

garden will be sold: horseradish, 'where the large roots are designed for sale', should have their tops cut off; parsley, 'if large quantities are wanted for sale', should be sown in rows; apples, pears are 'very profitable in a family and for market; likewise walnuts 'are always profitable for sale'.⁴⁵

IV

The prosperous middle classes of early nineteenth-century London were, like the aristocracy before them, building pleasant country retreats with gardens. Catering to this demand, John Claudius Loudon turned his attention to the subject of 'A suburban villa or residence' in his *The Suburban Gardener and Villa Companion* of 1838. Loudon described suburban residences and gardens of all sizes. His largest example, the 'First-rate Suburban Garden' (a house, park and farm of between 50 and 100 acres), was an establishment of some sophistication, a cross between a hobby farm and a garden, which in the previous century had come to be called a *ferme ornée*. Although principally a place of pleasure, 'to increase the interest of a *ferme ornée*' cash crops might be tried:

the hop culture might be adopted; or apple pear, cherry, walnut, or filbert orchards might be introduced. A willow-ground would be suitable for some situations; and a coppice of ash trees for walkingsticks, crate-ware, or hop-poles, for others, and so on. Near large towns, the raising of garden crops and small fruits such as currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries etc. will form a source of interest for the cultivator of the *ferme ornée*, and one which, in some cases, may afford a little profit.

In suitable areas, amateur farmers could try growing for the market madder, woad, liquorice, rhubarb, poppy, and raising seeds for field and garden crops.⁴⁶

Loudon must have realized that he was encouraging a trend that was already well under way: the rich in the London suburbs were already gardening on a significant scale. In 1799 a detailed survey of tithable lands in the suburban parish of Ealing revealed that much land was devoted to market gardening but the gentry were also occupying a large amount of garden ground. Many of the gentry's gardens were walled: market gardens too had some or all of their land walled. Many private gardens were over an acre in extent and some were much larger. General Lassells and Edward Robert Esq. both had gardens exceeding two acres; Richard Meaux had a walled garden of 3¾ acres; and Thomas Wood esq. had one of four acres. All told, the gentry and aristocracy of Ealing occupied 85 acres of garden ground, compared with 289½ acres of commercial garden ground. Bearing in mind what Bradley thought could be done with one acre of suburban garden ground, and the size of the alleged annual sales from the fifteen-acre Beaufort House garden in Chelsea, it is highly likely that there were surpluses from many of the Ealing private gardens to sell at London markets. It may be significant that private gardens

⁴⁵ John Gibson, *The fruit gardener* (1768), pp. 25–6, 246, 270; Samuel Fullmer, *The young gardener's best companion* (1781), pp. 196, 303; Thomas Mawe and John Abercrombie, *Every man his own gardener* (1805), pp. 21,

88, 153, 675–6.

⁴⁶ John Claudius Loudon, *The suburban gardener and villa companion* (1838), pp. 623–52.

there were tithed more heavily than commercial; walled market garden ground was tithed at 20s. the acre, similar private ground attracted tithes of between 23s. and 26s. an acre.⁴⁷ Ealing was just one suburban parish. Some idea of the scale of suburban gardens at this time can be gained from examining the pioneering land-use map of London and its environs in 1800, produced by Thomas Milne. The map shows that there were many private gardens in the London suburbs, but it must be viewed with caution: Milne treated private gardens, paddocks and parks as one, so it is not possible to distinguish them.⁴⁸

The combined surpluses of private gardens in and near London was, claimed a polemical article in a gardening trade journal of 1843, having a noticeable effect on the fruit and vegetable market as a whole. 'Market gardeners have, among other evils, a just complaint, that gentlemen, aye, noblemen, send their produce to market, and with their commodities, which they can afford to sell at less than men who get their living by it, depreciate all their prices.' The editorial continued:

To us, it seems a despicable idea, that wealthy competitors should be scrambling to sell their surplus commodities, instead of distributing them among their poor neighbours ... the nobleman who sells cabbages and onions ought to be known as a dealer. He has no right to be received as a gentleman when he gets part of his income by costermongering; and no man who gets his bread by gardening, can compete with a rival to whom price is no object, and whose very act of selling appears to be an endeavour to injure an industrious class.⁴⁹

V

The conclusion must be that for many centuries non-commercial garden sales did have an impact on the market and by the nineteenth century this was considered significant. Twenty-five per cent of the market tolls from gardeners at Covent Garden in the mid-eighteenth century were from casual traders. If many of these were private gardeners, and more private gardeners traded there without paying market dues at all, then, adding in the trades in seeds and plants *between* gardeners and the rewarded 'gifts' by the poor to their social superiors, this 'non-commercial' supply of produce may have appreciably augmented the horticultural market. Similarly, if we consider the number of monastic institutions in England prior to the Dissolution, these too may have made a significant contribution to the amount of fruit and vegetables available at markets up and down the country.

In this paper we have drawn attention to an aspect of the trade in fruit and vegetables that has, prior to this, remained undescribed. This paper has drawn information from a variety of sources and covered several centuries. There is scope for more detailed research on this topic, utilizing the archives of institutions, market records, and household accounts to build up a picture of the trade in surplus produce of non-commercial gardens nationwide and perhaps, ultimately, to try and quantify it.

⁴⁷ LMA, DRO/037/A/08/001.

⁴⁸ *Thomas Milne's land use map of London and environs in 1800*, ed., G. B. G. Bull (London Topographical

Soc., 118–19, 1975–6).

⁴⁹ Editorial in *The Gardener and Practical Florist* I (1843), p. 2.

Appendix: A list of sales of garden produce from Coopersale Hall, Essex, c.1740.

Rec[eive]d for things out of the Garden

For Sallets	6d.	For Currants	1s.	0d.
For Cucumbers	1s. 4d.	For 2 Peaks of Beans	1s.	0d.
For 2 Peaks of Peases	1s. 0d.	For Gooseberries	3s.	0d.
For 3 Peaks of Beans	1s. 0d.	For Currants	4s.	0d.
For Collaflowers	1s. 6d.	For 4 Peaks of Beans	1s.	0d.
For 4 Peaks of Peases	1s. 0d.	For Cabbages	1s.	0d.
For 4 Peaks of Beans	1s. 4d.	For Plumes	1s.	0d.
For Cabbages	1s. 0d.	For 2 Peaks of Peases		8d.
For Cucumbers	6s. 0d.	For 4 Peaks of Beans	1s.	0d.
For Cherries	1s. 0d.	For Cabbages	1s.	0d.
For Apricocks	1s. 0d.	For Gooseberries	2s.	0d.
For 2 Peaks of Beans	8d.	For Collaflowers	1s.	0d.
For Cabbages	1s. 1d.	For Grapes	1s.	0d.
For Plumes	6d.	For Carrots	1s.	0d.
For Apricocks	6d.	For Cabbages		6d.
For 3 Peaks of Beans	1s. 0d.	For Cabbages	1s.	0d.
For 4 Peaks of Beans	1s. 0d.	Rec[eive]d	£1	19s. 0d.
For Cabbages	1s. 1d.	Disbursed as by bill	£1	0s. 3½d.
For Plumes	6d.	Remains		18s. 8½d.
For Gooseberries	1s. 0d.			

Source: Essex RO, D/DU/363/4, fo. 97.