

CONCORD GARDENS, 1922-1929

These photographs taken of selected Concord gardens in the 1920s reveal spectacularly landscaped creations that include roadside bowers, private retreats, and a practical vegetable garden. Though lacking color, it is not difficult to imagine the summer days--insects buzzing and warm breezes blowing--when they were at their peak, providing enjoyment for homeowners, guests, neighbors, and passersby.

The images were made by Salem photographer Charles Darling to illustrate a series of articles written by Concord author Florence Taft Eaton. Mrs. Eaton, born in Uxbridge, Massachusetts in 1857, was the wife of William Lorenzo Eaton, a principal in the Concord Public Schools. Mother of four sons and a daughter, she died in Concord in 1939.

During the 1920s Mrs. Eaton wrote prolifically on both domestic and historical topics, including district schools, New England Thanksgivings, Ephraim Bull's Concord grape, and the "up-to-the minute kitchen." She ventured into travel writing when she reported on her trip to South Carolina, and into current issues in her 1928 piece in the *Landmark* on "Broader Horizons for Women." A number of her articles are available in the library's Special Collections.



TOP SHELF (FROM LEFT):

Mrs. Russell Robb's garden, 1929
An example of informal design . . .

Cyrus Pierce House & garden, 1927
This tiny garden is a blaze of color at all seasons . . .

BOTTOM SHELF (FROM LEFT):

Mrs. Sherman Hoar's sunporch at Battle Lawn, undated
Ivies, many seedlings of annuals, stocks, snapdragon, etc. . . .

Home of Mr. Charles Pepper, Elm Street, looking west, ca. 1922
Taken in the year following the great ice storm . . .

Mrs. Russell Robb's "small garden," 1927
One of the loveliest small gardens I have ever seen . . .

Mrs. Russell Robb's garden, 1929

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TOP SHELF (FROM LEFT):

Mr. Harry Little's garden, "The Edge of the Wood," 1927

Mrs. Stedman Buttrick's garden, 1929

Mrs. Russell Robb's garden
(birches and spring flowers), 1927

Mrs. Russell Robb's perennial garden, 1929

BOTTOM SHELF (FROM LEFT):

Mrs. Florence Taft Eaton in a corner of
Ralph Waldo Emerson's garden, undated

The Wayside, steps leading up to the ridge, 1929

Mrs. Russell Robb's garden, hillside rock planting, 1929

Mrs. Alfred E. Curtis's perennial garden, 1927
*A lovely home garden of lovely perennials
planted with attention to design . . .*

Charlie Richardson's vegetable garden, ca. 1925
(Looking west across Concord River toward Wood Street)

**CLOCKWISE,
FROM UPPER RIGHT:**

**"The Edge of the Wood,"
Mr. Harry Little's garden, 1927**

**Corner of the garden at Battle Lawn,
Mrs. Sherman Hoar's garden, 1929**

Mr. & Mrs. Stedman Buttrick's garden, 1929

**Hillside planting & stone wall,
Mrs. Russell Robb's garden, 1929**

**Informal hillside planting,
Mrs. Russell Robb's garden, 1929**

Mrs. Charles Edgerton's garden, 1929

**Mrs. Stedman Buttrick's garden,
Monument Street, 1929**