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OBTAINING AN ANNUAL VARIETAL CONVEYER OF ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS FOR THE PARKS OF THE PRE-CARPATHIAN AREA OF MUNTENIA

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SUMMARY

To provide a longer ornamental life of the dendrological park at Research Institute for Fruit Growing Pitesti-Maracineni, Arges, a wider range of species and varieties well adjusted to soil and climate conditions in the area was employed. The studies were performed at the RIFG within 1977-2006 period. The observation and measurements were alone on the ornamental plants of the park-collection. There were observed 132 species and valuable ornamental varieties. Studies were focused on decoration of the dendrological park with valuable ornamental plants.

Introduction. Ornamental species are a group of shrub plants or climbing plants whose main utility is their decorative feature. The ornamental spectrum is given by the shape of shrub and leaves, as well as by the colour of branches, leaves, flowers and fruits, by the preservation period of fruits on the plant, and especially by the leaves persistence during winter time in the sempervirescente species. Due to this great ornamental variation, these species can play various roles in the familiar parks and gardens. Compared to the ornamental trees and fruit trees, the ornamental shrubs are basic elements for small-area parks and gardens around the houses, commercial companies, villas and even platforms and balconies. The purpose of this paper was to: 1) show the development of the vegetative and generative phenophases, 2) describe the plants and emphasize the strong scenery elements, 3) obtain a varietal conveyer in the green areas for a period as long as possible, 4) present the behaviour of the ornamental species and varieties under the specific soil and climate conditions of the region as well as under the pollutant factors of the environment.

The studies and investigations were carried out during a long period in a park-collection organized in year 1977 around the Institute. It comprises 258 taxons, ornamental species, both deciduous and coniferous. The germoplasm fond (stock) of the studied ornamental shrubs consists of 132 species and varieties. In alphabetical order these are: *Amorpha L; Ampelopsis Michx, Berberis L; Buddleia L; Buxus L; Chaenomeles Lindl; Clematis L; Cornus L; Corylus L; Cotinus Mill; Cotoneaster Etrh; Crataegus L; Cytisus L; Daphne L; Deutzia Thumb; Elaeagnus L; Euonymus L; Forsythia Vahl; Hedera L; Hibiscus L; Hippophae L; Hydrangea L; Ilex L; Kerria DC; Laburnum Med; Lagestroemia L; Ligustrum L; Lonicera L; Mahonia Nutt; Parthenocissus Planch; Philadelphus L; Polygonum L; Potentilla L; Prunus L; Pyracantha L; Rhus L; Ribes L; Rosa; Salix L; Sambucus L; Spiraea L; Symphoricarpos Duhom; Syringa L; Tamarix Juss; Viburnum L* şi *Weigella Thunb.* (Preda M., 1989).

Analyzing the behaviour of the ornamental species and varieties we noticed that these plants offer a complete and nice décor during the whole year, both though the flowers and fruits, or through leaves and canopy (Alina Posedaru, 2005). The flowers are the most decorative element. They appear rather early in *Daphne mesmerism* L, which is an autochthonous shrub blooming from the second half of January. The species of the *Corylus L; Cornus L.* şi *Mahonia Nutt.,* genus bloom in February, following then the ones blooming in March as the varieties of *Chaenomeles Lindk* şi Forsythia Vahl.which give the signal of spring.

The floral bushing takes place during May, June and July when most of the ornamental shrubs enrich the flower framework of each of the green space. Starting with August, the floral spectrum shrinks and the only genuses which bloom now are *Lagestromia, Lespedeza, Tecoma Juss, Lonicera L., Hibiscus L* and the second blooming wane is for some varieties of *Spiraea L., Clematis L.*(Stanciu N., 1997).

The nice-looking coloured fruits fill in the scenery, some of them remain on the market even during winter time like the varieties of the genus *Viburnum L. Pyracantha L, Ligustrum L, Ilex L, Hippophae L, Berberis L, Cotoneaster Ehrh* . The diversified range of leaf colors from the growing season as well as the sempervirescente of some species and varieties form a scenery of great ornamental value whose fruits coloured in red, yellow, orange or black stay on the plants even in the cold season.

Most of the species and varieties of the genuses studied are well adapted to the soil and climate conditions of the region, except for the species *Lagestroemia indica* which freezes to death at lower than – 18 ^{0} C temperatures, below this threshold the annual shoots die completely, but afterwards they regenerate.

Conclusions. The ornamental sort consisted of 47 genuses offers an aesthetic valuable scenery for green spaces. However, the number of varieties of some genuses is rather small and requires its completion with other valuable varieties.

Organizing some green spaces to be more and more attractive requires a well knowledge of the biological and cultural characteristics of all the ornamental varieties and the choice of the most suitable combinations.

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