

Mughal Garden

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Dr. Somendra Verma
Guest Faculty/Teaching Associate
Department of Fruit Science

C. S. Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur- 208-002

HIGHLIGHTS

INTRODUCTION

SITE AND DESIGN

FEATURES OF MUGHAL GARDEN

Introduction-

Mughal Gardens: -

- ❑ The gardens laid out during the rule of Mughal Emperors in India are known as Mughal gardens.
- ❑ The Mughal gardens are similar to the style of gardens of Central Asia and Persia.
- ❑ Babar (1494 – 1531) was the first Mughal ruler to introduce this style in India.



Site and Design

- Mughal were very choosy about the selection of site and always preferred a site on a hill slope with a perennial rivulet or along the bank of a river.
- Mughal gardens are generally rectangular or square in shape and different architectural features are the main stay of the design.



Features of Mughal Garden

Walls and Gates:

❖ The Mughals created the gardens not only for pleasure and recreation but also as forts and residences surrounded by high walls and with an imposing wooden gate at the entrance which was studded with bold iron nails and pointed iron spikes.

❖ The purpose of the high walls was security from the enemies and shelter against hot winds.

❖ The gardens were a place of peace for the Emperors to enjoy with their wives and concubines.



Terrace:

- ❑ The Mughals came from the hilly terrains and so they were fond of terraces in the gardens.
- ❑ For this reason they used to select the location of gardens near hill slopes.
- ❑ Their fascination for terrace was so intense that even in the plains of Punjab they created artificial terraces.

□ According to Islamic faith the Paradise has eight divisions and hence some times the gardens have eight terraces corresponding to the eight divisions or occasionally the gardens may be composed of seven terraces also representing the seven planets.



Nahars (Running Water):

- ✓ The style of having running water by constructing canals and tanks borrowed from the Persians.
- ✓ The water canals were paved with tiles (or marble) of blue colour to create the illusion of depth.
- ✓ The course of water used to be maneuvered in various ways taking advantage of each slope, however small it may be, to breakup the flow into artificial falls and ripples.

✓ The water canals used to have fountains to throw up the water high in the air.

✓ In the evenings small lamps used to be illuminated to create beautiful reflexions.



✓ The fascination for water came from the Muslim faith which says that the promised paradise is the place “where cooling waters flow”.

✓ With this bias for water Mughals selected sites on hill slopes to tap a running rivulet or spring for source of water.

✓ In the plains of India, where the summers are hot, Mughals utilized water for its cooling effect.

Baradari:

□ This is nothing but an arbour-like structure, but made of stone and masonry with a pucca roof and a raised platform for sitting.

□ These were usually provided with twelve or occasionally more doors on all sides for the Emperors to watch the performance of the dancing girls.



Tomb or Mosque:

- ❖ It was a common practice to have the gardens built around a tomb (e.g., Taj Mahal, Akbhar's Tomb at Sikandra).
- ❖ It is often said that the Mughal gardens were at their best when built around a monument.



Trees and flowers:

- ❑ The trees were selected with careful planning and thought, as to Mughals each tree symbolized something, like life, youth, death, etc.
- ❑ Fruit trees were considered symbols of life and youth, while, Cypress represented death and eternity.
- ❑ The Mughals had bias for spring flowering trees and flowers.

❑ The seasonal flower beds were of geometrical pattern and constructed along the water canals or near the main buildings.

❑ The favorite flowers were rose, jasmine, carnation, hollyhock, delphinium etc.



Thank You