

Relative Chronology of Near Eastern and Persian Garden “Multiple Waves” of Influences

3rd millennium BCE *Epic of Gilgamesh* describes civic date palm gardens at Uruk

8th c. BCE Sennacherib, Assyrian king, creates irrigated Nineveh gardens (“Hanging Gardens?”) adjacent to Kyunjik palace

7th c. BCE Descriptions of Eden in *Genesis* imply fourfold rivers watering a Pre-Persian Paradise garden influenced by or influencing Zend-Avestan legends

6th c. BCE Late Akkadian word *pardesu* and Avestan and Persian word *pairi-daeza* for garden or orchard, possibly walled

6th c. BCE Cyrus the Great plants his *chahar-bagh* (four-part) garden and orchard at Pasargadae, his successors continue

6th c. BCE *Song of Solomon* edited (*Song of Songs* 4:13) Hebrew poetry describes the lover as an “enclosed garden”

4th c. BCE Alexander the Great’s legacy introduces the Greek version of *paradeisos* from Persia to Alexandria and Greece

1st c. BCE-1st c. CE Romans create *hortus conclusus* gardens at Pompeii (e.g. House of the Vettii)

1st c. BCE – 1st c. CE Roman *horti* replicate elements of Greek *paradeisos* in Rome, especially Nero’s Golden House landscapes

6th c CE Sassanid (Persian) King Choesroe commissions first major paradise garden rug at Ctesiphon

7th -8th c. CE Islamic expansion brings the Persian Garden to North Africa, Spain and Sicily

11-12th c. CE Rogerian Dynasty in Sicily replicates gardens and orchards in mosaic in Palazzo Normanni

11-12th c CE Romanesque Cloisters landscape four-part *hortus conclusus*

13-15th c CE Al-Andaluz Moors in Spain create Persian-inspired gardens at Granada (Alhambra and Generalife), Nasrid Dynasty

14-17th c CE Persian rulers especially Safavids create *chahar-bagh* urban gardens and tiles in Isfahan, Shiraz, etc.

14-7th c. CE Persian rulers encourage Paradise Garden rug industry

15-16th c. CE Italian Renaissance creates four-part garden landscapes in Rome, Florence, etc. (e.g. Villa Farnesina)

16th c. CE Iznik ware in Turkey replicates Persian garden motifs in tiles and tableware, etc.

17th c CE Baroque and later gardens replicate four-fold garden design (e.g. Versailles)

Source: <https://www.electrummagazine.com/2011/07/paradise-gardens-of-persia-eden-and-beyond-as-chahar-bagh/>