



1. Hampton Court. (Michael Stokes/Shutterstock)

1. READING

Read the texts about gardens and find out the peculiarities of the three types of gardens they describe.

The English garden

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the principal gardening style of Europe was the ‘formal garden’ after the Italian and French models. It had spectacular fountains, rectangular ponds, statues and terraces, gravel paths, flower beds and walls of hedges.

A new style of garden emerged in Britain in the early 18th century, the ‘landscape garden’, where trees and plants grow in a natural way. It usually included a lake, groves of trees, gently rolling lawns, classical temples, Gothic ruins, bridges, and statues as ornaments.

This was an entirely English invention, which, by the end of the century had spread across Europe and was going to have a major influence on the form of the public parks and gardens all over the world. It is known as the ‘English garden’.

The most influential figure in the development of the English landscape garden was Lancelot “Capability” Brown (1716 - 1783). He designed over 170 gardens, many of which still endure, and is remembered as England’s greatest gardener.

The Glory of the Garden

*Our England is a garden
which is full of stately views
of borders, beds and shrubberies,
and lawn and avenues,
with statues on the terraces,
and peacocks strutting by [...]*

R. Kipling



2. Studley Royal.

The cottage garden

The 'cottage garden' is a style of garden that uses traditional materials and a mixture of ornamental and edible plants. English in origin, the cottage garden has a special informal appeal that helps give it its grace and charm. It appears entirely natural with its plants placed close together and seemingly at random and its great mixture of scents and colours. Arches, trellises, pergolas, wooden fences and gates, all give an informal look and feel to a cottage garden.

Homely and functional gardens connected to working-class cottages go back several centuries, but a more carefully designed version of them grew in 1870s England, in reaction to the more structured and rigorously maintained English estate gardens.

The earliest cottage gardens had more vegetables and herbs than flowers, along with some fruit trees. Over time, flowers became more dominant. A traditional English cottage garden includes perennials such as hollyhocks, delphinium, marigolds, tulips, daisies, foxglove, cowslips, and many varieties of roses. It also has climbing plants, such as wisteria, honeysuckle and ivy, and flowering herbs such as rosemary, lavender and thyme.



3. Cottage at St James' Park, London. (James D. Hay/Shutterstock)

2. VOCABULARY

Make two lists, in alphabetical order, of the plants and of the ornamental elements mentioned in the texts about gardens.

3. READING

Read the text below and fill in the gaps with the missing words.

available • boroughs • ethnic • family • found • grow • interest • owned • planting • plot • pounds • price • sizes • threat • vegetables



4. Growing vegetables in London. (Anatoliy Samara/Shutterstock)

Grow your own vegetables in London!

Allotments have long been a feature of London's urban landscape. An allotment is a (1) ... of land which can be rented for growing fruit and (2) ..., for personal and (3) ... use.

Allotment gardens are usually (4) ... by local councils. They come in different (5) ... and shapes and their rent is between 30 and 100 (6) ... a year. In London there are about 10,000 allotments (covering 200 ha) scattered in various (7) ..., where Londoners can (8) ... their own vegetables. Many of them are under (9) ..., particularly in central boroughs where the (10) ... of building land is incredibly high: 1500 allotments have been wiped out in the last ten years.

Today the London allotment is no longer the province of older men (11) ... cabbages and potatoes, but of large numbers of young men and women with families and a growing (12) ... in organic food. It has become a place to spend time outdoors with the kids.

Many growers belong to (13) ... minorities. They grow the typical vegetables from their countries, which cannot be (14) ... in supermarkets.

The London Council has just opened a website to help Londoners visualise the allotments which are still (15) Demands for allotments have never been higher: there are more than 4300 people on London's allotment waiting lists.

