
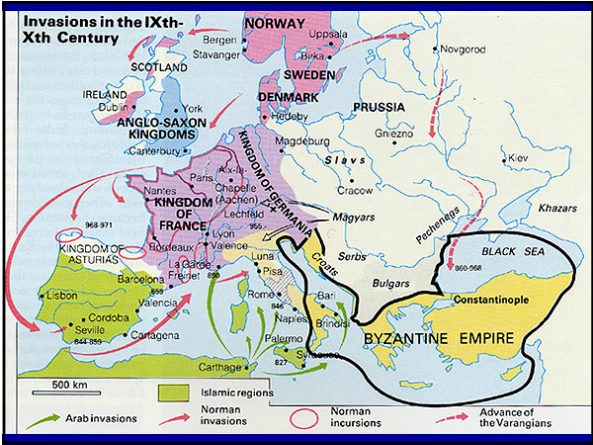


Lecture 20
Medieval Horticulture



- Breakdown of Roman Empire—Split into East and West
- Slow process brought about decline in technology
- “The Dark Ages”
- Rise of Christianity
- Heresy and Church Schisms
- Rise of Islam and Confrontation with the West
- Crusades







Chapel of Suwayfiyah, Philadelphia Jordan, 3rd century

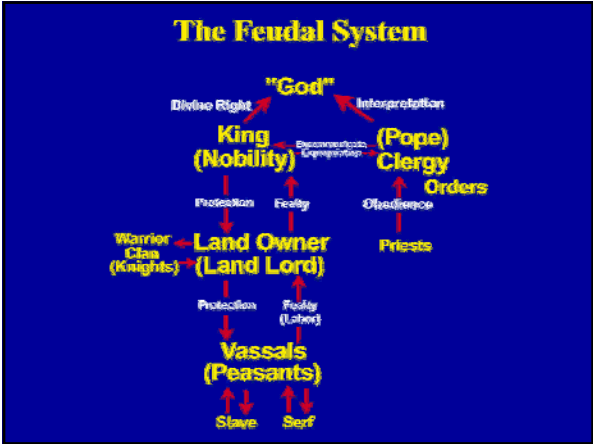


Mosaic of the Paradise, Madaba Jordan, late 6th century

Feudalism

A power relation between land and people

- Nobility
- Land owners
- Clergy
- Vassals (Peasants)
- Slaves, Serfs



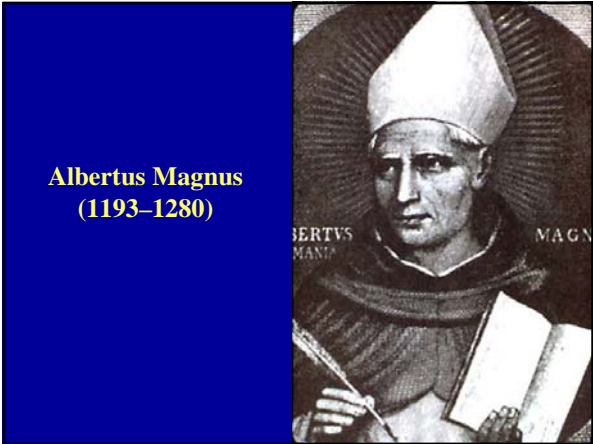
Clergy organized into self-perpetuating monastic communities

Monastic communities became large landowners but subject to expropriation when they got too powerful

Church became repository of the classical information of antiquity

Superimposed on the system was the development of national groups separated by language.

Present day Europe is the heir of this system




Medieval Agricultural Systems

Commons → Agronomy
Kitchen Gardens → Horticulture
Woodlands → Forestry & Wildlife

Although land and agriculture was the basis for the feudal system, a competing class developed with small scale manufacturing, the craft system controlled by guilds, and finally the development of the industrial capitalism which created a demand for credit and banking.

