

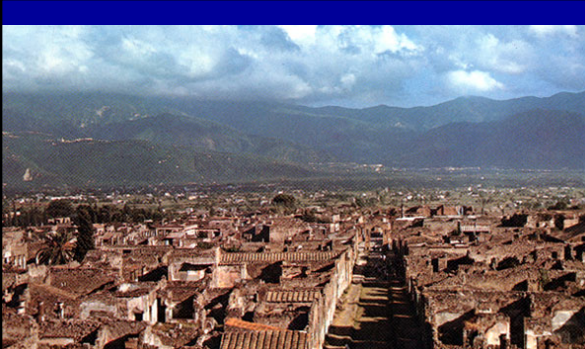


Lecture 18
Roman Agricultural History



Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius

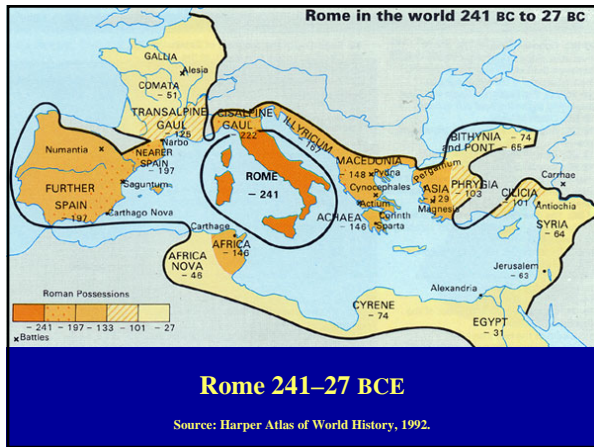




View from the Tower of Mercury on the Pompeii city wall looking down the Via di Mercurio toward the forum

History of Horticulture: Lecture 18







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Carthage

Founded 814 BCE in North Africa
Result of Phoenician expansion
North African city-state opposite Sicily

Mago, 350 BCE, Father of Agriculture
Agricultural author wrote a 28 volume work in Punic,
A language close to Hebrew.

Roman Senate ordered the translation of Mago upon the fall of Carthage despite violent enmity between states.

One who has bought land should sell his town house so that he will have no desire to worship the households of the city rather than those of the country; the man who takes great delight in his city residence will have no need of a country estate.

Quotation from Columella after Mago

Hannibal



Capitoline Museums
Hall of Hannibal
Jacopo Ripanda (attr.)
Hannibal in Italy
Fresco
Beginning of 16th century

Roman History

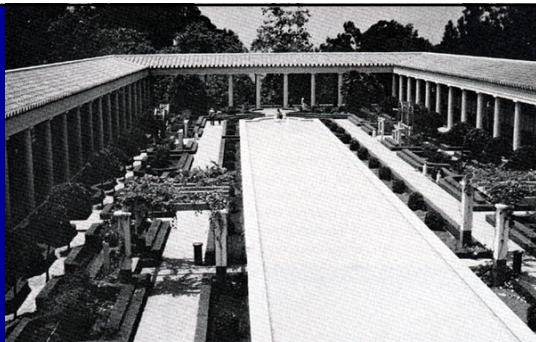
700 BCE Origin from Greek Expansion
640–520 Etruscan civilization
509 Roman Republic
264–261 Punic wars between Carthage and Rome

Roman Culture

Debt to Greek, Egyptian, and Babylonian Science and Esthetics
Roman expansion due to technology and organization
Agricultural Technology
Irrigation
Grafting
Viticulture and Enology
Wide knowledge of fruit culture, pulses, wheat
Legume rotation
Fertility appraisals
Cold storage of fruit
Specularia—prototype greenhouse using mica
Olive oil for cooking and light

Ornamental Horticulture

Hortus (gardens)
Villa urbana
Villa rustica, little place in the country
Formal gardens of wealthy
Garden elements
Frescoed walls, statuary, fountains trellises, pergolas, flower boxes, shaded walks, terraces, topiary



Getty Museum reconstruction of the Villa of the Papyri. Large peristyle garden.

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.

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Peristyle garden. House of the Little Fountain.

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.



Peristyle garden. House of Venus Marina.

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.

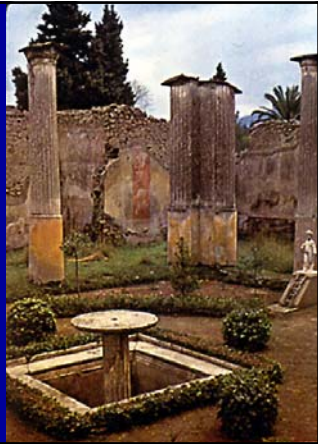


Vine-covered triclinium in the garden of the House of the Ephebe.
Today glass protects Egyptian paintings on the triclinium.

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.

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**Pedestal in pool,
Pompeii**





The garden room in the Empress Livia's Roman villa was subterranean—a cool place of escape in hot summer.

The garden scene of which this is a part ran around all four walls.

