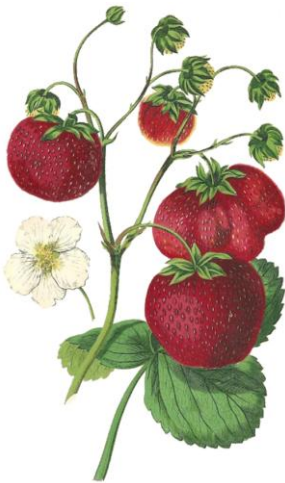


Jam Yesterday Jam Tomorrow is a community led project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to uncover and restore the history of market gardening in Middlesex through research, oral histories and the building of a model market garden to showcase traditional methods of growing and lost varieties. To find out more visit: www.jamyesterdayjamtomorrow.com.

Lost Heritage Varieties Factsheet

1 Historical Context



Keens Strawberry was a popular local variety from which the modern strawberry derives.

Throughout the 19th century, the economy of Middlesex was dominated by the need to feed London's booming population. Parishes along the river, and those within easy walking distance of the hungry markets of London, became centres for commercial agriculture. Over time the rapid expansion of London's urban area forced out market gardeners from central London into the southwest suburbs, and a number of Enclosure Acts allowed common grazing land to become market gardens. Farmers became horticulturalists, and farms became market gardens and orchards. The arrival of the railway to Twickenham, Teddington and Whitton in the middle of the-century allowed market gardeners to move away from the river, deeper into Middlesex. In many areas, employment in agriculture exceeded that in trade, manufacturing, and handicrafts. Gradually, however, as London continued to grow, house-building for the new 'commuter classes' began, and orchards began to give way to houses. The industry peaked in the 1870s, and then moved to the Hampton area, where large glasshouses allowed growers to produce fruit and vegetables more efficiently. Several of the Hampton nurseries continued to thrive through the Second World War and after, until their land was finally built upon to become Nurserylands housing estate.

2 Localities

A report for the Board of Agriculture in 1794 described Middlesex from Hounslow to Kensington as "one great garden for the supply of London".

BRENTFORD – had orchards as early as 1578 and by 1746 there were orchards all the way from Brentford to Ealing. Hugh Ronalds and Sons of New Brentford were nurserymen noted for growing fruit trees and in 1829 grew some 300 varieties of apple. By 1843 Brentford was considered "the great fruit and vegetable garden of London". About 30 people per acre were employed, twice as many women as men. Typically, soft fruit such as raspberries, currants and gooseberries were grown under apple and pear trees. As the 19th century progressed green vegetables and root crops became important, cabbage widely grown by 1897 and rhubarb in 1917. About 1927, Robert Addey of Ealing Road was noted for growing mushrooms.

CHISWICK - had gardens and orchards by 1746 with thefts of vegetables being recorded in 1798. In 1785 Richard Williams specialised in heathers and grew the “Williams” pear. The market gardens spread to the south of Turnham Green and by 1821 included land which was leased to the Royal Horticultural Society. During the 19th century market gardens thrived, which in turn stimulated the growing of osiers in the area for basket making. By the 20th century there were only about 8 businesses though several continued well into the 20th century.

ISLEWORTH & HESTON – Fruit growing started in Isleworth in the 17th century and by the 19th century raspberries and strawberries were the main crops. Flowers such as wallflowers and other fruits were grown on a large scale by the end of the 19th century. Heston’s market gardens were slower to develop as this was an area originally known for wheat production but by 1901, 1000 men in Heston and Isleworth were working on the land, though this had fallen to 434 by 1951.

TEDDINGTON – In the 19th century market gardening enjoyed a period of importance. A large nursery with orchard was founded in 1838 and R. D. Blackmore, author of “Lorna Doone”, had a nursery there. In 1898 another nursery had hothouses growing ferns, lilies, roses and other flowers for cutting. Much of the land was built over in the 20th century though there were still 200 people working in agriculture in around 1921.

TWICKENHAM - In the 1600s fruit trees, plants, roots and flowers were recorded including cherry trees and grapes growing on or near the site of Orleans House. From 1780-1797 raspberries and strawberries were sent to London and by 1801 peas and beans, potatoes and turnips were grown. In 1846 most of the market gardens were on the north and north east of the town spreading to land between Whitton and the Crane. By 1899 wallflowers and other cut flowers were often grown under fruit trees. Typically there would be 50-60 acres of fruit and almost 10 acres of flowers. In 1845, 9 market gardeners are listed and in 1911 nearly 400 men worked in market gardens and agriculture. In 1947 there were 13 agricultural holdings.

3 Local Specialities

Local areas often became noted for particular produce.

Heston was noted for cherries, whilst **Isleworth** became well known for growing raspberries and strawberries, Wallflowers and spearmint. Wallflowers were also grown in **Feltham and Twickenham**. **Hounslow and Whitton** were known for roses, lilies of the valley and other flowers. By the end of the 19th century **Whitton** was also known for narcissi, apples, plums and pears with some tomatoes and cucumber grown under glass. In **Chiswick** there were orchards and a variety of vegetables were grown together with osiers, which were used for making the baskets used by market gardeners. **Brentford** was known as “the great fruit and vegetable garden of London” with cabbages extensively grown by 1897 and rhubarb by 1917 and mushrooms around 1927. In **Twickenham** raspberries and strawberries, peas and beans, potatoes and turnips were important. It is thought that one of the first commercial producers of forced strawberries was a man called Smith who was from Twickenham and had grown them from before 1850. In **Teddington and Hampton**, there were nurseries growing cut flowers and pears and peaches were grown in **Teddington**.