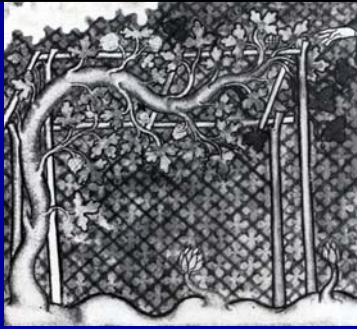
The rise of cities and their power led to the breakdown of the feudal system, the emergence of the middle class of managers, and a money economy.



Pruning and training vines, from an English copy of the Utrecht Psalter, 1000

Medieval Gardens. Harvey, 1981

History of Horticulture: Lecture 20



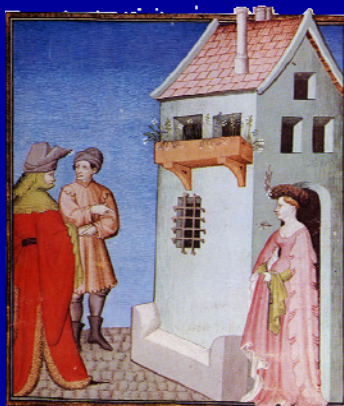
This French illumination of 1325 shows the detailed construction of grapevine trellises, frequently renewed at great expense. Such props are distinct from the tunnel arbors and pergolas built in pleasure gardens with ornamental vines.



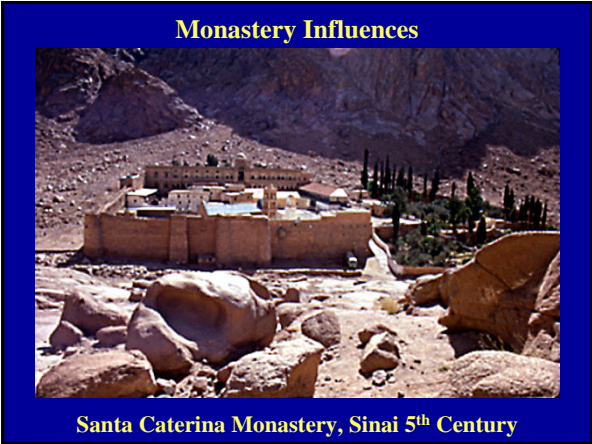
A paintings (1410–1420) by a master from the Upper Rhine that provides evidence for medieval plantsmanship, showing an informal combination of trees, border flowers, small plants, and lawn.

Medieval Gardens, Harvey, 1981

This painting from an illuminated manuscript of about 1400 depicts a very sturdy, businesslike window box.

