



PLANT LIST

THE CHEQUER BEDS: THE MEDICINAL USES OF PLANTS

as described by Dr William Turner
in *A New Herball* (3 vols, 1551-1568)

Chequer no.	Turner's English names	Turner's medicinal uses
1	<i>Fragaria vesca</i> (Wild strawberry)	Strawbery, Strawberry <i>Strawberyes quenche thirst, and are good for a cholerike stomach</i>
2	<i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i> (Clove pink)	Clowgelofer, gelover <i>good agaynst the plage [plague] ... the ache of the gowte, and for the bytyngge of a madd dogge</i>
3	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> (Creeping-jenny)	Two penigrasse, herbe two pence <i>good for the cough and for them that are shortwinded</i>
4	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i> (Lady's-mantle)	Oure Ladies mantell, Syndow, Sindaw <i>Sindaw is good for inward burstinges and inward wondes [wounds]</i>
5	<i>Teucrium chaemedrys</i> (Wall germander)	Germander, Englishe triacle <i>Grene Germander sodden in water, and dronken is good for the coughe</i>
6	<i>Lavandula officinalis</i> (Lavender)	Lavander <i>The floures of Lavander quilted in a cappe and daylye worne, are good for all diseases of the head</i>
7	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i> (Hart's-tongue fern)	Hartis tonge <i>The leves of thys herbe dronken with wyne, ar good agaynst the bytynges of serpentes</i>
8	<i>Crambe maritima</i> (Sea-kale)	Se cole <i>The leves of this herbe layd to, after ye maner of an emplaster, do bynd and close up woundes</i>
9	<i>Ficus carica</i> (Fig)	Figge tree <i>Figges are wyndye ... they provoke a man to stoole and purge the kyndes</i>
10	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> (Foxglove)	Foxe glove <i>put betwene the horse saddle and his back, is an excellent remedye against the farcye or fassones</i> [The use of <i>digitalis</i> to treat heart conditions was not discovered until 1785]
11	<i>Lavandula stoeches</i> (French lavender)	French or Spanish Lavander <i>good for the diseases of the breste</i>
12	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> (Garden thyme)	Tyme <i>good for eyes that are dull of syght</i>
13	<i>Viola odorata</i> (Sweet violet)	Violette <i>they heal ... the inflammation of the liver</i>
14	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> (Pot marigold)	Marigolde <i>The juice of the herbe ... is a present remedy for the toothe ake</i>
15	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i> (Common red poppy)	Wylde popy, Wylde pappy <i>It will make [a man] slepe</i>
16	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> (Selfheal)	Selfe heale <i>good to heale grene woundes</i>
17	<i>Acanthus mollis</i> (Bear's Breech)	Branke ursine, Bear's breech <i>for burnyng [e.g. erysipelas, St Anthony's Fire] , if it be layd upon the diseased places</i>
18	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> (Columbine)	Columbine <i>good for the yelow iaundies [jaundice]</i>
19	<i>Papaver somniferum</i> (Opium poppy)	Chesboule, Gardin or Whyte poppi <i>The brooth [broth] is good to be drunken agaynst to much wakyng and want of slepe</i>
20	<i>Nigella damascena</i> (Love-in-a-mist)	Herbe git <i>layde unto a mans forehead, releaseth the heade ache</i>
21	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i> (Hyssop)	Hysop <i>helpeth the inflammation of the longes. It killeth wormes.</i>
22	<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i> (Yellow chamomile)	Yealowe Cammomyle <i>chewed, [doth] hele the sores of the mouth</i>



Guillemus Turner

THE GUNTHORPE BED: TEXTILES & DYE-PLANTS

described by Dr William Turner in *A New Herball*

		Colours/Uses			Colours/Uses
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	Yellow chamomile	Yellow or olive dye	<i>Hypericum maculatum</i>	Imperforate St John's Wort	Yellow dye
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	Blue or pink dye	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Woad	Blue dye
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Pot marigold	Yellow dye	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	Flax	Linen fibre
<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	Safflower	Yellow or tan dye	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	Dye used in tanning
<i>Crocus sativus</i>	Saffron crocus	Yellow food dye	<i>Rubia tinctorum</i>	Madder	Rich red dye
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	For finishing cloth	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort	Roots used as soap
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Golden dye	<i>Tagetes patula</i>	French marigold	Grey dye
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	Red dye	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	Mustard yellow dye

Calendula officinalis (Pot marigold) “Somme use to make theyr here [hair] yelow with the floure of this herbe, not beyng content with the natural colour, which God hath given them.”

Isatis tinctoria (Woad) “The diers occupy the garden wadde ... in dyeing of wull and clothe.”

Turner gives two Latin names for Woad: *Isatis* and *Glastum*, and the name of Glastonbury may have evolved from *Glastum*, meaning ‘the place where woad grew’. Some of our woad plants have been kindly supplied by Glastonbury Abbey, and others grown from seed sent by Mme Christine Verhille from near Amiens in France.

THE LITTLE ORCHARD

	Turner's English names	Turner's comments
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Quince	Quince <i>Ye may make wyne of them</i>
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple	Apple tre <i>Apples are harde of digestion</i>
Varieties:	‘Catshead’ – an English apple, known before 1629 and “popular for apple dumplings”	
	‘White Joaneting’ – an ancient variety, known before 1600	
	‘Court Pendu Plat’ – first documented 1613 but much older, widely known throughout Europe	
	‘London or Five Crowned Pippin’ – known to have been grown in Somerset since before 1580, so Turner himself might have seen this apple.	
<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	Medlar	Medler tre, Mespil <i>It hath a plesant fruite</i>
<i>Morus nigra</i>	Mulberry	Mulbery tre Turner is said to have planted Mulberry trees at Syon Park which still bear fruit.
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Pear	Pear tre Turner recognised several kinds of garden pear, and writes that <i>Favoniana</i> are red peares.
Variety:	‘Red pear’ – a perry pear grown at only 20 other places in Britain.	