

THE IMPORTANCE OF USING FRUIT TREE SPECIES WITH ORNAMENTAL ROLE IN RUSTIC GARDENS LANDSCAPING

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Abstract

Ornamental fruit trees are suitable for rustic gardens, although "rustic" is translated to us especially by "poverty" or "obsolete", in much broader terms refers to "something else" meaning return to nature, respect, tradition and even a certain social status. It is therefore essential that in the woody vegetation campestre gardens to find rustic tree species, which by their habitus and color bring more dynamism and candor to any type of garden, especially rustic garden type. These species can be introduced into the composition either as individual parts or groups, decorating the trees in the same visual character (class, habitus, foliage, flowers), also providing the desired fruit. The great advantage of these species is that in addition to their great capacity to make the area in which they are positioned beautiful, by the beauty of the flowers, leaves or even the different colors every season, offers real taste delights through the fruit they produce.

Keywords: rustic, ornamental, fruit trees, habitus, area.

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to obtain a harmonious landscape within a country garden, the rustic ornamental tree species represent the most manageable element through the differentiated use of the sizes, forms, colours and texture of the plants and the adaptability of different tree species to different conditions of the environment, through their many combination possibilities.

The rustic style in a layout offers relaxation, intimacy and closeness to nature. It is based largely on plants from the spontaneous flora, and instead of sophisticated decor principles, simple elements are used. The simplicity of the natural in a rustic decor can be found both in the colours and textures used, and the composition of agrestic landscapes is based on the dominant effect of the used type of trees, to which bushes and herbs are added.

The creation of a harmonious, well bound and long-lasting vegetal landscape within a rustic garden, involves the knowledge of the plants' landscaping qualities, and at the same time, the knowledge of their biological characteristics and ecologic requirements. This largely emphasizes the almost vital importance of using rustic ornamental types of trees, able to develop harmoniously due to their ability to adapt to different environmental conditions.

Rustic trees, stand out from the landscape thanks to their size and the bushes thanks to their habitus and leaves. To these important aspects that are primarily considered for the selection, positioning or grouping in the landscape ensemble, the additional decorative effects of flowers, fruit, bark are added. (Mcholy, 2008)

Besides all these, the growing of ornamental trees in rustic gardens presents encouraging advantages regarding the environment, educative factor as well as the life of the community, stimulating the solidarity of the population, so as to create a correct, long-term management framework.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Ornamental tree species include that category of plants that offer an added dynamism and warmth to any type of garden, especially the rustic gardens, and moreover, they do not require any complex maintenance or other special means of protection during the cold season.

In the wooded vegetation of gardens, ornamental fruit trees are often used, included in the composition either as isolated pieces or in groups; decorating thanks to the same visual characteristic as other trees (shape, habitus, leafage, flowers), they also provide the fruit. Some middle-sized fruit trees (apple trees, pear trees) can be shaped as columns to create fruit tree hedges.



Figure 1. Example of hedges of apple and pear trees (www.flicker.fr)

The rusticity of these types of fruit trees has been proven in time thanks to the complexity of the areas where they can be found, and also thanks to their ability to adapt to different environmental conditions.

Taking into consideration these aspects, the inclusion of rustic ornamental fruit tree species in any type of landscaping is absolutely necessary, especially when we talk about a countryside garden. And for good results in the creation of such a garden, the present paper aims to offer correct and comprehensive information on the main rustic ornamental fruit tree species that lend themselves to being used successfully in these types of landscaping:

Crataegus (hawthorn), is a kind rich in decorative species and varieties, represented by tree plants of up to 3-8 m, bushes of 2-4 m, or smaller varieties with their branches adorned with thorns, broad and oval leaves, flowers that are usually white and small fruit from yellow or orange to red, highly decorative in nature.

Corylus (hazelnut tree), can be used as an ornamental species, as sub-tree for high tree landscapes, borders or isolated. It is resistant to smoke and gases. In countryside gardens it is often used solitary, or in groups if we refer to the varieties with dark read leaves, and since it lends itself well to trimming it is also used for hedges.

Cornus (dogwood), includes small and tall trees with simple, opposed leaves, nicely coloured in the autumn, with arched lateral nerves, white or yellow flowers and a colourful fruit with most varieties.

Lonicera, is one of the genus most rich in species (about 180), popular in the parks of our country, especially in dendrological resorts, where there is a wide range of this genus; in the spontaneous flora, this number is lower. The rustic species of *Lonicera*, are always present in countryside gardens wither as isolated bushes or in groups, in massive plantations, hedges or used to cover walls, etc., and are represented by straight, clinging or falling branches trees. The leaves of most species are falling, some are semi-persistent or persistent, the flowers are special and the fruit have a wide variety of colours, depending on the species.

Malus is a genus that comprises 31 rustic species, most of which decorative in nature.

In rustic garden these are used individually or in small groups on lawns, near houses or in straight lines, as they are highly decorative through their rich blossom, colour and shape of the fruit, leaves, etc.



