A Domesticated Landscape: Native American Plant Cultivation on the Northwest Coast of North America.

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Date of Award
2000

Document Type
Dissertation

Degree Name
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Department
Geography and Anthropology

First Advisor
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Abstract
By all accounts, the peoples of the Northwest Coast of North America did not cultivate plants at the time of European contact. This dissertation provides an interdisciplinary assessment of evidence to the contrary, and presents a critique of the literature from which this orthodoxy has been derived. As a primary line of evidence, this thesis describes estuarine gardens found on this coast during the contact period. Northwest Coast peoples created gardens of Pacific silverweed (Potentilla anserina ssp. pacifica), springbank clover (Trifolium wormskjoldii) and other plants with edible, starchy roots within estuarine plots. Ethnographic sources suggest that these gardens were maintained through transplanting, weeding, selective harvesting, and a host of other management methods. Such sites were termed "gardens" by Franz Boas and others, but were dismissed as "non-agricultural" in part due to the restrictive definition of agriculture which prevailed in Boas' time. Indigenous motives for plant resource intensification paralleled the post-Pleistocene intensification of other resources, as sedentary villages developed around productive estuaries where salmon and other resources were concentrated. Ethnographic evidence suggests that Northwest Coast peoples had strong economic, dietary, and ceremonial motives to enhance rhizome output, which evolved alongside these long-term trends in dietary and settlement patterns. Gardens represented an elegant response to these motives. With mounded soils, often encircled by rock enclosures, these gardens dramatically expanded the narrow zone where these edible plants grow. Anomalously porous and nutrient-rich garden soils further enhanced rhizome output. Linguistic evidence suggests that indigenous peoples recognized gardens as a product of human agency, and as "places of manufactured soil." Gardens recorded during the colonial period can be found archaeologically, and probable garden sites with similar structural characteristics can be found dotting this coastline. Archaeological evidence conducted for this dissertation demonstrates that these gardens were being intensively managed prior to European contact. Similar wetland gardening methods from the American tropics are explored, as is the demise of Northwest Coast wetland gardening in the colonial period. Cumulatively, this dissertation concludes that Northwest Coast estuarine gardening constitutes a tradition of "plant cultivation," by current definitions of that term.

Recommended Citation

https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool_disstheses/7259

ISBN
9780599905856

Pages
Restoring The Landscape With Native Plants. Home & Garden Website. In Our Nature. The Northwest Coast Native Americans who lived on the borders of lands often reflected two types of lifestyles. Map showing location of Northwest Coast Cultural Group. Dogs were the only domesticated animals and they were used to pull dog sleds. Northwest Native Americans - Houses, Shelters and Homes The different types of Houses, Shelters and Homes depended on the materials available and whether the home was permanent or temporary. Northwest Native Americans - Potlatch The along the north-west coast there existed the curious custom known as potlatch. A Potlatch is an opulent ceremonial feast held by some Indians of the northwestern coast of North America to celebrate a great occasion such as a marriage or birth. "The significance of plants to the aboriginal cultures of the Northwest Coast of North America often takes a back seat to the iconic salmon. Keeping it Living . . . brings these essential resources to the forefront."—The Midden: Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia. Keeping It Living is an important book that will appeal to scholars interested in Northwest Coast peoples and Native American ethnobotany in general."—Pacific Northwest Quarterly. "This book is the first comprehensive examination of how the first people to inhabit what is now the Pacific Northwest managed the land on which they lived."—Salem Statesman Journal. Book Description. Here, I reconsider eastern North America’s status as an independent center of plant domestication and provide a new synthesis of the currently available archaeological and genetic evidence from both eastern North America and Mexico regarding the spatial and temporal context of initial domestication of the four plant species identified as potential eastern North American domesticates: marshelder (Iva annua), chenopod (Chenopodium. No longer cultivated as a domesticated crop, marshelder grows today as a wild plant across much of the eastern and central United States, and its range extends south into Tamaulipas, Mexico. No remains of marshelder, however, have ever been reported from archaeological contexts in Mexico. Pacific Coastal Northwest Plank Houses Native Americans in Olden Times for Kids. The Northwest Pacific Coastal Indians did not live in tepees as did the Yakima Indians of Eastern Washington. Instead, they lived in longhouses built of thick cedar planks. These homes were also called plank houses. Native Americans in US, Canada, and the Far North. Early people of North America (during the ice age 40,000 years ago). Northeast Woodland Tribes and Nations - The Northeast Woodlands include all five great lakes as well as the Finger Lakes and the Saint Lawrence River. Come explore the 3 sisters, longhouses, village life, the League of Nations, sacred trees, snowsnake games, wampum, the arrowmaker, dream catchers, night messages, the game of sep and more.