



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)

NEW YORK, N. Y.

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Frère Marie-Victorin
Directeur de l'institut botanique
Université de Montréal
1265 Rue Saint-Denis
Montréal, Canada

June 17, 1935

Dear Professor Victorin :

I received your letter of June 14. and hasten to give you the information which you desire. In designing the general map I have considered the possibility that the garden might have to be developed in several stages, yet provide a serviceable unit at each stage. If you now consider to fence part of the garden and have at your disposal \$ 15,000, most of which can be expended for the fence, I believe that the wisest thing would be to fence right away a large enough area - say 30 or 50 acres - to allow for the first stage of development. You may, of course, consider to build right away a permanent fence along Sherbrooke and Pie X. avenues and have a temporary fence only along the back; but the more I think of that the less I like it. So far we have not agreed definitely on the type of lay-out in front of the building. The location of the gates depends, of course, on the location of the roads, which on paper I can fix only approximately. Besides, I remember distinctly the large heaps of soil along the boundary of your land. To put the fence where eventually I hope to have it will, certainly, involve the movement of some soil. If that is not done under expert supervision, it might entail a great deal of unnecessary work later on. Therefore, considering everything, I believe that the best you can do at the present time is to build a temporary fence, but build it of such material and in such a fashion that you can use it again in the construction of the permanent fence later on.

The type of fence which I have in mind is 2in. wire mesh of heavy-weight, galvanized wire, reinforced with galvanized top and bottom rail. At the top it should have an inward bent support carrying three strands of barbed wire, to discourage people from climbing over. The galvanized steel posts which must be set in concrete should be about 10ft. apart. The whole fence, including the barbed wire, should have a height of 7ft. This type of fence would cost about \$ 1.20 per foot or approximately \$ 6500 for 5400 ft, enclosing slightly over 30 acres (see the interrupted black line on my sketch). It would cost \$ 7920 for 6600 ft, enclosing somewhat over 40 acres (see the blue line on my sketch).

6500 1120
6000

6000 ft.

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This is a maximum price which should include one or two gates. You may be able to get the fence for somewhat less, but should not pay more. Lighter weight wire mesh is cheaper, of course, but I advise you to insist on the heavy weight.

For a permanent enclosure I should set this fence on top of a low wall built of roughly hewn stones and replace the steel posts with pillars built of the same stone and bearing a square stone on top (not cement pillars which are ugly, and no fancy globes or similar "ornaments" on top) Such a fence looks very good and is extremely durable and safe.

As soon as the permanent location of the fence is agreed upon, we can build the stone wall and pillars and move the old fence over in sections. No material will be wasted.

The setting up of the fence is not included in the price which I quoted above, but if you let the company do it from which you buy the fence, it should not cost you more than a few hundred dollars extra.

I should locate the temporary fence just outside of the heaped up soil where its base can be level with the sidewalk. This will probably leave about fifteen feet or slightly more between fence and curb. Eventually I hope to have 30 ft between fence and curb to allow ample room for a strip of green with shade trees and a wide sidewalk. However, this will surely necessitate the moving of a good deal of soil, and for the present 15-20 ft between fence and curb have to suffice.

The first unit of the garden as I have planned it on my map, centering around the administration building and comprising from 30 to 50 acres would be quite a nice little botanical garden in itself. This part of the garden would at any rate be the one most intensively under cultivation, since, in order to simplify maintenance and supervision, most of the separate gardens featuring various displays are located on my map in the immediate vicinity of the nursery. It would contain: An annual flower garden, perennial gardens, economic garden, special display of ornamental shrubs, water and bog garden, a temporary wild flower garden and a temporary taxonomic garden. The last two would later be transferred to other sections and the place they would vacate would be used as a breeding and testing field. Besides these gardens the first unit would provide ample nursery space for the raising of the plants needed for the extension of the garden.

At the next stage of extension my map provides for ecological groups, displaying in particular North American and especially Canadian native plants in natural setting, somewhat like the admirable groups at the Berlin Botanical Garden. Furthermore a rock-garden, medicinal garden, shrub collection and the beginning of an arboretum.

Playgrounds, picnic ground and children's gardens will be left to the last stage, so that we can dangle these particularly popular features before the public as the candy they will get after they have eaten

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their spinach.

If in the directions which I have attempted to give you in this letter, there is anything which is not perfectly clear, please, write me again. I shall always endeavor to answer you immediately.

Naturally, I am delighted with your revived optimism, and I wish you the very best of luck. On the chance that you might be able to make a start this year I have gathered during the last six months over 1500 packages of seeds from all parts of the world. These seeds are at your disposal.

During the second part of July I intend to take part of my vacation but do not expect to leave home. In case you wish to come to New York during that time, please, write me a note to my home address : 170 Truman Ave., Nepera Park-Yonkers, New York, two days in advance of your coming and I shall not fail to be here at the garden to meet you.

With kindest regards and best wishes

I beg to remain

faithfully yours

H. Teuscher

H. Teuscher

P.S. I notice that I forgot to mention the location of the gates. Eventually there will be a pedestrians entrance on the corner and one main traffic entrance and traffic exit on the two sides of the triangle. At the present, if I remember right, these places are quite inaccessible, however. I believe, that for the time being it will be most convenient to put a gate in the temporary fence where the avenue enters now and a second gate in the back where the avenue leaves.

If you like the idea of building a temporary fence which later can be used in the construction of the permanent fence, you may also consider to make the temporary fence only 6 ft. high. This would cost somewhat less and permit you to fence a slightly larger area. For the time being the 6 ft fence would serve, and, when it later is set on a 1 ft. stone wall, it would still be 7 ft high. The proportions of the 6 ft. fence on the 1 ft. wall would be better.

H.T.