Figure 2. Detail with the fruit, leaves and crown for *Crataegus leiphylla* (original)



Cornus Hemsley

C. mas,

C. sanguinea,

C. glabrata

Figure 3. Fruit for different species *Cornus* (original)

Mespilus, this genus appears naturally in SE Europe and in our country it appears sporadically on hilled areas. The medlar is a rustic species, resistant to drought and freezing temperatures, vegetating on fertile, moist soils.

Besides the *Mespilus germanica* (the medlar with edible fruit), there is a series of rustic, decorative species, known for their large leaves and globular fruit: *Mespilus crusgalii*, *Mespilus imbricata*, *Mespilus macracantha*, *Mespilus prunifolia*, *Mespilus viridis*, *Mespilus grandiflora*.

The medlar can be planted solitary, or in groups in orchards or yards, or rustic gardens.

Pyrus, is another genus that has about 10 species present in our country, in the spontaneous flora, it comprises trees, more rarely small trees with simple leaves, flowers with white petals – sometimes pink, narrower on the basis and oval fruit.

Just as the cultivated species of this genus, the rustic species lend themselves well to trimming, being highly decorative.

All these rustic fruit trees offer special beauty and form to countryside gardens while at the same time helping these fit better in the spontaneous landscape.



Figure 4. *Malus scheideckerei*, detail of fruit, leaf, crown (original)

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

When we talk about a rustic landscaping work, the study will focus on a good systematization of the area, taking into consideration the fact that most rustic fruit trees are classified as Category III in relation to their size, with heights between 7 and 15m. Exceptions are *Prunus avium*, entered in Group II, with heights between 15 - 25m and *Juglans nigra*, classified in Group I, with more than 25m in height.

Depending on the scale of the set and reported to other elements of the composition, we use large trees or smaller ones. While the rustic landscaping works of large proportions involve the introduction of large fruit trees, the average and small gardens use smaller trees and bushes.

Perspective effect usually use large trees in the foreground and smaller trees in the background, thus increasing the depth of the landscape.

The greatness of the perspective is reached by placing large trees, well underlined in complex compositions.

The shape of the fruit trees is given by the way the trunk grows, the form of the crown and the ramification, the forms and growing direction of young branches.

The expressiveness of the shape leads to visual effects that can personalize certain compositions.

The shapes with a predominantly vertical development are dynamic forms, while the globular, tubular and dropping shapes suggest calm and relaxation.

The expressiveness of the shape can be underlined in group compositions, alignments, solitary individuals, in relation to the other elements of the composition such as the grass, the bodies of water, sky, the background of other plantations of built surfaces.

In time, the habitus is modified, either as a characteristic of the species, or flowing culture conditions. This is why the evolution of the shape of trees has to be taken into consideration, and dissonances must be avoided, in order to maintain the esthetical qualities suggested initially.

We will of course avoid planting a magnolia tree next to a nut tree, but a rustic garden may offer enough space for both. Most often, the positioning of the house within the grounds, divides the

grounds in two: the front and the back of the house. "The front" is usually a smaller area, used and landscaped as "trademark" for passers-by or neighbours and requires a more complex landscaping work. "The back" is for the family, for children and the friends who come to visit. Here you find fruit trees, which when allowed to grow freely usually grow too high, too thick with many branches and few fruit. As a consequence the trees age prematurely, fruit grows towards the periphery of the crown and for some species there occurs an alternation in fruit bearing years.

With a correct control of the fruit trees according to the particularities of each species, all these inconveniences can be removed and both their decorative and their economic value can be increased.

In orcharding there are many types of crowns that can be classified according to many criteria, namely: the degree of human intervention on the crown (*natural, semi-natural, artistic* crowns); according to the exterior contour of the crowns (*globular, flattened*) according to the presence or absence of an axis (*pyramid, spindle, vase, chandelier*) according to the direction of the growth of the axis and branches (*vertical, horizontal, oblique, arched*) etc. (Lupescu, 2007)

Unlike wild trees, that grow and bear fruit without any human intervention, the trees used for ornamental purposes, need a series of maintenance works that aim at obtaining constant, quality fruit productions and increasing their decorative value.

The families with children will always want to eat a fresh fruit from their own garden. In such cases, we can't talk about a plantation, not about an orchard per say, we are more likely talking about isolated trees, grouped by 2 or 3, placed in the relatively limited area of the garden, so that they are aesthetically pleasing and fit in the landscape.



Figure 5. Example of country style setup in which the following rustic species of fruit trees were used: Sorbus aucuparia, Malus floribunda, Chaenomeles japonica, Prunus laurocerasus, Lonicera japonica, Pyrus comunis along with other bushes and flowers meant to complete the landscape.

Taking advantage by this large variety of growth forms of fruit trees and suggesting associations with various bushes and flowers or specifically constructed elements, valuable compositions can be obtained.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The great advantage of these species is presented by the fact that besides their high ability to adorn the space where they are located, with the beauty of their flowers, leaves and even the varied colour range during each season, they offer real taste pleasures with the fruit they produce.

You can never get a harmonious landscape setup when you don't use plants from the spontaneous flora, that helps with the integration in the natural landscape.

The rustic ornamental fruit trees offer a real pleasure for the eyes, bringing life to rustic gardens.

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