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The review of the book WEIHENSTEPHAN TRIAL GARDEN IN BAVARIA

Bernd Hertle mit Fotografien von Christa Brand, Sichtungsgarten Weihenstephan, Trial Garden Weihenstephan, 96 pages, 70 colour photographs, Stuttgart (Hohenheim) 2015, Verlag Eugen Ulmer, ISSN 978-3-8001-8298-5, www.ulmer.de

In *Weihenstephan* there was originally a monastery with a garden, which is now part of the town of Freising (near Munich). The gardens of Weihenstephan are now an integral part of the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences. They are located on the hillside of Mount Weihenstephan and refer to at least several hundred years of horticultural tradition in Bavaria. The Weihenstephan Trial Garden itself was created in 1947, although the Oberdieckgarten in the vicinity of the Weihenstephan Trial Garden was created as early as the 1920s. It was founded by Professor Richard Hansen. The very idea of a "trial garden" comes from the most famous German gardener and gardening philosopher Karl Foerster. Richard Hansen himself worked for Karl Foerster in Bornim-Potsdam as a gardener (1935-1936). The garden now has more than 5 hectares and was managed until 1978 by R. Hansen, then by prof. Peter Kiermeiers (1978-2006) and since 2006 by prof. Bernd Hertle. Planting in the garden is based on ecological and aesthetic assumptions. They give a good insight into the use of woody plants, perennials and bulbs, as well as one- and two-year-old plants.

The Weihenstephan Trial Garden is located at an altitude of 470 m above sea level, with an average temperature of 8.1°C and average rainfall of up to 792 mm. The coldest average winter temperatures are -20°C to -23°C. Therefore, it is not possible to cultivate plants not resistant to frost in the show garden (the zone of frost resistance for the garden is 4a).

In Germany and Europe, there is a great deal of interest in Trial Garden Weihenstephan. This is why the director of the show garden, prof. Bernd Hertle, developed the text of "Weihenstephan trial garden". The text of this study is available in German and English. Christa Brand took 70 colourful and excellent photographs. A book by B. Hertle and Ch. Brand received the German Horticultural Book Award in 2015 in the category "Best illustrated volume" (third place). The following components can be distinguished in the book: "Introduction" (pp. 4-11); "Wonderful flower beds" (pp. 12-43); "Planting of plants located in the southern areas" (pp. 44-59); "Rock Garden" (p.60-61); "Happy connection – perennials and woodlots" (pp. 62-83); "Moist bed and water" (pp. 84-87); "Plant Shows and Plant Collections" (pp. 88-96).

The "Introduction" presents the history and development of Trial Garden Weihenstephan, the premises of the plant stand and the division of the garden into individual parts: "Flower beds at water reservoirs"; "Pastel flower bed"; "Purple flower bed"; "Siberian iris bed"; "Woodlots and edges of trees"; "Purple-yellow-purple plantings"; "Water garden"; "Geranium hillside"; "Kniphofia hillside"; "Red flower bed"; "Open edges of trees"; "Peony bed"; "Iris germanica flower bed"; "Miscanthus and summer flora"; "Cinquefoil hillside"; "Heath"; "The flower bed of the German Union of Perennial Gardeners"; "Yellow plots"; "Daylily bed"; "Astilbe planting"; "Oak plots"; "Bright flower bed"; "Spring road and hosta"; "Hazel plots"; "Wild fruit trees arboretum".

The Trial Garden is a good opportunity for growing flowerbed perennials. They are located around the main roads in the garden. These are both "pure" bedding plantings of certain perennials and "Mixed Borders", where European smoke tree (*Cotinus coggygia*) European smoke tree, 'Royal Purple', hibiscuses, and roses in many varieties can be found alongside perennials and annual plants. The planting of 'Miscanthus and summer flora' is very characteristic. Their basis here is Chinese Miscanthus in various varieties (*Miscanthus sinensis*), which form the framework for many annual plants, including Patagonian vervain (*Verbena bonariensis*), Mexican aster (*Cosmos bipinnatus*), cleome (*Cleoma spinosa*), snapdragon and zinnia. The latter bloom mainly in summer, like giant hyssop (*Agastache* 'Blue Fortune') or blue globe-thistle (*Echinops bannaticus* 'Taplow Blue'). "The 'red flower bed' includes the Indian shot (*Canna indica* 'Schwabenstolz') and the large-leaved castor bean (*Ricinus communis* 'Carmenata Rot'). "The 'scaffolding' of such beds forms a shrub (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diabola' and varieties of Chinese Miscanthus). It is filled with zinnias, dahlias and annual grasses (*Pennisetum villosum*). The 'Purple bed' is very colourful. Here we distinguish European smoketree with purple leaves (*Cotinus coggyria* 'Royal Purple'), beautiful roses, of 'Veilchenblau' and 'Mozart' varieties) as well as perennials: penstemons, geraniums (*Geranium x magnificum*) and alumblooms (*Heuchera* 'Molly Bush').