In the foreground of the fresco a simple wooden lattice fence encloses a green walk; a more complex fence with three repeated patterns surrounds the flowers, shrubs and fruit trees. (Late 1st century BCE)

An Illustrated History of Gardening, Huxley, 1978

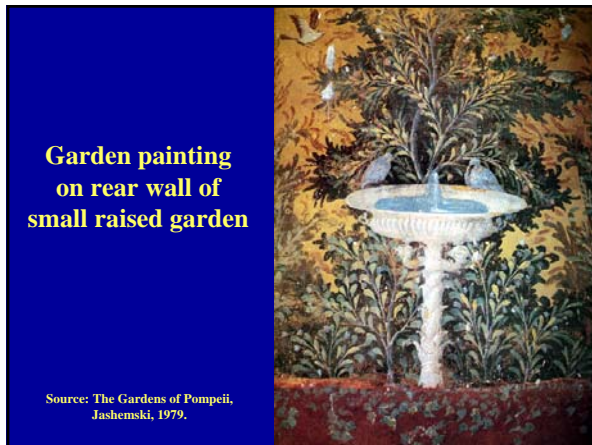


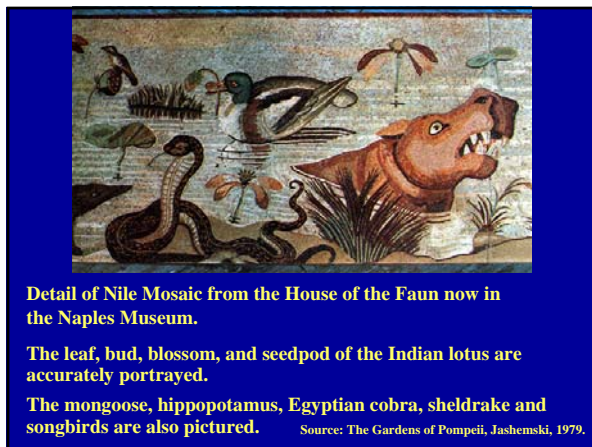
Garden painting, House of Venus Marina.

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.

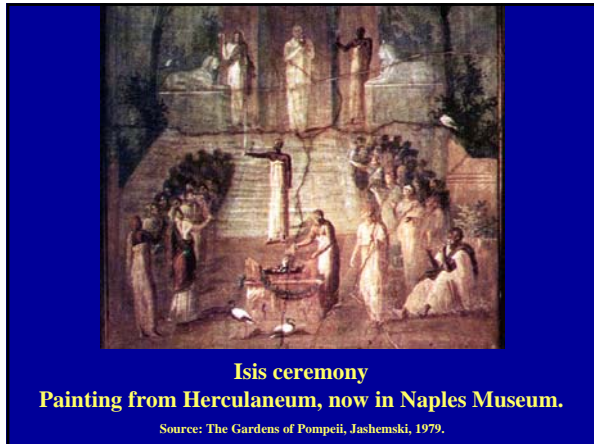
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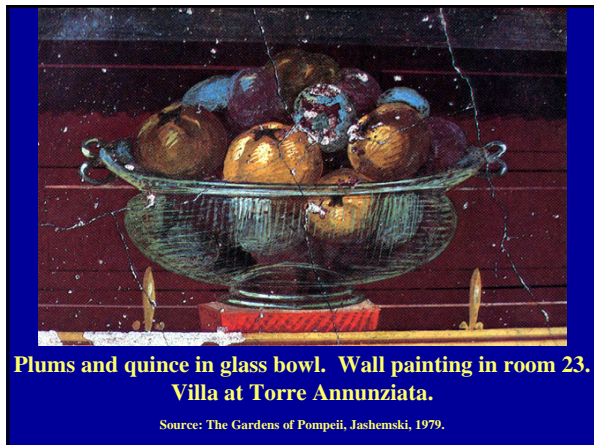


