

A Walk through the Morton Arboretum

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Abstract. This paper aims to present an arboretum from abroad and to compare it with our arboretums, in order to see the differences and maybe to improve something. This arboretum, the Morton arboretum, is located near Chicago, state Illinois, United States. It is one of the highest American arboretums, having about 4100 different species of trees, from around the world. In order to describe the arboretum it was made a visit in it, in the summer of 2012. With this occasion there were made some measurements, concerning especially the European spruce and its behavior in that climate conditions.

Keywords: Illinois, trees, species

Introduction. The Morton arboretum is situated in Isle, Illinois, near Chicago, being actually in a suburb of this city. It was established in 1922 and dedicated to the planting and conservation the trees (Rakow, 2011). This arboretum is made up of gardens of various plant types and collections of trees from specific taxonomical and geographical areas. It covers about 6.9 km² and has over 4100 different species of trees, shrubs and other woody plants from around the world (Susan, 2009). The trees collection represents one of the most comprehensive collections of woody plants in North America. Throughout the Arboretum's history, it has acquired plants from 40 countries in the northern temperate zone of the world. Today, the collection includes over 222000 live plants representing nearly 4300 taxa (Maloney, 2008). Specimens are arranged according to five groups: taxonomic collections (e.g. elms and oaks), geographic collections (e.g. trees and shrubs from China), special habitats (e.g. Plants of Acid Soils), horticultural collections, and collections of rare and endangered plants (www.morton.org, www.wikipedia.com).

Aims and objectives. The main objective of this paper was to present this arboretum, to see how it is organized and to compare with Romanian arboretums. Also we want to see how European flora is represented and to register some data concerning the European species behavior in that climatic conditions, especially European spruce.

Materials and methods. The arboretum was researched a day long, walking through and observing the trees' taxonomical organization. Also, there were made some measurements regarding the European trees founded in the arboretum, as European spruces and other species. The measured and observed elements were tree's diameter, tree's high and health, etc. Also there were made a lot of pictures with the trees and landscape.

Results and Discussion. The collections represent a diversity of plants from around the world, good organized and systematized. There are a lot of European species in the arboretum, this arboretum actually containing a good percentage from the European flora. The collected data shows that the European species are good developed, with a good health and features. About the European spruce, it is well represented covering an important area from the arboretum. The dimensions are comparable with those from European forests, the climatic conditions being proper for its development.

Conclusion. This arboretum provides a good example of staffing and organizational structure at a large, fully developed garden. It is an important scientific, educational and

public place. In Romania there are some arboretums like this, as Simeria, Hemeiusi, but there is a lot to work inside them to look like the arboretum of our research.

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