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Landscape Value of Trees

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Abstract

Trees are the perennial plant having trunk with supporting branches and leaves. Trees are considered as the back bone of landscaping. The trees bear attractive foliage or flowers or fruits. Trees and forests provide a habitat for many species of animals and plants. It provides shade and shelter, timber for construction, fuel for cooking and fruit for food. It bears brightly coloured flowers and hence it is highly suited for streetscaping and avenue planting. Greenery of the trees improves mental health by providing peace of mind with joy. Increased property value can be realized because of their aesthetic value of trees to the property. Foliage and flowering trees are having immense utility in landscaping.

Introduction

Tree is a perennial plant having trunk with supporting branches and leaves. Trees are considered as the back bone of landscaping. The exclusive collection of trees is known as arboretum. Arboretum is a place where trees maintained/ cultivated for scientific and educational purposes. The trees bear attractive foliage or flowers or fruits. Trees are varied in their frame work, height, shape of trunk, foliage texture, variegation in leaf colour and flower colour *etc.*

Shade loving trees are preferred around the home gardens and public parks in order to have the shading effect. Trees with bright coloured flowers are preferred for avenue planting. Trees play a significant role in reducing erosion, moderating the climate, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store large quantities of carbon in their tissues. Trees are used in streetscape with bright coloured flowers (Hussaina *et al.*, 2015). In addition to the above, Hasan *et al.* (2018) found that the environmental constraints are positively correlated and have strong relationship with tree selection process and the role of landscape architect is pertinent in tree selection.

Importance of Trees

- Trees like guava, singapore cherry, sapota and mango provide fruits as food for many animals like Squirrels.
- Trees protect the land from soil erosion, flooding and wind. Trees are used as fences, windbreaks and barriers.
- Biodiversity collection of trees encourage harboring many birds, animals and insects.
- Trees provide wood for construction and fuel wood for cooking.
- Greenery of the trees improves mental health by providing peace of mind with joy.

- Trees are industrially important and used as raw materials for the extraction of gum, paper, wood, rubber etc.
- Trees improve the air quality by absorbing and storing the excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and release oxygen. In addition to the above, it absorbs pollutants and dust.
- Increased property value can be realized because of their aesthetic value of trees to the property.
- Mature trees can have environmental control and regulates wind speed, moisten the air through evapotranspiration and significantly reduce the temperature by reflecting solar energy. In addition to the above, it can reduce the exposure to UV rays and hence the trees are recommended for planting in school campus.
- Trees can absorb pollutants viz., nitrogen oxide, ammonia,

sulfur dioxide and ozone and filter the dust by trapping on their leaves.

- Trees provide opportunity for community involvement and improve the standard and quality of living. Considering this, invariably of the cultures and ages, tree planting programmes are highly appreciated.
- Tall trees are used for privacy planting, windbreak and sound barrier.
- E.g.: Casuarina Trees possess medicinal value. E.g.: Neem leaf is used for curing leprosy, eye disorders, bloody nose, intestinal worms etc. The oil derived from Camphor trees are used for muscle pain ointments, relieves chest congestion and inflammatory conditions.
- Trees possess sacred and heritage value. E.g.: Aegle, Saraca.

Table 1: The commonly used trees for landscaping

S. No.	Common name	Botanical name	Family	Flower colour
1	Bael	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Rutaceae	Greenish white
2	Siris	<i>Albizia lebbek</i>	Fabaceae	Pale greenish yellow
3	Devil's tree	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	Apocyanaceae	Greenish white
4	Neem tree	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Meliaceae	White
5	Mahua tree	<i>Bassia latifolia</i>	Sapotaceae	Light yellow
6	Camel foot tree	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i>	Fabaceae	purple
7	Trumpet flower	<i>Bignonia megapatomica</i>	Bignoniaceae	Mauve flowers
8	Flame of the forest	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	Fabaceae	Orange red flower
9	Divi Divi	<i>Caesalpinia coriari</i>	Fabaceae	Greenish flowers
10	Bottle brush	<i>Callistemon lanceolatus</i>	Myrtaceae	Scarlet red
11	Alexandrian laurel	<i>Calophyllum indophyllum</i>	Guttiferae	Fragrant white
12	Golden shower	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Fabaceae	Yellow
13	Pink cassia	<i>Cassia nodosa</i>	Fabaceae	Bright pink, fading white
14	Kassod tree	<i>Cassia siamea</i>	Fabaceae	Bright yellow
15	Australian oak	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	Casurinaceae	Red
16	Night Jasmine	<i>Cestrum nocturnum</i>	Solanaceae	Greenish white
17	Indian Mahagoni tree	<i>Cedrella toona</i>	Meliaceae	White
18	Scarlet cordia	<i>Cordia sebestina</i>	Boraginaceae	Scarlet red
19	Gulmohar	<i>Delonix regia</i>	Fabaceae	Scarlet, mild scent
20	Rain tree	<i>Enterolobium saman</i>	Fabaceae	
21	Coral tree	<i>Erythrina indica</i>	Fabaceae	Large red
22	Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	Myrtaceae	White
23	Fern Leaf Tree	<i>Filicium decipiens</i>	Sapindaceae	--
24	Banyan tree	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Moraceae	
25	Pipal tree	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Moraceae	
26	Rubber tree	<i>Ficus elastica</i>	Moraceae	

Table 1: Continue...

S. No.	Common name	Botanical name	Family	Flower colour
27	Silver oak	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Proteaceae	Small reddish orange
28	Sausage tree	<i>Kigelia pinnata</i>	Bignoniaceae	
29	Nili gulmohar	<i>Jacaranda acutifolia</i>	Bignoniaceae	blue
30	Pride of India	<i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i>	Lythraceae	Rose coloured flowers
31	Mahua	<i>Madhuca indica</i>	Sapotaceae	Pale brown colour
32	Champac	<i>Michelia champaca</i>	Magnoliaceae	Yellow scented
33	Spanish cherry	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	Sapotaceae	Yellowish white
34	Tree jasmine	<i>Millingtonia hortensis</i>	Bignoniaceae	White flowers open in the evening
35	Copper shield tree	<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i>	Fabaceae	Yellow
36	Pagoda tree	<i>Plumeria alba</i>	Apocynaceae	White scented
37	Pagoda tree	<i>Plumeria rubra</i>	Apocynaceae	Red flowers
38	Badminton ball tree	<i>Parkia biglandulosa</i>	Mimosaseae	White
39	Polyalthia	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i>	Annonaceae	Pale green flowers
40	Indian beech	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Fabaceae	Purple
41	Asoka tree	<i>Saraca indica</i>	Fabaceae	Yellow or orange
42	Indian Tulip tree	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	Bignoniaceae	Scarlet red
43	Tabebuia	<i>Tabebuia rosea</i>	Bignoniaceae	Mauve
44	Neer marudhu	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>	Combretaceae	Yellow flowers
45	Indian almond	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	Combretaceae	Greenish white
46	Pahari pipal	<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Malvaceae	Yellow

Conclusion

Foliage and flowering trees are having immense utility in landscaping. Trees protect the environment by providing clean air by absorbing the air pollutants. Trees provide wood for construction and fuel wood for cooking. Biodiversity collection of trees especially native tree species encourages the harboring birds, animals and insects. Trees are having heritage and medicinal value. Considering its multifarious utility by cultures and ages, tree planting programmes are highly appreciated in recent days.

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