

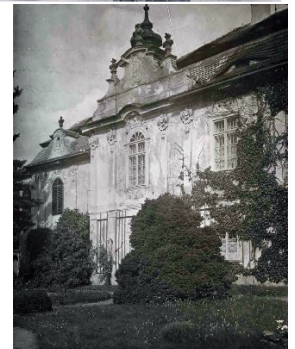
HISTORICAL APPEARANCE OF THE GARDENS

Approximate appearance of the lower part of the garden – the parterre – **around 1770**. The garden was divided by paths into smaller beds arranged in a regular geometric pattern. These beds, referred to as broderies, were bordered with a trim of small flowers or the popular evergreen boxwood. Coloured sands and other materials, such as crushed brick, charcoal, or simply black earth, were used in the centres of the beds. Combined with floral arrangements, they created intricate sprinkled patterns. The side beds were often simpler, featuring grassy centres that complemented the floral borders. The uncluttered parterre area was generally followed by water features, including a central pond with a statue of Neptune, and bosquets – geometrically trimmed bushes shaped into architectural forms. In our garden, shaped bosquets can still be found on the terraces.



The gardens c. 1920, photographs from the Gérold Déteindre family archive.

Fruit trees were planted in the gardens in the early 20th century, transforming them from ornamental to utilitarian. Since 1997, the gardens' lawns have been regularly maintained. Inappropriate vegetation was removed at this time. The first roses were planted in 2010, followed by further flowers and shrubs in subsequent years.



THE HOP-GROWING TRADITION

Hop growing is a tradition that has deep roots in the local area, dating back to the 11th century, making the Žatec region one of the oldest and most significant hop-growing centres in the world. Cultivated hops, grown for beer production, became an important crop in the Lands of the Bohemian Crown during the 12th to 14th centuries. In 1265, Přemysl Otakar II granted the town of Žatec municipal privileges. Under the reign of King Charles IV, the cultivation of high-quality Bohemian hops flourished and the export of its seedlings was banned under penalty of death. Hop growing is described in the famous translation of Mattioli's herbarium from 1562. To combat counterfeiting, Empress Maria Theresa issued a patent in the 18th century mandating the official sealing and certification of hop origin.

An important milestone for the future development of Bohemian hop cultivation was the complete abolition of serfdom. In 1848, serfs became legitimate citizens and landowners, enabling them to grow hops on their own land. The share of "village" hop gardens in the Žatec region gradually increased, reaching 80% of the total hop-garden area by the 1860s. This development was bolstered by the fact that hops were among the most typical crops grown by small-scale farms.

By the end of the 19th century, the town of Žatec was a vibrant and economically significant centre in north-western Bohemia. In all, 161 firms engaged in hop sales and 53 hop packing and storage facilities were registered in Žatec, which was home to two breweries. Notably, the Dreher Export Brewery, established in 1898, was the most modern in the then Austro-Hungarian Empire, and remained in operation until 1946.

During the Second World War, the area over which hops were grown shrank dramatically. Hop cultivation, like all agriculture and the national economy, was adapted to the needs of the German Reich. In border regions, hop-growing areas were integrated into the organisational structures of the Reich. "Protectorate hops" were not allowed to be imported into the Greater German Reich. The area of hop gardens in the Žatec region declined by nearly a quarter, from 8,756 hectares in 1938 to 6,682 hectares by 1945. In the 20th century, Czech hop cultivation saw significant advancements thanks to plant breeder Karel Osvald, who laid the foundations for specialised hop research. Even as late as 1952, the only hop variety that could be grown in Czechoslovakia was Žatecký poloraný červeňák. New hybrid varieties of Czech origin started to be cultivated in 1987.

