

Parks and gardens

A green travel in time and space



- continued Väla School - In the late 19th and early 20th century, schools had the important task of spreading knowledge about gardening. There was an emphasis on practical teaching and the school garden could serve as a basis for lessons in practically any subject.

As more of the rural population moved into towns in order to earn a living, the allotment movement began to grow considerably. An allotment helped to make household cash go further with the addition of fruit, potatoes and vegetables. **The Skansen allotments** 12 from the 1920s show that the beds were dominated by fruit trees, vegetables and potatoes. However, after several years cultivation of fruit and flowers also got started. The allotments from the 1940s show that more roses and perennials had been planted. The paths were gravel and garden furniture had been procured. Allotment life had become a leisure activity.

Gardens by noted architects at Skansen

Skansen is a place where noted architects have been involved in a variety of projects. The main entrance was designed in the 1930s by architects Erik Lundberg and Erik Fant in unadorned functional style. A reflecting pool was designed at the foot of the majestic, steep rock with thickets of hawthorn and briar.

The Rose Garden and Herb Garden were established around the same time in the 1960s and created by the same landscape gardener, Walter Bauer. The Rose Garden was designed in 1964 and is divided into sixteen compartments surrounded by box hedges. The western section of **the Rose Garden** 13 faces a row of lime trees. On the eastern side, the ordered style transitions into clumps of shrub roses growing more freely. **The Herb Garden** 14 was established by Alarik Behm, but remodelled by Bauer in 1964. He introduced around 100 herbs, medicinal plants and ornamental plants, all with ancient ties to Sweden.

Rocky archipelago outcrop that became Skansen

The hill where Skansen is located used to be a bare rocky archipelago outcrop with just low bushes and sparse clumps of windswept pines. Skansen's founder, Arthur Hazelius, transformed this barren landscape by bringing in vast quantities of topsoil and planting thousands of trees and bushes.

The aim was, and is, for visitors to be able to experience the various regions of Sweden in the form of buildings, garden plots, animals and the surrounding flora and fauna. The landscape around the homesteads is intended to link together humans, buildings, the plant and animal kingdom, and illustrate man's relationship to nature. The siting of the buildings is reasonably logical in relation to the geography of Sweden, with **the Sami Camp** 1 in the north and the Skåne Farmstead in the southern part of Skansen. This is also reflected in the stands of trees: spruce, pine and birch in the north and the alley of willows and **the beech forest** 2 near the Skåne Farmstead in the south.

Skansen - a horticultural journey through time and space

The 1700s

Skogaholm Manor 3 shows how a manor in central Sweden might have looked at the end of the 18th century. Country estates were where the art of gardening developed and new plant varieties spread from here to the garden plots of farmers and peasants.

A country estate in the late 18th century usually consisted of three segments - a large kitchen garden, a geometric baroque-inspired "French" garden and an informal landscape-type "English" park.

The link between cultivation and food culture was very strong - whatever you wanted to eat you had to grow. Growing in Skogaholm's kitchen garden are cabbages, lettuce, leguminous plants and root vegetables. The kitchen garden is encircled by fruit trees, primarily old apple varieties, such as Menigasker, Ökna Lökäpple

Hops *Húmulus lúpus* have been cultivated in Sweden since the early Middle Ages. It is a perennial climbing plant that can grow up to nine metres high. Hops were primarily used as a spice and preservative in beer production. In the past it was prescribed by law that every large estate had to grow a certain number of hop poles. Hops were also used as a relaxing and sleep-inducing medicinal herb.

Angelica *Angélica archangélica* is grown in the Herb Garden. The best known Swedish subspecies is fjällkvanne (*Angelica archangelica* L. ssp. *archangelica*). Angelica is a medicinal plant and is used to combat scurvy, fever, diarrhoea and colds and as an aid to digestion and an antispasmodic. It was also reputed to possess magical powers to drive away evil spirits and witches. For the Sami, who mostly lived on meat and fish, angelica was a highly essential vegetable and source of vitamin C.

and Kesäter. Behind the main building lies the baroque-inspired French garden with low stone terraces, box-hedge-encircled parterres, garden squares, privet hedges and lime hedges.

In contrast to the formal geometric shapes of the baroque style was the more natural "English" park surrounding Skogaholm Manor. Here trees and bushes were allowed to grow freely without being pruned and they were arranged in an irregular pattern to give a more natural yet nevertheless well-ordered impression. One of the most important crops in the 18th and 19th centuries was tobacco. It was significant to the economy of the country. Skansen's town quarter has tobacco plantations at **the Shoemaker's House** 4 and **the Tannery** 5.

The 1800s

In the early 1800s, houses in villages were still closely packed together and vegetables were grown in small enclosed fields such as at **the Mora Farmstead** 6. Hops, used for brewing beer, are cultivated here in a hop garden.



Farm grounds were used mostly as a working area and only to a small extent for cultivation.

