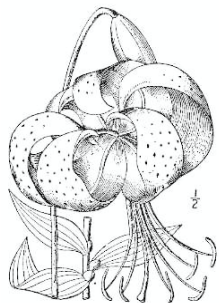


Plants in vegetable and flower gardens of the 1930s

Today, volunteers at the Vallila Allotment Garden cultivate many of the original vegetables and flowers from the 1930s on the museum plot. Elisabeth Koch stressed a diversity of choice. During her time, the most commonly grown plants included potatoes, swedes, carrots, red beet, sugar beet, turnips, cabbage, squash, onions, beans, peas, chicory and dill. The allotment had to have, as it must still today have, at least one apple tree, in addition to currant, gooseberry and raspberry bushes. Along the edges of the allotment, rhubarb and peppermint were also grown.



Typical flowering plants from the 1930s included:

- Globeflower (*Trollius hybridus*)
- Drumstick Primrose (*Primula denticulata*)
- Columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*)
- Chinese Peony (*Paeonia lactiflora-hybridus*)
- Tiger Lily (*Lilium lancifolium*)
- Larkspur (*Delphinium hybridum*)
- Burnet Rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*)
- Musk-mallow (*Malva moschata*)
- Italian aster (*Aster amellus*)
- Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
- Oxlip (*Primula elatior*)
- European pink (*Dianthus plumarius*)



Welcome to the Vallila Allotment Garden Museum

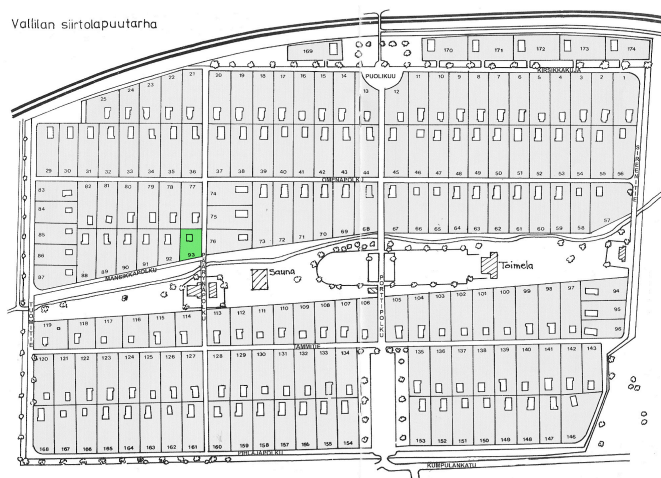
Address: Elisabeth Kochin tie 1

Open: Sundays 13-15.00 (June-August)

To arrange tours, book in advance!

Tel. 050-466 06 43

e-mail hallitus@vallilanspy.net



Vallila Allotment Garden Association 2015

Photography: Helsinki City Museum/ Juho Nurmi

The Vallila Allotment Garden Museum

Vallila Allotment Garden Association





The Vallila Allotment Garden Museum

Located in the Helsinki district of Vallila, within the middle of the Vallila Allotment Garden, along the Mansikkapolku (Strawberry Lane), you will come across the last original allotment garden cottage. Only about ten square metres in size, the cottage was designed in 1932 by the urban planner Birger Brunila and the architect Väinö Tuukkanen. The cottage and its surrounding garden plot were restored to their original appearance in the summers of 2009-2010. The plantings in the garden replicate the original layout of the three remaining original garden plans designed by the garden consultant Elisabeth Koch for the garden plots at the Vallila Allotment Garden.

History of the Allotment Gardens in Helsinki

The allotment garden can trace its origins in Helsinki to the early 1900s, at a time when industrial growth, urbanisation, and the rise of wage labour created great challenges for city decision-makers and city planners in improving the living conditions of the working class. With the enactment of the eight-hour work day law and the vacation law in the 1920s, concerns were raised about how this new leisure time could be best used by the working class in a positive and constructive way.

Proper use of leisure time by the workers had been defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO), and its recommendation were soon accepted by the Finnish government in 1924. Leisure time should be useful and promote the health of the workers, with particular support being given to the establishment of workers' gardens and community garden plots.

Who were these people who spent their summers at the Vallila Allotment Gardens in the early 1930s of the great Depression, during a time when almost a third of the work force was unemployed and forced to subsist on public aid? The allotment garden movement aimed to provide an opportunity for gardening and summer activity to those families who lacked the possibility of leaving the city during the summer. The majority of the allotment gardeners were thus working-class families.

The families were guided by a garden consultant in turning most of their garden plot into a vegetable garden, with parts being also set aside for fruit and flowers. During the Depression, these vegetable gardens

may have even saved some families from starvation. The aim of the allotment plan was to encourage diligent, effective use of time, though enjoying flowering plants and memorable experiences gained from farming were also considered important. Time was also reserved for socialising and relaxing in an arbor created by the shade of lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) planted alongside the cottage.



A museum maintained by the Vallila Allotment Garden Association

The museum cottage is owned and maintained by the Vallila Allotment Garden Association. A major part of the restoration of the cottage and garden has been carried out in the summers of 2009-2010 by volunteers from among the residents of the allotment garden, based on consultant instructions solicited by the Helsinki City Planning Department. The museum includes a collection of objects, donated by farmers at the Vallila Allotment Garden, describing life at the allotment garden in the 1930s. All objects displayed at the museum have been photographed, numbered and catalogued as directed by the Helsinki City Museum.