

The introduced species are prone to diseases and insect infections in their new environment, like in the case of Phoenix canariensis and the associated red beetle. The phenomenon is deteriorated by the reduced genetic variation of the introduced species, as a result of their reproduction methods and the restricted number of imported plants. In our country, there have been recorded about 340 introduced species, 1/6 of which has shown intrusive behavior.

Most of the native Greek species are connected with mythology and history. The successful intervention of the great architect Pikionis to the surrounding area of Acropolis is a good example of the use of native plants (olive trees, carob, pine, cypress and laurel). Theophrastus, Dioskorides, Athenus and also Genadios, Orphanides, and Theodor Heldreich contributed to discover the Greek flora. It is our duty to preserve and manage it with wisdom.

The State, the Forest Service and Municipal authorities have to act towards preservation of native habitats and the use of native species. The crisis that we live in, shows the way for the own production of native plant species and the minimization of importing introduced species.

#### Native is beautiful

We attach a list of 46 native trees, 25 shrubs and 6 low shrubs and climbers that can be used for plantings. The table refers to some of their basic characteristics and their availability in the market. Many other native species are appropriate for planting, but they are not available in the market, like Ebenus cretica, Linum arboreum, Euphorbia dendroides, and Lavandula stoechas.

Our effort will continue until:

1. Native species are used in all plantings
2. No gap will exist in nature
3. Climate change will be a past scenario

Respect nature is respect life.



we respect nature

we prefer local species



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## RESPECT NATURE – USE NATIVE PLANTS

The declaration of 2011 as the International Year of Forests reminds us of what we gain from the forests as inhabitants of the planet earth, how many species are developed in these ecosystems, and how they contribute to the fight against climate change.

In Greece, after 1979, all the governments, either with laws or managing regulations, are gradually reducing the forest protection provided by the Constitution of 1975.

By participating to the act of protection and conservation of the ecosystems, we, undersigning this text, are initiating an attempt to convince the Greek society and all citizens that:

### The use of native plants is a factor of biodiversity conservation

By native are defined the plants that are living naturally in an area and have not been transferred there by any human intervention. On the other hand, introduced plants have been transferred and installed by the humans in an area, away from the area of their natural range.

We propose that:

1. All the reforestation is done using native species only.
2. All plantings in urban areas are done by using Greek species adapted to the bioclimatic conditions.
3. The use of any other plant should be convincingly justified.

### Because:

The use of native species presents significant advantages against the use of introduced ones, the most important being:

1. The native species are adapted to the local habitats and the specific climatic, geological and geomorphologic conditions.
2. They have fewer demands in planting care, insect and disease treatment and water than most of the introduced species.
3. They contribute to the preservation and development of wildlife. The wild animals of an ecosystem are using the native plant species for food, nesting and shelter.
4. The native plant species are parts of the natural landscape where they develop, whereas the majority of the introduced ones are not.
5. Introduced species may become invaders, by covering great areas and causing problems to the biodiversity and the natural ecosystems of their new establishment area.
6. All species are reflecting in their DNA the geoclimatic conditions of the area where they naturally grow. It is unnatural to seek the same growing conditions when we introduce plants to other areas.

Greece has one of the richest floras in Europe including many ornamental, aromatic, pharmaceutical and crop plants. Our bad habit of importing plants is expensive and costs many failures, while many of the introduced plants proved to be invaders and disease disseminators. We had reforestation failures with introduced conifer trees (*Pinus maritima*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*), whereas there has been big problems with the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), the poorly growing *Casuarina* (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), as well as the *Brachychiton populneus* which was planted all over Athens.

