



Anne Trimble

Anne Trimble: "The herb garden I've planted at Tavern on the Green has oregano, bronze fennel, purple basil, and lemon thyme. The cooks tell me what they need in the morning, and I'll go out and pick it for them."

When Anne Trimble says that business is blooming, it's no slip of the tongue.

That's because Anne's "office" is really a ten-acre plot of land right in Manhattan's Central Park, and her job is to make sure that Tavern on the Green doesn't turn brown around the edges.

As the full-time horticulturalist for the famed restaurant, Anne's workday might include ordering bulbs to be planted in the spring (this year she's planting 11,000); making sure that the perennial plants get enough water—even in winter; planning next summer's herb garden, and just plain getting down and dirty.

"I have lawns to mow, trees to prune, fertilizer to spread, flowers to water, plans to submit, and a budget to draw up," Anne explained. "Most other horticulturalists I know have a specialty, like herbs or wildflowers, but I do a combination of many different things."

With her staff of two male assistants, Anne is responsible for reconstructing and revitalizing all of the outdoor greenery areas for Tavern, including a large eat-in garden and terrace area and several acres of grounds that border the restaurant and face the park. In addition to the usual hazards of gardening, Anne must also factor in New York's unre-

dictable weather as well as that nemesis of all city dwellers, air pollution, if she wants to make sure that the things she grows keep growing.

Anne's job is unique not only in its locale and scope—but also for the fact that she's a woman in a predominately male field. She was introduced to the complex world of nature while growing up in a "one-store town"—Pascoag, Rhode Island. Her mother was a florist, and her father, an engineer, was also pretty handy. "I always wanted to be a forest ranger, but when I started college, philosophy fitted into what I was thinking. Then I thought, 'What are you going to do with a degree in that?'" So she switched to horticulture.

One of her dorm neighbors in college was a Brooklyn native who extolled the virtues of her borough's botanical gardens, and urged Anne to drop them a line. She did and was hired almost immediately, but not for the position she had hoped for. "I applied to the horticulture department because I wanted to be a gardener. But being a woman, my application went straight to the education department." So she kept active as a freelance garden and terrace designer, whipping postage stamp-sized New York backyards into small packets of beauty.



Sharon Shambourger

Then one day a call came into the botanical gardens from Tavern on the Green—"They were looking for a consultant, so I said I'd go up and talk to them," she recalled. When Anne met Tavern's owner, Warner LeRoy, a plant fancier himself, she knew she had met a kindred spirit—and thus, an unusual relationship was born between a restaurant and a gardener.

With winter here, Anne is responsible for making sure that her handiwork of the other three seasons doesn't, so to speak, wither on the vine. Around Christmastime Anne helps set up the stunning displays that transform the restaurant into a winter wonderland—and to which even the most jaded New Yorkers flock year after year. □

—Marianne Goldstein

If you want a career in horticulture here's some NEWS YOU CAN USE

- college training—A.A. or B.S. degree recommended
- prior, related experience useful
- beginning salaries with B.S. degree average \$16,700 in private industry
- experienced federal employees (government is major employer) average \$28,000
- related jobs include floral designing, plant nursery operation, landscape architecture—requires advanced degree

For additional information, contact: American Society for Horticultural Science

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