

Flora in Sicily

ERASMUS PLUS KA2

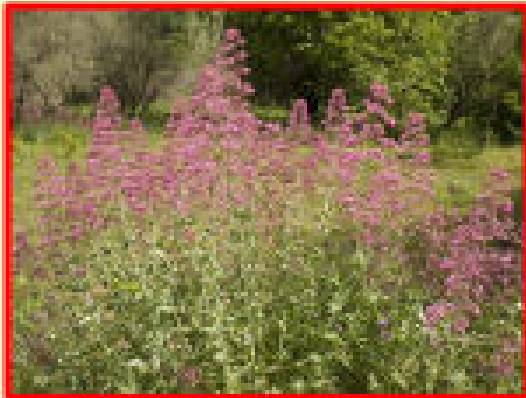
“In Harmony with nature”

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Citruses - Agrumi

Citruses are a type of angiosperm in the Rutaceae family.

They are large evergreen shrubs or small trees, 5-15 m tall.

Their fruits are fragrant and succulent. They contain a large percentage of citric acid which gives the characteristic acrid smell and taste to the fruits. They are also excellent sources of vitamin C. Citrus Trees grow well in a sunny and humid climate. They are evergreen trees and never lose their foliage. Citrus Trees bloom in spring and their fruits ripe in autumn or early in winter, depending on the species.



Arancio dolce (*Citrus sinensis*)



Limone (*Citrus limon*)



Mandarino (*Citrus reticulata*)

Vine - Vite

Vitis is a type of shrubby plants in the Vitaceae family. *Vitis vinifera* (commonly called European vine) is the best known species. Its fruits are grapes. It is a climbing tree that attaches itself to supports by tendrils. If *Vitis* are not pruned they can reach significant widths and heights, sticking to the trees, on rocky walls, or covering the ground.

Vines also have tall stems from which numerous branches depart. Their leaves, called vine –leaves, are very important to recognize the various grape varieties. Their fruits are clusters of berries (acini) different in shapes and color: yellow, violet or bluish berries. They have a thick pruinose exocarp (peel), a mesocarp with cells full of juice from which must is obtained (pulp) and an endocarp formed by a layer of cells that delimits the lodges containing the seeds (pips).



OLIVE TREES - Ulivo (*Olea europaea*)

The olive trees are fruit trees. They belong to the Oleaceae family and to the *Olea* species. The olive trees are evergreen and broad-leaved trees. They are slow growing and long-lived trees and in favorable climatic conditions they can become millennial and can reach heights of 15-20 meters. Their stem is cylindrical and twisted, the bark is grey or dark grey and their wood is hard and heavy.

The crown has a conical shape, with fruit branches and pendulous branches.

The leaves are opposite, coriaceous, simple, entire, elliptic-lanceolate, with short petiole and entire margin. Their flowers are hermaphrodite and are grouped in number of 10-15 in clustered inflorescences. Flowering takes place from May to the first half of June.

Their fruits consist in a "fleshy" part (pulp) which contains oil and a woody and wrinkled core.

The harvest period goes from October to December and depends on the crops and the use that you have to do.



Lentisco

(*Pistacea lentiscus*)

Mastics are evergreen shrubs in the Anacardiaceae family. A Mastic has a bushy posture. Its leaves are alternate, paripinnate leaves, composed of 6-10 leaflets. Leaves are glabrous. Its fruits are small spherical or ovoid drupes, 4-5 mm in diameter. Their red colour becomes black during the ripening.

Flowering takes place in spring, from April to May. The red fruits are well visible in summer and autumn and they ripen in winter



Oleastro

(*Olea oleaster*)



Spontaneous arboreal plant, 5-6 m tall, with thorny branches and small red-blackish fruits .



CAROB - Carrubo

(*Ceratonia siliqua*)



Carob trees are fruit trees belonging to the Caesalpiniaceae family (other authors include it in the Fabaceae family) and to the *Ceratonia* species. They are dioecious (that is, there are trees with only male flowers and trees with only female flowers.). Their main characteristic is you can see flowers, fruits and leaves on a same carob tree . This is because they are evergreen trees and because their fruits ripening lasts a very long time. They can grow to a height of 9-10 metres. Their fruits, popularly called carobs, are large dark brown pods, 10-20 cm long, they are thick with a leathery consistency.

They have a very hard external surface, with fleshy, pasty and sugary pulp. Their seeds are extremely hard they were considered particularly uniform in size and weight. Their Arabic name (qīrāṭ or "karat") gave the name to the unit of measure (carat) in use for precious stones.

Prickly Pears - Fichi d' India -



Prickly Pears (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) are succulent arborescent plants that can reach 4-5 meters in height. They belong to the Cactaceae family. Their stem is composed by cladodes, commonly called “pale”: they are oval-shaped stems, that form ramifications joining one another. Their leaves have a conical shape and are only a few millimeters long. The spines are whitish, sclerified, solidly implanted, 1 to 2 cm long. Their fruits are fleshy berries with numerous seeds (polypermica).



