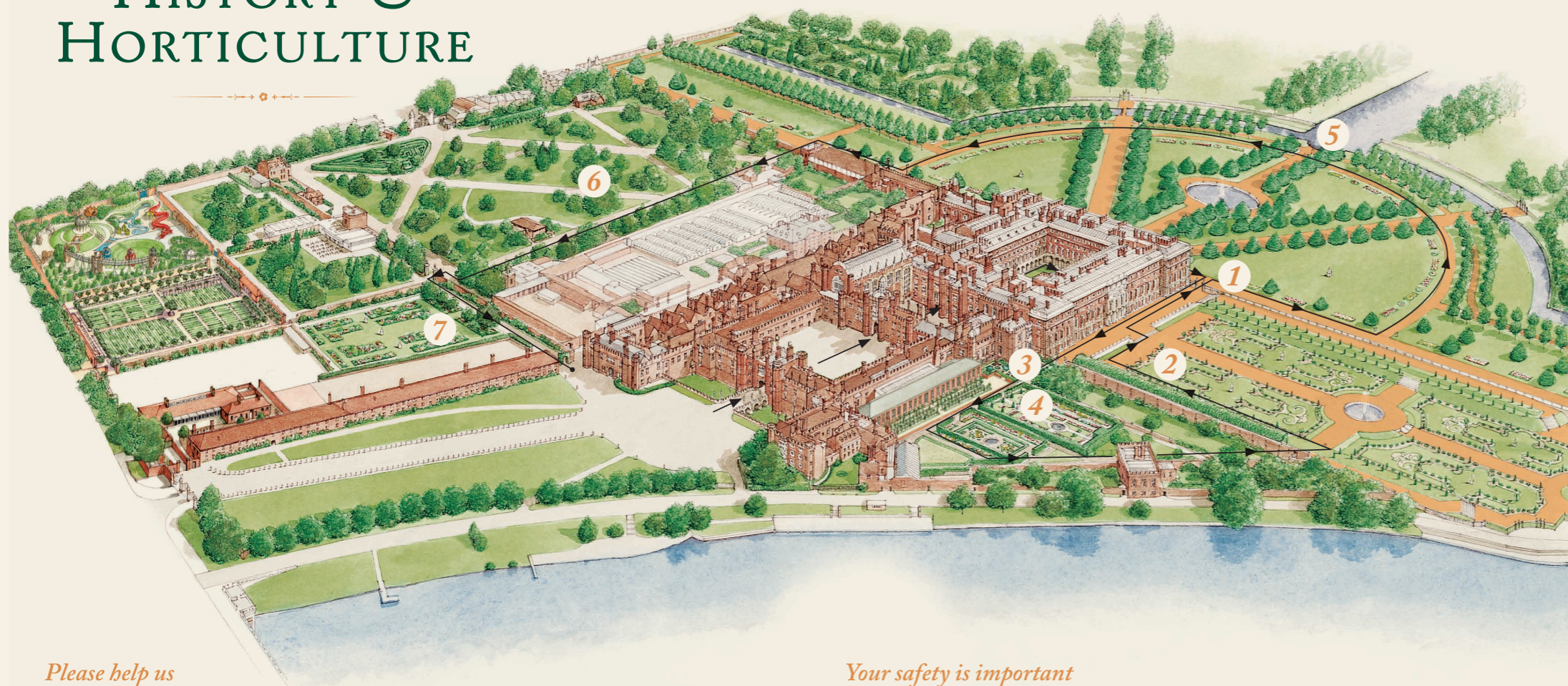




HISTORY & HORTICULTURE



Please help us

As an independent charity that generates all our own funds, we are facing unprecedented challenges in the face of the Coronavirus. We have lost the vast majority of our income, and we face serious challenges ahead. If, like us, you love the palaces and believe in what we do, we welcome any support you are able to give us to sustain the charity through this difficult period. Joining our community of members or making a donation is an investment in their future – so visitors can continue to enjoy them for centuries to come.

Thank you.

hrp.org.uk

You can also donate by Text:

Text TUDOR to 70085 to donate £5

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message

Historic Royal Palaces is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (No. 1068852).

Your safety is important

The safety of our staff and visitors is our primary concern. Please respect social distancing at all times and make use of the hand washing and hand sanitiser facilities. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Please take extra care with children when visiting areas of the gardens that contain water features, such as ponds and canals.

