

Kind of Tree-planting Activities in United Arab Emirates

Part 2 : Plant species used

(1) Urban greening

Main species used for urban greening are categorized by their utilization as summarized below.

Species for road side planting

Phoenix dactylifera
Melia azadirachta
Albizzia lebbeck
Eucalyptus spp.
Ficus religiosa, F. benghalensis

Species for fences

Clerodendron inerme
Vitex negundo
Bougainvillea glabra
Sesbania aegyptiaca

Species for median strips

Hibiscus rosasinensis
Tecoma stans
Euphorbia pulcherrima

Species for covering grounds

Cynodon dactylon
Ipomea pescaprae R.

Halophytes

Acacia spp.
Salvadora persica
Prosopis spp.

* Data was collected from Gardening Section of Al Ain Municipality

(2) Large scale afforestation

In 1970's, species adopted for large scale afforestation were mostly foreign varieties, such as Eucalyptus spp., Acacia spp., Casuarina spp., Prosopis juliflora, etc. After that, local xerophytes or halophytes, which require less water for growth such as Prosopis cineraria, Acacia ehrenbergiana Acacia arabica, increased its share in afforestation.



Afforestation along the Al Ain-Abu Dhabi road



Afforestation of Salvadora persica

These days local varieties occupy 90% of the species for afforestation. Since 1977, local shrubs such as Calligonum comosum and Leptadenia pyrotechnica, and foreign shrubs such as Atriplex spp; have been planted between major trees. They will be utilized for feeding animals in the future. Demand for Salvadora persica is increasing in the area where irrigation water is saline. Moreover, wild species such as Hammada elegans, Zygophyllum spp. are growing naturally inside afforestation area. At present 6 species, mainly local species, are adopted for afforestation; Prosopis cineraria (Ghaff), Acacia tortilis (Samar), Zizyphus spina-christi (Sidder), Salvadora persica (Arak), Leptadenia pyrotechnica (Murkh), Acacia ehrenbergiana (Salam).