

**THE BOOK OF THE PEACH: BEING
A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK ON
THE CULTIVATION OF THE PEACH
UNDER GLASS AND OUT-OF-
DOORS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649537754

The Book of the Peach: Being a Practical Handbook on the Cultivation of the Peach Under Glass and Out-of-Doors by H. W. Ward

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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BEING A PRACTICAL HAND-
BOOK ON THE CULTIVATION
OF THE PEACH UNDER GLASS
AND OUT-OF-DOORS.

BY
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SALISBURY; AUTHOR OF "MY GARDENER" AND "THE BOOK OF
THE GRAPE," ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE WALTER SCOTT PUBLISHING
CO., LTD., LONDON AND NEW-
CASTLE-ON-TYNE. 1903.

SB371
W25

INTRODUCTORY.

DURING the twenty-five years for which I presided over the Longford Castle gardens, Salisbury, I was a pretty regular and successful exhibitor of collections and single dishes of choice hothouse and wall fruits at the annual summer and autumn shows held at the Crystal Palace and leading provincial towns, and the peaches and nectarines in the Longford collections always excited favourable comments on the part of experts.

I also grew peaches and nectarines very extensively on a goodly portion of the 1700 yards of brick walls, from nine to twelve feet high, which were available for the growth of choice stone fruit and pears, the gardens being enclosed and intersected with walls to such an extent as to divide the kitchen garden into several sections, thereby affording a variety of aspects for growing certain kinds of fruit trees. About 250 yards of these walls were covered with trees of select varieties of the peach and nectarine, these being furnished from bottom to top with plenty of young, healthy, fruitful

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wood every year—trees which never failed to yield good crops of fine fruit year after year during the whole period I was at Longford; the trees, as well as the heavy crops of prize-winning fruit which they annually bore, commanding the admiration of all fruit-growers and owners of gardens who saw them from time to time, the trees and fruits cultivated under glass eliciting equally complimentary remarks. Therefore, in these flattering circumstances, I have been asked by horticultural friends and others interested in the cultivation of the peach to put into book form the practice that succeeded so admirably in this connection at Longford, a request with which I have great pleasure in complying, in the hope that the cultural remarks herein detailed may lead to a more general and extended cultivation of the peach and nectarine, not only in the gardens of the rich, but also in those attached to the villa-mansion downwards, in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

With this object in view, I have arranged the cultural work and other matter under separate headings and in due order, so that those wishing to consult these pages on any particular point of cultural treatment have only to refer to the contents to find the desired information. In the course of my gardening practice, I have made many and various experiments in cultural methods of pro-