In connection with various land division reforms, the peasants' small scattered allotments were amalgamated to make farming more effective. This redistribution resulted in villages being broken up and gave the peasants more space to grow things immediately alongside their dwelling houses.

The garden at **the Skåne Farmstead** 7 is a good example of a peasant garden in Skåne following the land division reform. It is symmetrically planned according to tradition and runs along the back of the long low house. In the centre is a round sun-shaped bed - solrundningen - with a tree at its heart, the principal tree in the garden. From this central

round bed, paths radiate out to the sides, forming four cultivation sections. The other long side of the garden has a centrally-positioned lilac arbour.

What was grown still had a practical emphasis, incorporating fruit trees and vegetables. Ornamental gardens in the early 1800s were by and large only to be found at the homes of the nobility and the clergy. Many 19th-century communities had not the time, energy or means to establish a garden of gravel paths and flower beds. Land was used to grow turnips and potatoes as at **the Farm Labourer's Cottage** 8. But even crofts like this would have had some ornamental plants. Generally on the mullbänk (earth bank) by the house walls. A mullbänk was a low earthwork that was shovelled up around the foundation for insulation. An example of a mullbänk can be seen at **Hornborga Cottage** 9. Perennials grow here, for seasoning, scent and decoration.

The 1800s were also characterised by intensive information campaigns to improve and spread horticulture throughout the country. Horticulture was regarded as something useful. Cultivation began to be more variable and more and more berries and fruits were grown. During the second half of the 19th century, a well-tended garden became a status symbol. It was a way of showing that you were industrious and modern. The finest and best-kept gardens were to be found at the homes of town-dwellers who had just entered the middle class. The garden plot in **the Printer's Courtyard** 10 in the town quarter shows a small town garden with vegetable patch, ornamental bushes and fruit trees. It was common to grow fruit on espaliers in order to make maximum use of space and prevent the trees from getting too big and casting shade over the garden.

The 1900s

Väla School 11 shows that primary school teachers also had a vegetable plot. The garden also has several beehives, which together with the harvest from fruit trees and berry bushes provided extra income for the teacher.

Wild tobacco *Nicotána rustica* and Virginia tobacco *Nicotína tabacum* are grown at Skansen. Both species are annuals and are those previously cultivated for tobacco production in Sweden. Tobacco has been grown in Sweden since the 17th century and is mostly used for snus.

Cardoon *Cýnara cardúnculus* is one of the plants grown in Skogaholm's kitchen garden. Cardoon is closely related to the globe artichoke and originates from the Mediterranean in the wild. Cardoon is perennial, but is grown as an annual from seed in Sweden, as it cannot tolerate frost. Cardoon is grown for its edible stems. In order to achieve the sought-after tender consistency the stems should be blanched 3-4 weeks before harvesting.

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Please visit our garden pages on the Web

We offers garden inspiration, advice and tips. There you can also see when we arrange programs and activities around the garden.

Also, look into the Skansen shop when you visit us. Besides crafts, design and building products we are selling gardening books and practical tools for green fingers.

Buy season tickets - your own key to the Skansen

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www.skansen.se
To Skansen take bus 44, tram 7, or ferry from Slussen.
Museum tram from Normalmstorg (during the summer).

Skansen's hidden gems

Skansen has numerous great locations to sit and relax or enjoy a picnic away from the hectic bustle of the city.

Motjärn 15, the tiny patch of woodland below the Miner's Homestead (Bergmansgården), is an almost magical place. The trees here are reflected in pools resembling woodland meres or abandoned mine workings. In May, wood anemones bloom here, and in summer you can cool off in the shade of the tall pines.

Why not buy some buns from the Skansen bakery and enjoy them in the lilac arbour of Skogaholm Manor or along the tree-lined path by the summer house? There are more arbours near **the Post Office** 16 and the Skåne Farmstead.

Inspiration from Skansen

You can find knowledge and inspiration for your own gardening activities at Skansen.

Beside the Allotment Huts is a different kind of garden plot, the Urban Garden, which is intended to provide inspiration for growing in small spaces. Useful plants are grown here in discarded barrels, pallet collars and buckets. Alongside is **the Garden of Possibilities** 17 - which takes a new theme every year.

The Butterfly Garden 18 at the Skåne Farmstead is filled with showy perennials, but also nettles and leguminous plants that caterpillars love. You can get ideas for how to adapt your own garden to help the survival of butterflies and caterpillars.

Near the Skåne Farmstead there is also a **greenhouse** 19, where Skansen's gardeners raise their own plants for planting out. In summer, flower shows take place with different themes from year to year.

There is much knowledge to be gained about traditional garden craft here at Skansen. During programme weekends our gardeners demonstrate how to 'spring-clean' a meadow or build a fence. During Hay-making season in June we demonstrate how to mow a meadow using a scythe. Go to www.skansen.se/kurser - for a variety of courses involving traditional crafts!