All that in this delightfull Gardin growes
The Garden of Health:  
Gart der Gesundheit, Hortus Sanitatis

The herbal is a medical garden in book form—hence the titles Hortus Sanitatis and Gart der Gesundheit—and as such contains data on the appearance, gathering, preparation, and use of medicinal plants. Remedies such as the pharmacologist or herbalist variety will find the Garden of Health; the theologian will discover new Edens and Gethsemanes; the cynic will delight in Edward Gorey’s Evil Garden; the hedonist can romp through Chaucer’s Romaunt of the Goddess. A gardener can spend a lifetime learning the natural elements and the garden pests by the proper placement of scarecrows, regular fertilizing and weeding of a well-kept bed, and intelligent consultation of garden books, wherein lies the wisdom of hundreds of years of horticultural experience. If he follows faithfully all the rules that he will learn here, he will be a country gentleman. Special Collections is dedicated to the preservation of these and the other books and manuscripts housed here for use of gardeners today and for many hundreds of years into the future.

The Garden of the Merry Wanderers of the Night

With the first rays of the morning sun the gardener discovers that his worst Midsummer Night’s nightmares have come true: in the spirit of Puck, Shakespeare’s ‘merry wanderer of the night’, mischievous natural elements have been at work and play in the garden overnight. Night after night they creep through the fence on paw and tendril, drop out of the sky or burrow up through the soil to lay waste the lettuce patch, crowd out the petunias, drown the strawberries and make a mockery of the gardener’s dream of Paradise on Earth. The Department of Special Collections has outstanding holdings in the natural sciences with special strengths in ornithology, medical botany, Linnaean, and 18th century agriculture and economic botany.


The Garden of the Gardener

The gardener can spend a lifetime learning the practical side of gardening. He can learn to outwit the natural elements and the garden pests by the proper placement of scarecrows, regular fertilizing and weeding of a well-kept bed, and intelligent consultation of garden books, wherein lies the wisdom of hundreds of years of horticultural experience. If he follows faithfully all the rules that he will learn here, he will be a country gentleman. Special Collections is dedicated to the preservation of these and the other books and manuscripts housed here for use of gardeners today and for many hundreds of years into the future.

The Garden of the Herbals:  
Plantarum et stirpium historia

Arnaldus de Villanova (d.1313?). DYSERTRATUM

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The Garden of Eden

It is often said that the emotion shared by poets, musicians, monks, philosophers, artists and lovers alike is nothing less than a longing to return to the Garden of Eden, a nostalgia for Paradise. But for most mortals, who can resist anything but Temptation and wouldn't care to take chances in Eden, Special Collections offers a less terrifying experience: here one can read about Birds of Paradise in books from one of the finest collections of ornithology in the world, the Ellis Collection; fig-leaves uncovered in a Dutch work on fruit culture; serpents safely attached to the printed page; and Charles Darwin's now-you-see-it-now-you-don't exposé of the Truth behind the Creation story. It is hoped that the curious will be tempted to sample more from our Tree of Knowledge, and as long as no apples are eaten on the premises, the reader need not fear expulsion from this Earthly Paradise on Mount Oread.

Saint John Chrysostomus, Patriarch of Constantinople (d.407). [EXTRACTS FROM THE WORKS IN RUSSIAN] manuscript: Russia, 16th-17th centuries.

The Kindergarten

Polly Garter complains in Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*: “Nothing grows in our garden, only washing. And babies.” Although we have yet to see babies or even children of kindergarten age browsing in the reading room, a few eight year-olds have become readers in the Department of Special Collections; sometimes, but not always, they read books from the collection of late 18th to early 20th century children’s literature. Sometimes they read garden books.

John Tharpe (d.407). [EXTRACTS FROM THE WORKS IN RUSSIAN] manuscript: Russia, 16th-17th centuries.
The Landscape Gardener

Most of us gardeners find ourselves in the predicament of the poor gardener whose handbook has told him to "Use the winter period for repairing the pergola, arches, or summer-house" except that we have no pergola, arches, or summer-house. Or, he reads, "Evens in January it is possible to lay down a lawn"—perhaps in the attic? Or, "The chief thing most of us gardener find ourselves in the predicament of science fiction, rather than our architecture collections."


West of Eden: Native Americans

The fields, forests, and gardens of the New World, from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic, have furnished our globe with some of its most important food and drug plants, including the potato, cinchona, Indian corn, chocolate, and the members of the sunflower genus. Many rare and botanically interesting species such as the Curly-grass fern of New Jersey and the carnivorous Venus’ flytrap are indigenous Americans. Early American botany is an area of active buying by the Department of Special Collections and in active use by students of the history of botany.


Theodore de Bry (1528-1598), editor. WUNDER-BILICHE, DOCH Wahrhaftige ERKLARUNG VON DER GEGENENHIT UND SITTEN DER WELTEN IN VERGEBLICH HocKER prepared. JAMES HELYAR designed both.

Carpar Connellin (1667-1731). PRAELUDIA BOTANICA. Lugduni Batavorum, F. Harling, 1731.

Prunings

The natural history collections in the Department of Special Collections are so rich that the exhibit maker was quickly frustrated by space limitations and had to eliminate from display many a worthy and attractive volume. The works shown here are some of those "prunings" and themselves constitute a selection made only with difficulty. It’s the dilemma of Czech writer Karel Capek’s poor gardener, who in April finds that all his cables are covered with pots of some hundred and seventy seedlings and, "who, with a fading plant in his hand, runs around his little garden twenty times looking for an inch of soil where nothing is growing."


Ndémao, "D. stramonium?), jassoucer (Costa, Tucumán, ... alle druck material., 1906.


Johann Sebastian Muller (1715-1790?). ILLUSTRATIO SYSTEMATIS SEXUALIS LINNAEANI. Frankfurt ad Meinym, Varrensopp et W essen, 1787. 2 vols. vol. 2.


Joannis Hedwig (1732-1799). SPECIES MUS- CORUM FRONDOSORUM DESCRIPTAE. Lipsiae, J. A. Barth, 1801.


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The exhibit and the gallery guide have been supported by funds from two Federal agencies, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. All that in this delightful Garden grows forms part of a program organized jointly by the Spencer Research Library, the Spencer Museum of Art and the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, and Dumbarton Oaks, Washington.

Sally Haines Hocker prepared the exhibit and wrote the guide; James Helyar designed both.

The illustrations on the front page, clockwise from the top left, are: "Lupulus," Humulus lupulus, hop; "Alkegenki," Physalis alkekengi, winter cherry; "Ficus," F. carica, fig; and "Persicus," Prunus persica(?), peach; all taken from the Hortus saniatitit, 1517. The title of the exhibit is a quotation from Edmund Spenser’s Faerie Queene.