Some of the produce and the localities where they were recorded as growing –

Carnations - Hampton; **Daffodils** - Hampton; **Forget-me-Nots & Honesty** – Feltham; **Narcissi** - Whitton; **Violets** - Richmond, Sheen, Strawberry Hill, Teddington, Twickenham, **Wallflowers** - Feltham, Isleworth, Twickenham

Apples – Brentford, Chelsea, Chiswick, Cranford, Feltham, Fulham, Kingsland, Hounslow, Isleworth, Kingston-upon-Thames, Merton, Northolt Park, Osterley, Pinner, Putney, Turnham Green, Twickenham, Vauxhall, Whitton; **Bullaces Plum** - Hampton, Hounslow; **Cherries** - Brentford, Feltham, Heston; **Currants** - Brentford, Isleworth; **Gooseberries** – Feltham; **Grapes** - Chiswick, Cranford, Isleworth, Potter’s Bar, Turnham Green;

Greengages – Isleworth; **Loganberry** – Hounslow; **Melon** - Potter’s Bar, Rabley; **Peaches** - Barnet, Fulham, Teddington; **Pears** - Brentford, Feltham, Isleworth, Teddington, Turnham Green, Whitton, Isleworth; **Pine-Apples** – Isleworth; **Plums** - Brompton, Chiswick, Feltham, Fulham, Hampton Court, Hayes, Isleworth, Kingston-upon-Thames, Sheen, Whitton; **Raspberries** - Feltham, Isleworth, Twickenham; **Rhubarb** Feltham, Hammersmith; **Strawberries** -Acton, Brentford, Chiswick, Deptford, Twickenham, Isleworth, Worton

Asparagus – Chiswick; **Beans** - Feltham, Twickenham; **Beetroot** -Feltham & most nurseries; -Chiswick, Shepperton; **Brussel Sprouts** – Feltham; **Cabbages/Savoys** – Feltham; **Carrots** - grown in most nurseries; **Camomile** – Mitcham; **Cauliflower**- Feltham & most nurseries; **Celery** - Chiswick, Fulham Fields, Thames Valley; **Cucumber** - Isleworth, Tooting, Whitton; **Curly Kale** –Feltham; **Chilies & Capiscums** –Isleworth; **Jerusalem Artichokes**- Feltham; **Leeks** – Feltham; **Lettuce** -Gunnersbury, Hammersmith, Kew; **Liquorice** - Mitcham; **Mangold Worze** – Feltham; **Marrow** – Feltham; **Mushrooms** - Chiswick, Feltham, Fulham; **Onions** - Chiswick, Deptford, Feltham, Fulham, Mitcham; **Parsley** – Feltham; **Peas** - Feltham, Twickenham **Potatoes** - Feltham, Twickenham; **Turnips** - Feltham, Twickenham; **Peppermint** – Mitcham; **Scarlet Runners** – Wandsworth; **Seakale** - Barnes, Chiswick, Fulham Fields; **Spearmint** - Fulham, Gunnersbury and Isleworth; **Spinach** – Feltham; **Tomatoes** -Feltham, Whitton; **Watercress** – Uxbridge; **White Poppies** - Mitcham

Local Varieties of Fruit and Vegetables, a few of which are still available

APPLES	
Early Julyan	Introduced to southern England by Hugh Ronalds’ nursery at Brentford
Hounslow Wonder	Developed by S. Spooner & Sons nursery in Hounslow, awarded medal 1910 by RHS
Morris’s Russet	Raised by Morris, market gardener in Brentford (described 1850)
Osterley Pippin	Grown at Osterley Park - raised from seed of Ribston Pippin
Packhorse & Robinson’s Pippin	Developed by Robinson in the gardens of the Packhorse Inn, Turnham Green
Royal Jubilee	Raised by John Graham of Hounslow. Introduced 1887 for Queen Victoria’s Jubilee
Scarlet Pearmain	Introduced in about 1800 by Bell, Land Steward to the Duke of Northumberland at Syon House
Spring Grove Codlin	Named after Sir Joseph Banks’ estate in Spring Grove, Isleworth - “All who tasted the pye agreed they had not met with any autumn apple which, for baking could be compared to this new one”
Tower’s Glory	Developed in Hounslow

Black Tartarian Cherry	Originally from Russia and distributed by Hugh Ronalds of Brentford
------------------------	---

GRAPES	
Stillward’s Sweetwater	Introduced by Mr Stillward of the Barley Mow Tavern in Turnham Green

CUCUMBER	Syon House
----------	------------

PEARS	Williams Bon Chretien	Cultivated by nurseryman “Williams” and introduced to America by Enoch Bartlett where it is known as the Bartlett Pear
-------	-----------------------	--

PLUMS		
Dry’s Seedling & Duke of Edinburgh	Mr Dry of Hayes was awarded a 1 st class medal by Royal Horticultural Society for these plums in 1869 and 1870 respectively	
Poupart’s Plum (Purple Gage)	Developed by Poupart’s from their Brompton nursery	

RHUBARB	Myatt’s Victoria	Raised by Myatt’s of New Cross, Surrey
---------	------------------	--

STRAWBERRY	Keen's Seedling	Developed by Michael Keen of Isleworth who had 60 acres in Worton;
	Royalty	Developed by Mr Trotman of Isleworth
	Superb Strawberry	Developed by John Wilmot of Isleworth

4 Find out more

Please visit our project website to find more resources:

www.jamyesterdayjamtomorrow.com/marketgardeningfactsheets

This factsheet was researched and written by Carolyn Timms, Research Volunteer.