



Château de Chambord 15 October 2020

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In recent years, there has been a strong revival of interest in fruit and kitchen gardens and in particular in heritage fruit and kitchen gardens. This offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on the specific conservation issues and challenges posed by such gardens today.

This forum is organised by les Amis du Potager du Roi and the Walled Kitchen Gardens Network. They propose four objectives for this event:

- Bring together a group of owners and managers of historic fruit and kitchen gardens, and experts in the field, to share their experiences, knowledge and skills.
- Define the specific features of the conservation and management of a historic fruit and kitchen garden.
- Establish a catalogue of good practice for ensuring the conservation and the future of historic fruit and vegetable gardens, based on concrete examples from across Europe.
- Build the future by helping the community of conservation of historic fruit and vegetable gardens develop richer relationships.

The day will be organised around presentations and testimonies of experts and people involved with these important gardens, followed by exchanges and discussions.

The proceedings of this symposium including contributions and debates will be published after the event.

European symposium on the conservation of historic fruit and kitchen gardens



Themes

- The great fragility of historic fruit and kitchen gardens: what does their nourishing function really mean? Why are so many of these gardens disappearing?
- How to meet the practical challenges of implementing a restoration plan for a historic fruit and vegetable garden? A British example.
- How to conserve the historic elements and know-how of those "gardens with a history"? Several European examples: a genuine historic nourishing garden preserved until today. Preservation of old methods of keeping fruits and vegetables. Conservation of 19th century greenhouses and of the know-how of cultivation under glass. The art of training trees in espaliers and counter espaliers. The management and training of volunteers.
- What is the role of historic fruit and vegetable gardens in the conservation and transmission of ancient horticultural know how? What is their role in the promotion of excellence in horticulture and ecology today and in the future?
- How to ensure the future of the gardens "with a history"? How to invent new functions that replace the nourishing function of the garden, correspond to a robust business model and are in harmony with its history. Several European examples: a garden to serve a hotel restaurant, a garden with a social function, and a garden museum.
- How to achieve excellence at multiple levels: conservation, horticulture and ecology, transmission and education and economics? The intelligence of the use of space.
- In conclusion: Can we draw up a catalogue of good practices for the conservation and long life of fruit and kitchen gardens with a history?

Speakers

- Jim Buckland et Sarah Wain, West Dean, United Kingdom.
- Serge Conreur et Thierry Hay, Abbaye de Saint Georges de Boscherville, France.
- Muriel de Curel, Château de Saint Jean de Beauregard, France.
- Chris et Karen Cronin, The Walled Gardens at Croome Court , United Kingdom.
- Dominique Popihn, Château Colbert, France.
- Stéphane Repas Mendes, Château de Prangins, Switzerland.
- Ghislain d'Ursel, Château de Hex, Belgium.
- Alix de Saint Venant, Château de Valmer, France.
- Herman Van den Bossche et Marcel Vossen, Gaasbeek, Belgium.

The symposium is co-chaired by Susan Campbell (Founder of the Walled Gardens Network) and Alix de Saint Venant (Château de Valmer).

Baptiste Saulnier (Chambord) will guide us for the visit of the new Jardins-Potagers of Chambord.

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Target audience

- Owners and managers of historic fruit and kitchen gardens
- Managers of historic buildings with a fruit and kitchen garden, wishing to reflect on the conservation and plant heritage of these gardens.
- Gardeners – professional and volunteers
- Members of associations interested in fruit and kitchen gardens, fruit and vegetable production, in gardening etc.
- Landscape architects and designers, businesses specialized in landscape design and management.
- Nurseries and seed producers
- Students

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, there is no fee for attending the symposium. Participants will only have to pay for their lunch at a local restaurant.

Place and date

15 October 2020. Château de Chambord.

16 October 2020. Optional visits. Possibility to meet the owners of heritage fruit and kitchen gardens, in the region of Chambord, and to visit their gardens.

Contact

For the registration form and for receiving the material for the symposium.

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