist. Orange Judd Co. New York.

Cardwell, J.R. "A Brief History of Early Horticulture in Oregon" Portland, 1906. Oregon State University Library.

Cardwell, J.R. "Early Horticultural Days in Oregon" Address to the State Horticultural Society, Portland, 12-7-1909. Oregon State University Library.

Cardwell, J.R. "A Brief History of Pomology in Oregon" Reprinted from the Proceedings of the American Pomological Society, 1913. Oregon State University library.

Corning, H.M. Dictionary of Oregon History , Binsford & Mort, Portland, 1956.

Currey, Jesse A. Portland Roses: History, Planting, & Cultivation Portland Rose Society, Portland, 1923.

Dole, Philip. "The Rural Landscape" in Space, Style and Structure edited by Thomas Vaughan, Oregon Historical Society, Portland, 1974.

Duruz, W.P. "Notes on the Early History of Horticulture with Special Reference to the Fruit Tree Nurseries in Oregon" Proceedings of the Oregon Horticultural Society, 1910.

Gardener's Monthly

Hedrick, U.P. A History of Horticulture in America to 1860. Oxford University Press. London, 1950.

The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste

Huntington, Wallace K. "Victorian Architecture" in Space, Style and Structure edited by Thomas Vaughan, Oregon Historical Society, Portland, 1974.

Lewelling, Seth. Notebooks from the nursery business 1850-1860, on file at the Oregon Historical Society.

Luelling, Jane H. "Bringing the Traveling Nursery Across the Plains in 1847" in The Family History and Genealogy of the Luelling-Lewelling-Lewellyn-Campbell Families by J.H. Luelling.

Miller, Alan C. Peter Britt: Pioneer Photographer of the Siskiyou Thesis, Trinity College, 1972.

Oregon Farmer Newspaper, edited by Albert G. Walling, Portland.

Pacific Monthly

Settlemier, J.H. Descriptive Catalogue and Pricelist of Fruit, Trees, and Shrubs.

Van Ravensaay, Charles. Nineteenth Century Garden. University Books,

New York, 1977.

Western Horticultural Review, Cincinnati.

Woodburn Independent Newspaper, "Funeral of Woodburn's Founder" February 27, 1913.

Zachary, K.J. "Sellwood: Then and Now" Oregon Historical Society Library.

FOOTNOTES

1. Bancroft, History of the West, Volume 2, p. 442.
2. Cardwell, "Early Horticultural Days in Oregon", 1909, P. 3.
3. Cardwell, J.R. " A Brief History of Pomology In Oregon", 1913, p. 4.
4. Curry, Jesse A. Portland Roses , Portland Rose Society, 1923.
5. Cardwell, 1909, p. 4.
6. Huntington, Wallace K. "Victorian Architecture" in Space, Style, and Structure edited by Thomas Vaughan, Oregon Historical Society, Portland, 1974.
7. Curry, 1923, p. 4.
8. Curry, 1923, p. 5.
9. Corning, H.M. Dictionary of Oregon History. Binsford & Mort, Portland, 1956, p. 145.
10. Duruz, W.P. "Notes on the Early History of Horticulture with Special Reference to the Fruit Tree Nurseries in Oregon" Proceedings of the Oregon Horticultural Society, 1910.
11. Luelling, Jane H. "Bringing the Traveling Nursery Across the Plains in 1847", in Family History and Genealogy of the Luelling-Lewelling-Lewellyn-Campbell Families-7p. -8.
12. Luelling, Jane H., p. 6.
13. Cardwell, 1909, p. 4.
14. Cardwell, 1909, p. 5.
15. Corning, 1956, p. 153.
16. Cardwell, 1909, p. 4.
17. Dole, Philip. "The Rural Landscape" in Space, Style and Structure edited by Thomas Vaughan, Oregon Historical Society, Portland, 1974, p. 134.
18. Hedrick, U.P. A History of Horticulture in America to 1860. Oxford University Press, London, 1950, P. 387.

19. Oregon Farmer Newspaper, July 21, 1860, Vol. 2, No. 23, P. 197.
20. Zachary, K.J. "Sellwood: Then and Now", P. 32.
21. Woodburn Independent Newspaper, February 27, 1913, "Woodburn's Founder Dies".
22. Hedrick, 1950, P. 387.
23. Cardwell, 1913, P. 31.
24. Duruz, 1910, p. 21.
25. Cardwell, 1909, p. 8.
26. Pacific Monthly, July 1902, P. 31-32.
27. Cardwell, "Brief History of Early Horticulture in Oregon", Portland, 1906, p. 19.
28. Pacific Monthly, July 1902, P. 31-32.
29. Lewelling, Seth. Personal Notebooks, 1850-1860.
30. Oregon Farmer Newspaper, December 1858, Vol. 1, No. 5, p. 80.
31. Oregon Farmer Newspaper, October 8, 1859, Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 45.
32. Oregon Farmer Newspaper, September 18, 1860, Vol. 3 No. 3, p. 21.
33. Oregon Farmer Newspaper, January 5, 1861, Vol. 3, No. 10, p. 77.
34. Oregon Farmer Newspaper, March 10, 1860, Vol. 2, No. 14, p. 125.
35. Zachary, P. 33.
36. Miller, Allen C. "Peter Britt: Pioneer Photographer of the Siskiyou" Trinity College Thesis, 1972, p. 82.
37. Dole, 1974, p. 134.
38. Interview with the City Gardener of Corvallis, May 22, 1979.
39. Hedrick, 1950, P. 387.
40. Cardwell, 1906, p. 6.
41. Cardwell, 1906, P. 36.
42. Dole, Philip, personal communication, May, 1979.
43. The Horticulturist, July, 1848, p. 1.

44. The Horticulturist, June, 1848, p. 11.
45. Gardener's Monthly June, 1861, p. 161.
46. Gardener's Monthly June, 1861, p. 186.
47. The Horticulturist April, 1854, p. 489.
48. American Agriculturist April, 1857, p. 86.
49. The Horticulturist January 1854, p. 165.
50. The Horticulturist January 1854, p. 165.
51. Western Horticulture Review 1852, p. 259.
52. Oregon Farmer Newspaper September 21, 1859, Vol. 2, No. 3, p. 35.
53. Oregon Farmer Newspaper April 21, 1860, Vol. 2, No. 17, p. 1.
54. Oregon Farmer Newspaper August 15, 1861, Vol. 4, No. 1, p. 2.
55. Oregon Farmer Newspaper February 15, 1861, Vol. 3, No. 13, p. 100.
56. Oregon Farmer Newspaper August 22, 1860, Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 7.
57. Oregon Farmer Newspaper August, 1858, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 9.
58. Oregon Farmer Newspaper May 15, 1861, Vol. 3, No. 19, p. 148.
59. Dole, 1974, p. 134.
60. Van Ravenswaay, Nineteenth Century Garden. Universe Books, New York, 1977.