



Forum Antike

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The Augustan Horticultural Revolution

The Augustan era was a period of profound socio-political and cultural changes in Rome. It was also, as I shall argue on the basis of literary and archaeological evidence, a time when Roman commercial horticulture experienced a real acceleration in terms of productivity and variety of cultivars available. In my talk, I will focus in particular on arboriculture, exploring it from both an ideological and 'practical' point of view. I will argue that the interest of various writers of the era in discussing cultivars traits and yields and the diffusion of novel fruit and vegetables in the provinces owed much to Augustus' colonization programme.