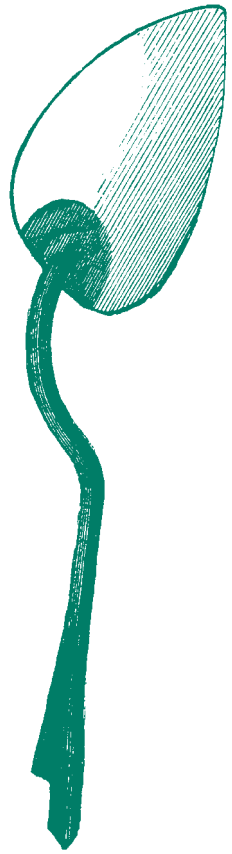


King of the GARDEN



In the Victorian Era, households of the burgeoning middle-class generally employed a minimum of three servants – a butler, a cook and a gardener. The Head Gardener was king – a skilled head gardener was indispensable and much depended on him. Food production was his primary job, providing fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the year. Menus were seasonal in nature and celebrated the harvest of each new day. The gardener had a close relationship with the head cook, providing the freshest ingredients that the garden could offer. In Victorian times, gardeners were always male and cooks always female. The cook and the gardener worked together to determine what would be grown in the vegetable garden. A good head gardener was held in high esteem and it wasn't unusual to poach away a neighbour's gardener.



For your enjoyment –

The Victorian Kitchen Garden,
BBC Two Production, 1987
available on DVD

Bell cloches protect
tender plants in the
early spring