

The yew lawn in 1948



The Yew Lawn



ROTHAMSTED
RESEARCH

The yew lawn, which is to the west of the walled garden, is about 400 mm below the level of the croquet lawn, to which it is linked by steps at both sides. Part of the yew lawn was originally within the walled garden until the latter was reduced in size in the 1860s.

The clipped yews, which are arranged symmetrically, were heavily pruned in 2003 to reinvigorate and restore them. The circular beds made of ornamental stone appears always to have been intended for planting rather than water. In the centre of the circular pond is a bather statue. It is made of white

marble, and is the work of Sir Charles Lawes-Wittewronge. Until 2005 there were two square rose beds in the lawn, each of which consisted of four smaller square beds (see photograph below); the outlines of the beds can still be seen in the grass.

To the east of the yew lawn, benefiting from the shelter provided by the red brick wall, are the herbaceous borders; they are divided into two sections by a gravel path.

The most unusual feature in the yew lawn is the small bed of red clover (*Trifolium pratense*). This is

the smallest of Rothamsted's famous "Classical Experiments", which were started between 1843 and 1856. It was established in 1854 in what was then the kitchen garden, and became 'stranded' in the lawn when the Walled Garden was reduced in size in the 1860s.

The path along the eastern edge of the yew lawn features a rose arch that was installed in the 1990s; the flanking beds are planted with assorted *Hosta* species.

The yew lawn in 2018

