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# Woody plants commonly cultivated in Central North Carolina

by

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## 1. Introduction

The cultivated plants of a region are usually a mixture of exotic and native species. As a rule the most successful exotics originate in regions which have climates similar to the region into which the species is being introduced (see introduction to this volume by H. LIETH). It will be clear from the tables presented in this paper that the majority of common cultivated species in North Carolina are either natives or introduced from mesic, warm-temperate, southeast Asia while relatively few species have been introduced from drier Mediterranean regions of the world.

Since North Carolina has a broader spectrum of climates than any

other state or province in eastern North America, the preparation of a complete list of cultivated materials for this state would be a very large task. One private collection near Chapel Hill currently has over a thousand woody species established.

We have therefore restricted ourselves to brief horticultural descriptions of the commonly cultivated plants of North Carolina, with emphasis on the cultivated materials of the central Piedmont Region of the state. Common materials are the primary concern; however, some less frequently seen species growing on the campus of the University of North Carolina are included. The distribution of species in cultivation across the state is mentioned, but those limited to coastal plain or mountain zones are mostly omitted.

While the list presented here indicates what is found, it is a worthwhile task to find the new species worthy of introduction. Several small arboreta and private collections are in the process of testing new species in this area.

The plants are presented here in seven sections according to horticultural usage:

- Section 1: Broad leaf shade trees
- Section 2: Flowering trees
- Section 3: Fruit and nut trees
- Section 4: Deciduous shrubs
- Section 5: Evergreen shrubs
- Section 6: Hollies
- Section 7: Conifers

For each plant species, the native location, date of introduction and frequency of cultivation are presented in tabular form at the beginning of each section and horticultural descriptions follow. A figure with leaf outlines for the species in each section is placed at the end of each grouping.