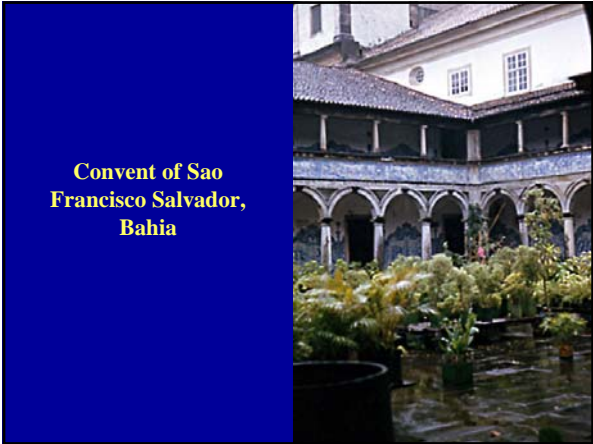


An Illustrated History of Gardening, Huxley, 1978





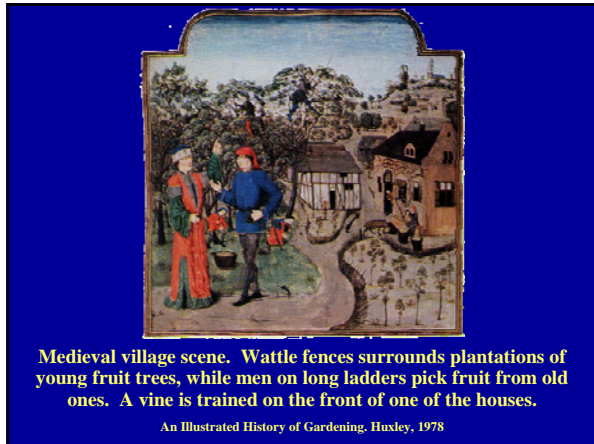


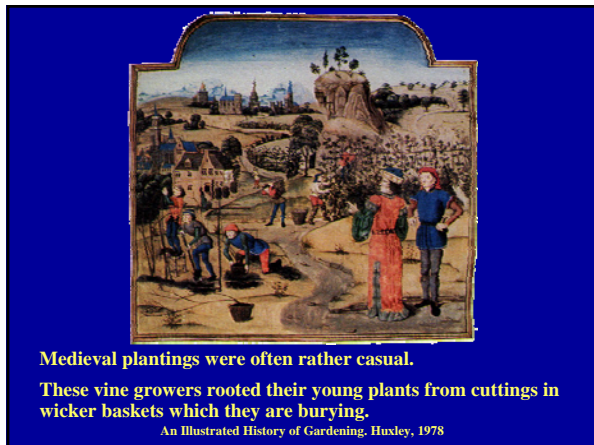


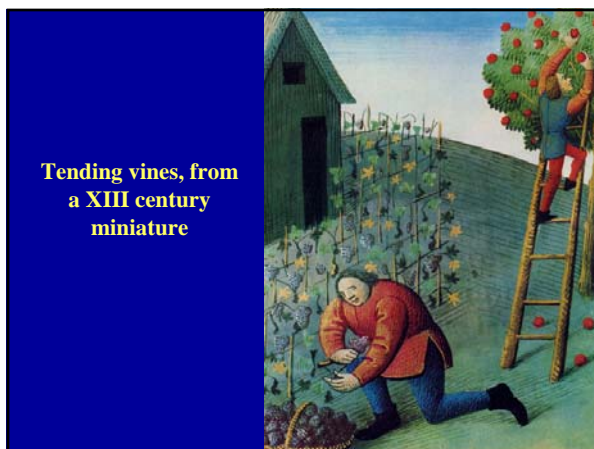


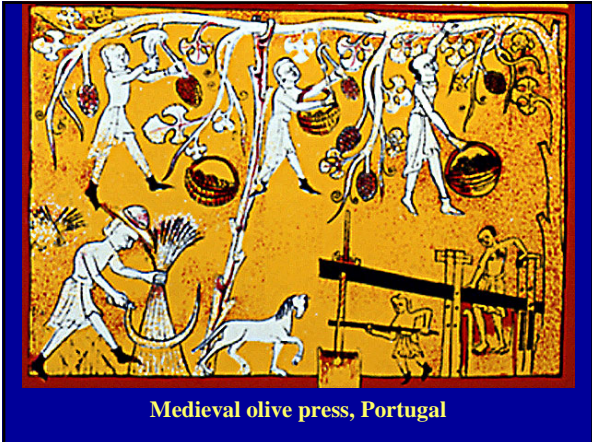


History of Horticulture: Lecture 20










Medieval Gardens

Royal Influences





This miniature, in the *Roman de Renaud de Montauban* of c 1475, shows Maugis and La Belle Oriande seated in a garden of rather formal design.

The pot of trained red carnations exhibits this flower in the first flush of its introduction to Northern Europe, but the turf is still beset with plants in the old manner of the flowery mead.

Medieval Gardens. Harvey, 1981

Fences and Enclosures



Wise man of Gotham
1347

Romance of the Rose
1481

The left illustration shows a man standing in a circular enclosure made of branches, with a bird perched on a branch above him. The right illustration shows a man standing in a similar enclosure, surrounded by a dense thicket of plants and flowers.

History of Horticulture: Lecture 20

