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A Study of Selected Potential Ornamental Plants From Nandgaon & Chandwad Tehsils (District Nashik, MS, India)

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ABSTRACT

Exotic plants have been introduced in our country for various purposes, many of these become invasive and have a tremendous negative impact on the ecosystems. At the same time a number of native plants are becoming rare and are being added to the RED list. The study deals with Identifying and studying local flora to find suitable replacement with ornamental potential for exotic plants introduced as ornamentals.

Keywords: Exotic plants, invasive, ornamental potential, Native plants.

INTRODUCTION

Man has been carrying plants from different areas of the world with him for various purposes. This introduction is not always beneficial for the ecosystems. A number of them become invasive and create havoc for local plants. At the same time a number of native plants are becoming rare and are being added to the RED list. The present paper deals with studying the ornamental potential of Native plants so that they would gain popularity and would be conserved if grown in gardens by the public.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study area consists of two tehsils of Nandgaon and Chandwad which lie approximately in the centre of Nasik district. Most of the study area lies in rain shadow region having dry climate, and dry deciduous vegetation. The flora can be considered as representative flora of the district at large. The plants studied for the ornamental potential could be used to grow in almost any parts of the district and Maharashtra at large. Plants were photographed and identified with the help of floras and expert advice Herbarium sheets were prepared or geo tagged photographs were taken of plants reported as new to the flora of Nashik district. Plants with ornamental potential were studied based on their morphology and ecological features. Some potential ornamental plants were grown. Exotic Invasive plants encountered during the study were recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

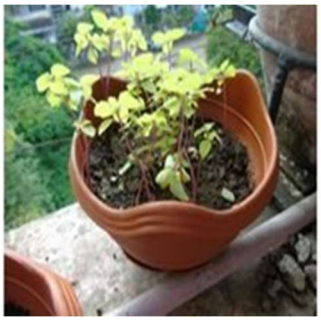
Native Plants studied for their ornamental potential and invasive plants found in the study area are discussed below

Anisomeles malabarica (L.) R.Br. ex Sims Family Lamiaceae

Perennial shrubs having large raceme, with bilabiate flowers. with pink corolla with white streaks. Suitable to be grown at center of garden or as hedge plant, or in large containers

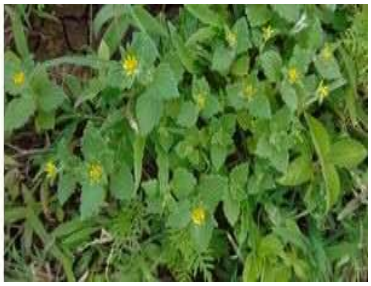
Anisochilus carnosus (L.f.) Wall Family Lamiaceae

Semi-succulent herbs growing up to two feet tall, bilabiate purple flower growing on thick spikes make an attractive candidate to be grown in pots, and along pathways.



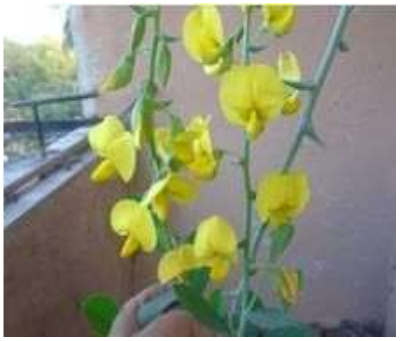
Senecio bombayensis N.P.Balakr Family Asteraceae

Erect branched herbs growing up to 100 cms, beautiful yellow coloured heads are an attractive sight and makes them an ideal candidate as a potted plant or hanging baskets. during monsoon.

Crotalaria spectabilis Roth Family Fabaceae

A shrub growing up to one and half meters in height, leaves are large oblong, flowers yellow with rounded standard and large bracts, very attractive along pathways and highway dividers in cool seasons.

Carvia callosa (Wall. ex Nees) Bremek Family: -Acanthaceae

A very unique plant, Shrubs growing about six meters tall may be planted in a corner of garden, though flowering once in seven years Blue flowers are very beautiful and attractive.


Monsonia senegalensis Guill & Perr Family Geraniaceae

An erect herb suitable to be grown as a potted plant, or hanging basket, attractive pink coloured flowers , fruit having typical rostrum shape.


Barleria lawii T. Anders. Family Acanthaceae

Large shrubs, flowers large tube about four centimeters, with typical violet throat,

Some Exotic and invasive plants:-

Exotic and invasive plants reported from the study area are as follows

1) *Argyria strigosa* Family Convolvulaceae
2) *Ipomoea hederifolia L* Family -Convolvulaceae
3) *Ipomoea nil(L) Roth* Family -Convolvulaceae
4) *Ipomoea triloba L.* Family -Convolvulaceae
5) *Merremia tuberosa (L)* Rendel Family -Convolvulaceae
6) *Nicandra physalodes (L)* Gaertner Family Solanaceae
7) *Hyptis suaveolens (L.) Poit.* Family Lamiaceae
8) *Lavandula bipinnata (Roth) O.Kuntze* Family Lamiaceae
9) *Bidens pilosa L.* Family Asteraceae
10) *Bidens bipinnata L Family Asteraceae*
11) *Crassocephalum crepidioides (Benth.) S.Moore Family Asteraceae*
12) *Zinnia peruviana (L) L Family Asteraceae*
13) *Cosmos sulphureus Cav Family Asteraceae*
14) *Chromolaena odorata (L.) R.M.King & H.Rob. Family Asteraceae*
15) *Acmella radicans (Jacq.) R.K.Jansen Family Asteraceae*
16) *Cryptostegia grandiflora R.Br. Family Asclepidaceae*
17) *Lantana camara L Family - Verbenaceae*
18) *Rumex dentatus L. Family Polygonace*

Exotic plants have been introduced either accidently or deliberately, these have become invasive and create problems in the ecosystem and as weeds, some like Cryptostegia grow with and strangle plants like Azadirachta, and Vachelia. Therefore, native plants should be used for ornamental purpose so as to avoid and mitigate the consequences because of Exotic plants and conserve native plants.

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