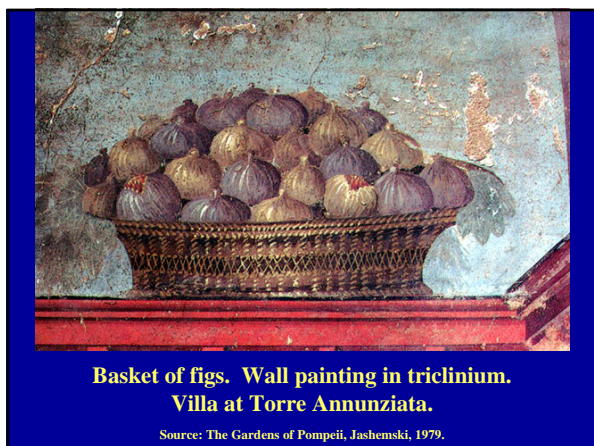




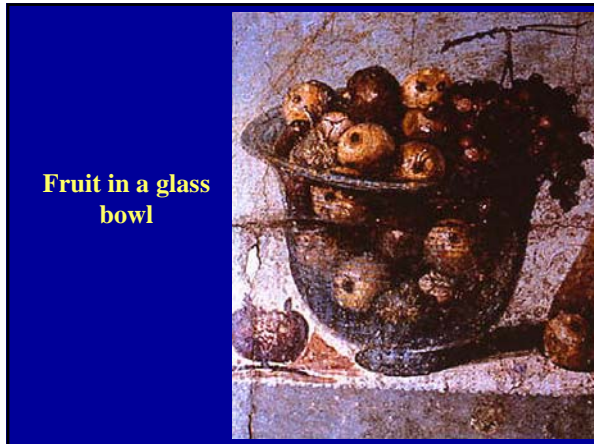
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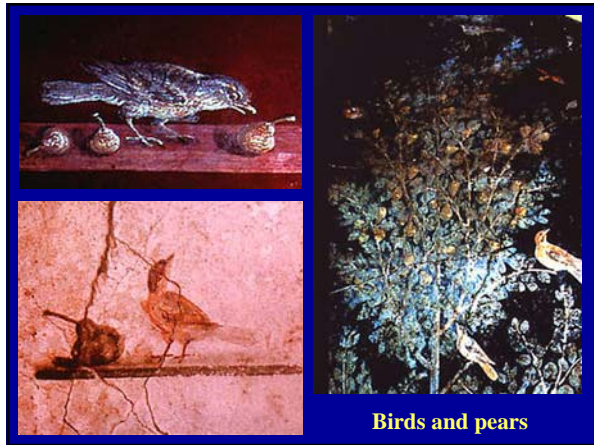






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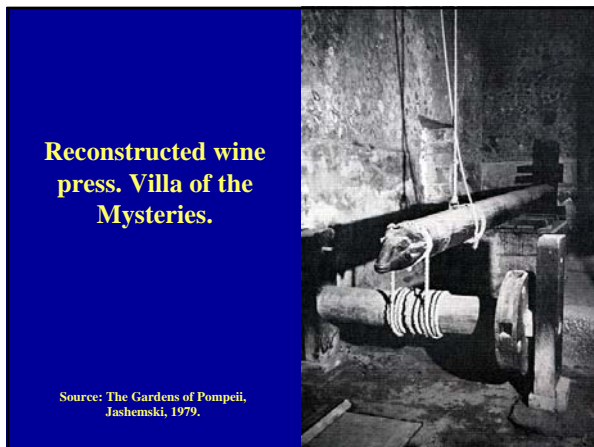
Cupids gathering grapes from vines supported by trees

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.



Cupids as wine dealers. House of the Vettii

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.



Reconstructed wine press. Villa of the Mysteries.

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.

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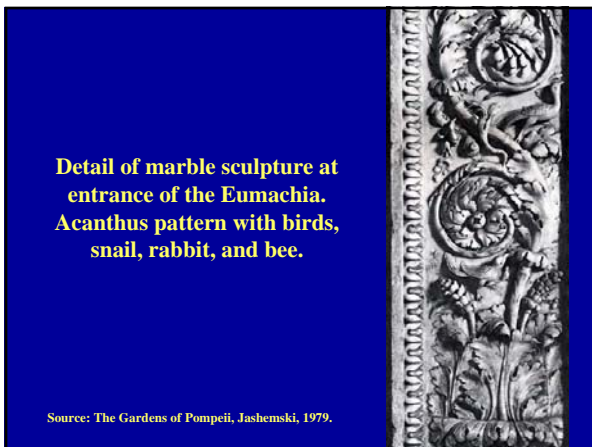
**Cupids and psyches as flower dealers.
Drawing of a painting, now longer in existence,
which was in the macellum at Pompeii.**

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.



**Wild rose on
pedicels**

Source: Singer.



**Detail of marble sculpture at
entrance of the Eumachia.
Acanthus pattern with birds,
snail, rabbit, and bee.**

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.

Flora, goddess of flowers

Source: The Gardens of Pompeii, Jashemski, 1979.



First Use of Weed control

In the last Punic war Carthage was destroyed along with its agriculture.

Building and walls were razed to the ground; the plough passed over the site, and salt was sown in the furrow made...A solemn curse was pronounced that neither house, nor crops, should ever rise again.

B.B. Hallward. The Siege of Carthage. Cambridge Ancient History Vol VIII

Pest Control in Classical Greece and Rome

Religious Practices

Based on concept that operations of husbandry, like war, were in the hands of the gods.

12 Priests of the Field, yearly sacrifice to Lares

Goddesses: Flora, Ceres

Gods: Segesta and Robigus (rust and mildew)

Festival of Robigalia

Folk Magic

Mildew control by laurel

Millet diseases controlled by carrying and burying a toad

Power of virgins and menstrual blood

Fungal Disease Control (rust and smut)

(unclear if fungal signs was cause or results of disease)

Use of animal, vegetable and mineral products

Juice of house leek

Amurca

Wine and ashes

Smoke

Blood, fat, and oil (pruning knives)

Extracts of bitter lupin and wild cucumber

Non-insect Pest Control

(e.g. mice, moles, rats, weasels, bats, scorpions, and snakes)

Bait and poisons included absinthe, asafoetida, aromatic plants, olive oil, amurca, bitumen, sulfur, burning sandarach (an arsenical), hellebore, hyocyamus, hemlock, and wild cucumber (*Ecballium elaterium*)

Caesaria, Israel