There are also pastel flower beds in the Trial Garden. It consists of hops (*Humulus lupulus* 'Aureus'), mallows (*Alcea rugosa*), daylilies (*Heemerocallis* 'Atlas'), asphodels, called 'ox-eye daisy' (e.g. *Leucanthemum* 'Gruppenstolz'). In spring, however, lilac tulips ('Westpoint', 'White Triumphator') and spurges (*Euphorbia polychroma*) bloom.

The "Flower Bed of the German Union of Perennial Gardeners" deserves attention in the trial Garden. It was founded in Weihenstephan on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Union. In the spring there bloom spurges, late-blooming tulips, as well as a decorative apple tree (*Malus toringo* var. *sargentii*). In autumn, asters (*A. novae-angliae* 'Violetta'), goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks') and beautiful species of grasses bloom. The 'Yellow Plot' area, on the other hand, is used for growing bedding perennials, which mainly originate in North America. In summer, warm yellow colours of sneeze-weeds, goldenrod and rudbeckias dominate. "Bright Flower Bed" has mainly plants with white flowers: goats' beard (*Aruncus* 'Horatio'), white flowering sage (*Salvia nemorosa* 'Adrian'), maiden silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Variegatus') and a long-lived tulip from the Viridiflora 'Spring Green' group. Dwarf asters and numerous grasses (mainly maiden silver grass and *Panicum virgatum* millet) bloom in autumn.

The next part of the book deals with plantings located on the southern parts of the discussed garden. These plantings include mainly botanical perennials (so-called wild perennials). The following parts of the show garden are discussed here: The "heath"; "The Red-Hot Pokers' hillside"; "The hillside of cinquefoils". The heath is overgrown with numerous grasses (*Pennisetum orientale*; *Nasella tenuissima*), high sedums (e.g. *Sedum* 'Matrona'), decorative high garlic, peonies (*Paeonia x smouthii*) and naturally many species and varieties of red-hot pokers. The exotic appearance has "The hillside of cinquefoils", where, in addition to cinquefoils, mulleins, eryngiums, yuccas, many other interesting kinds of grass are grown. The richness of colours is characterized by the flowerbeds of peony, iris germanica and daylily. The terraced rock garden was established as early as the 1950s. In the rock garden, most of the plants bloom in spring and early summer. It is worth mentioning here aubrietias, alyssums, candytufts, cloves, and gentians (*Aubrieta*, *Aurinia saxatilis*, *Dianthus gratianopolitanus*, *Iberis*, *Aethionema*, *Gentiana*). In addition, many bulbous or dwarf woody plants are cultivated.

The happy relationships between perennials and woody plants were then presented, as it was called. This concerns the development of vegetation in hazel and oak plots, as well as astilbe, spring pasqueflower and hosta planting. Many bulbous plants grow in these areas and form whole flower carpets in the spring period, e.g. Grecian windflower, striped squill, other squills, Dalmatian crocus (*Crocus tommasinianus*), daffodils, fritillaries, and alpine violets. The astilbe bedding is characterised by a wealth of astilbe colours, as wolfsbanes. In the hazelnut plots, there is a beautiful development of rogersia and barrenwort, as well as ferns. Trees and shrubs are also very important in the trial garden. In the case of many of them, colourful leaves appear in autumn (so-called late October mood).

The next part of the "Weihenstephan Trial Garden" is devoted to damp beds and water. You can indicate here: The "Siberian iris bed"; "around water reservoirs" and vegetation in the water reservoirs themselves. The Siberian blanket disc mainly contains

species from humid meadows. The Siberian iris occurs with the globeflower (*Trollius chinensis* 'Golden Queen') and the white variety of the Greek valerian (*Polemonium caeruleum* 'Album'). The most characteristic varieties of the Siberian iris are Caesar's Brother' and 'Weisser Orient'. Many plants grow on the banks of numerous garden water reservoirs, as well as in the water reservoirs themselves (rushes, sedges, numerous combs, spatterdock *Nuphar advena*, fringed water lily *Nyphoides peltata*, water pineapple *Stratiotes aloides*). According to scientific research, the planting of plants in the trial garden is often changed in order to carry out appropriate botanical and horticultural experiments.

The book by Bernd Hertle "Weihestephan Trial Garden" by Bernd Hertle and Christy Brand shows how well the trial garden works in Germany. The individual parts of the garden are well analysed. It would be worth disseminating this well-written and richly illustrated book in Poland as a valuable help for specialists (especially in botanical gardens), as well as a very important book for all interested readers.

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