## LIST OF NATIVE GREEK SPECIES FOR USE IN PLANTINGS

| s/n          | Species                       | Availability | s/n                           | Species                       | Availability |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>TREES</b> |                               |              |                               |                               |              |
| 1            | <i>Abies cephalonica</i>      | C            | 40                            | <i>Sorbus aria</i>            | C            |
| 2            | <i>Abies X borisii-regis</i>  | C            | 41                            | <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>       | C            |
| 3            | <i>Acer monspessulanum</i>    | C            | 42                            | <i>Tamarix hampeana</i>       | C            |
| 4            | <i>Acer platanoides</i>       | C            | 43                            | <i>Taxus baccata</i>          | C            |
| 5            | <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>    | C            | 44                            | <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>     | C            |
| 6            | <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | B            | 45                            | <i>Tilia tomentosa</i>        | B            |
| 7            | <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>        | C            | 46                            | <i>Ulmus campestris</i>       | B            |
| 8            | <i>Amygdalus communis</i>     | B            | <b>SHRUBS</b>                 |                               |              |
| 9            | <i>Betula pendula</i>         | C            | 1                             | <i>Arbutus unedo</i>          | C            |
| 10           | <i>Carpinus betulus</i>       | C            | 2                             | <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>     | A            |
| 11           | <i>Carpinus orientalis</i>    | C            | 3                             | <i>Colutea arborescens</i>    | C            |
| 12           | <i>Castanea sativa</i>        | B            | 4                             | <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>       | C            |
| 13           | <i>Celtis australis</i>       | B            | 5                             | <i>Coronilla emeroides</i>    | C            |
| 14           | <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>      | A            | 6                             | <i>Corylus avellana</i>       | B            |
| 15           | <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>    | A            | 7                             | <i>Cotinus coggygria</i>      | B            |
| 16           | <i>Cornus mas</i>             | C            | 8                             | <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>        | A            |
| 17           | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>     | C            | 9                             | <i>Laurus nobilis</i>         | A            |
| 18           | <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> | A            | 10                            | <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>      | C            |
| 19           | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>        | C            | 11                            | <i>Medicago borea</i>         | A            |
| 20           | <i>Ficus carica</i>           | A            | 12                            | <i>Myrtus communis</i>        | A            |
| 21           | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>     | C            | 13                            | <i>Nerium oleander</i>        | A            |
| 22           | <i>Fraxinus ornus</i>         | B            | 14                            | <i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>    | C            |
| 23           | <i>Juglans regia</i>          | B            | 15                            | <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>     | B            |
| 24           | <i>Liquidambar orientalis</i> | C            | 16                            | <i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>   | B            |
| 25           | <i>Morus alba</i>             | A            | 17                            | <i>Prunus spinosa</i>         | C            |
| 26           | <i>Olea europaea</i>          | A            | 18                            | <i>Punica granatum</i>        | A            |
| 27           | <i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>    | C            | 19                            | <i>Pyraeantha coccinea</i>    | A            |
| 28           | <i>Pinus brutia</i>           | A            | 20                            | <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>      | A            |
| 29           | <i>Pinus halepensis</i>       | A            | 21                            | <i>Sambucus nigra</i>         | C            |
| 30           | <i>Pinus nigra</i>            | A            | 22                            | <i>Spartium junceum</i>       | A            |
| 31           | <i>Pinus pinea</i>            | A            | 23                            | <i>Syringa vulgaris</i>       | A            |
| 32           | <i>Platanus orientalis</i>    | A            | 24                            | <i>Viburnum tinus</i>         | A            |
| 33           | <i>Populus alba</i>           | A            | 25                            | <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>     | A            |
| 34           | <i>Prunus mahaleb</i>         | B            | <b>LOW SHRUBS AND CLIMBER</b> |                               |              |
| 35           | <i>Prunus cocomilia</i>       | B            | 1                             | <i>Coridothymus capitatus</i> | B            |
| 36           | <i>Quercus ilex</i>           | B            | 2                             | <i>Hedera helix</i>           | A            |
| 37           | <i>Quercus ithaburensis</i>   | B            | 3                             | <i>Lonicera etrusca</i>       | B            |
| 38           | <i>Quercus pubescens</i>      | B            | 4                             | <i>Mentha</i>                 | B            |
| 39           | <i>Quercus trojana</i>        | C            | 5                             | <i>Origanum</i>               | B            |
|              |                               |              | 6                             | <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> | B            |

### Availability

C sparse B medium A plenty