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HISTORY & HORTICULTURE

with Gardens Manager, Graham Dillamore



WELCOME TO HAMPTON COURT PALACE GARDENS.

Our Gardens Manager, Graham Dillamore, takes you on a one-way route to explore summer highlights, favourite plants and seasonal tips.



**Historic
Royal Palaces**

1. The Great Fountain Garden



Salvia Amistad

This garden is famous for its huge yew trees, some over 300 years old. At this time of year, it is the herbaceous border that is at its best, first planted as a flower border by Queen Caroline, George II's consort. At half a mile, it is the longest herbaceous border in Britain today.

Graham says "this summer look out for the different clematis rambling on pyramids, Veronicastrum and the lovely Salvia 'Amistad'"

2. Privy Garden

With topiary, sculptural planting and intricate patterns in the turf, the Privy Garden is spectacular year-round. Originally designed for William III in 1702, it was reconstructed in 1995 after Historic Royal Palaces archaeologists uncovered the original layout under overgrown trees and bushes.

Graham says "the plants that look like cacti in the big square pots are called Agave Americana and are 25 years old. We also have Mediterranean Palms *Chamaerops humilis* in containers, a gift from the Royal Palace of Het Loo in 2017. The Date Palms *Phoenix dactylifera* are natives of the Canary Islands, one of my favourite holiday destinations!"



Mediterranean Palms

Graham's Top Tips

Don't prune too early in the season. Birds are desperate for cover and nesting habitat in spring and early summer. Get to know your garden, what's living in it and when it needs pruning.

3. Knot Garden

The Knot Garden was re-created in 'Tudor Style' by palace resident and historian Ernest Law in 1924. You might be able to smell the lavender and other herbs that make up its formal planting.

Graham says "look out for the Persimmon *Diospyros kaki* at the back by the wall. We might see it fruit this year later in the autumn."



Persimmon fruit

Agapanthus "Northern Star"



4. Pond Gardens

These sunken gardens were originally Henry VIII's ponds but were later transformed by Mary II to display her exotic plant collection.

Graham says "the 4 clipped topiary *Buxus sempervirens* you can see are meant to be pheasants but I fear we haven't quite got there yet and some say they look like rabbits! The containers on the ledges contain Agapanthus, a particular favourite of mine. Agapanthus first arrived from South Africa in the 1770s. This dependable, deep blue variety is Northern Star."

5. Long Water

The Thames is our famous neighbour but it is thanks to the man-made Longford River that our fountains, canals and irrigation system are self-sufficient in water.

The Longford River was diverted from the River Colne by Charles I to fill new water features and ponds and his magnificent Long Water canal. It later powered William III's Great Fountain Garden (but not very well – the fountains were disappointing!)

Graham says "look out for the Jubilee Fountain at the end of the Long Water, timed to go off every 20 minutes."

Graham's Top Tips

Try to water early in the morning, before the sun gets up. It's a nice way to start the day and the plants appreciate it. Watering at night encourages slugs. Use a watering can - make good eye contact and get to know your plants!

6. Wilderness

The Wilderness was a fashionably formal garden in the 17th century, laid out with high hedges. Today only the world's oldest puzzle maze survives from the original layout and the Wilderness is famous for its beautiful trees and massed display of bulbs – come back to see them in the Spring.

Graham says "Look out for some of my favourite trees. In the middle there is a huge forked Californian Redwood *Sequoia sempervirens*. The Paperbark Maple *Acer griseum* outside the Wilderness toilets is a native of China and chosen for its interesting bark which is lovely in winter, while the big Purple Beech *Fagus sylvatica purpurea* near the ice cream kiosk is a species that arrived in the UK in the middle of the 1800s."



Paperbark Maple

7. Rose Garden

We end in our most spectacular summer garden. The Rose Garden was created in 1924 to entertain palace visitors. Our 21st-century gardeners have been bringing back old rose varieties which not only look, but also smell, beautiful.

Graham says "as well as roses there are some real gems including the Echiums on the East wall. These tall blue spires are the bee's favourite. We have



Pomegranate

Pomegranates *Punica* on the south facing wall – they never get very big but in a good year we get a few edibles. On the other side of this wall, are the Cape Fuchsias *Phygelius* from southern Africa."



Cape Fuchsia

Graham's Top Tips

Mulch, Mulch, Mulch and then when you think you've finished, mulch again. Mulch retains moisture in the soil (beware not all plants like this!) helps to prevent weeds and adds organic matter to your soil.