Agave



Agaves are a type of succulent monocotyledonous plants. They are very appreciated plants in public and private gardens, all over the world. They are different in size from about 20 cm up to 5-6 meters in width and from 15 cm to 2,50 meters in height. They have fleshy leaves, with parallel nervations of fibrous consistency, up to 25 cm broad and up to 2,50 metres tall. They are almost always equipped with a woody apical plug up to 5 cm long. Agaves bloom when they reach maturity at the age of 10-50 years and then they usually die.

Ornamental plants with high stem

PALM TREES -Palme



MARITIME PALM



Eucaliptus

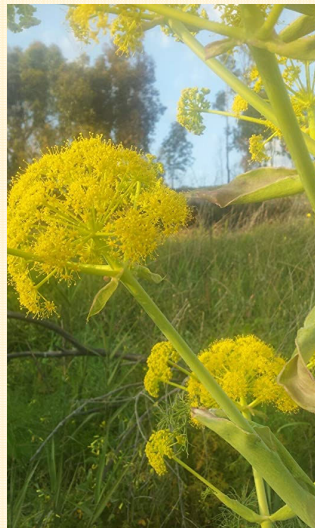
Euphorbia arborea

(Euphorbia dendroides)



Ferula

(Ferula communis)



Cisto

Cistus salvifolius



Romice

(*Rumex bucephalophorus*)



Linaria

(*Linaria heterophylla*)



Valeriana rossa

(*Centranthus ruber*)



HOLM OAK-LECCIO

(*Quercus ilex*)



Holm oaks, also called Elces, are spontaneous trees belonging to the Fagaceae family and the Quercus genus. They spread in around the Mediterranean basin.

Holm oaks are, evergreen and broad-leaved trees with rarely straight stems, up to 20-24 m high.

Their barks are smooth and grey when they are young barks; they become hard and dark when they are old barks.

Their leaves are simple, variable in shapes. Their flowers are unisexual

Their fruits are acorns, called lenne.

Half acorns are covered in a dome with scales



Cestnut tree - castagno



European chestnut trees (*Castanea sativa*), are trees belonging to the Fagaceae family and to the *Castanea* genus. They are the only autochthonous in Europe.

Chestnut trees are very long-lived trees. Their flowering takes place in June and fructification in September-October, depending on the variety.

Under normal conditions they develop a big columnar stem, with smooth glossy and brownish-grey bark.

Their fruits are achenes, commonly called chestnuts, with a brown, glabrous and glossy pericarp of leathery consistency. The achenes are enclosed, in number of 1-3, inside of a spinous shell, commonly called curly

Hackberry -Bagolaro

Celtis aetenensis



The Etna bagolaros are spontaneous plants in the Ulmaceae family, found in the south-western slopes of Etna and Nebrodi. Their Sicilian name is Minicuccu. Their scientific name is *Celtis Tournefortii*.

Etna bagolaros are woody, bushy trees.,

At the beginning of autumn their berries are orange/yellow and when they get a very dark colouration they become food for birds. They are also a good fruit for men who appreciate their scent and their very pleasant taste.

Orniello –MANNA ASH



Fraxinus ornus are plants in the Oleaceae family (known as Orniello or Orno. Commonly called also manna ash or manna tree) They are trees that may be more than 10 meters tall.



Ginestra etnea

(*Genista aetnensis*)



These plants can reach up to 10 meters in height. The appearance is elegant, with few ramifications but with an abundance of long, thin and supple branches in a drooping posture. They have few leaves. Their leaves are small in a linear shape. Chlorophyll photosynthesis is carried out by the long and supple branches that remain always green

Ginestra spinosa

(Calicotome infesta)



This plant is known as Sparzio Spinoso. It is a shrubby plant, with intricate and thorny branches, which can reach up to 2 m in height. Its leaves fall in summer. Its flowers are yellow and they can be isolated or in groups of two. Its Flowering is in May/June. Its fruits are similar to linear, oblong legumes, 2-5 cm long, they are glabrous or with scarce hairs

HAZEL TREE - Nocciolo –



Nocciòlo (*Corylus avellana* L.) is a fruit tree belonging to the family of the Betulaceae and to the Corylusgenus.

Its inflorescences are unisexual.

Its fruit (called Hazelnut) is surrounded by bracts from which it releases when it ripe and falls. It is edible and it is used raw, cooked or chopped. It is also rich in oil used both in food and in cosmetic industries.

ALMOND TREE- Mandorlo

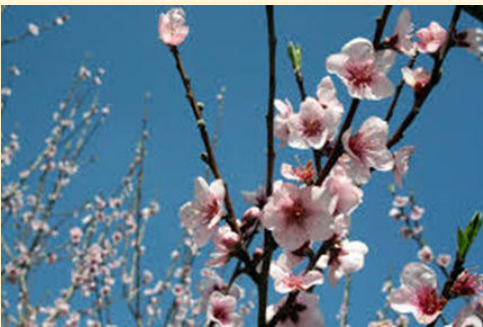


Almond trees (*Prunus dulcis*) are fruit trees belonging to the Rosaceae family and the *Prunus* genus . Almonds are the seeds of these trees.

Flowers bloom in early spring.

Their fruit is a drupe containing the almond, that is the seed with a woody shell, covered by a green husk.

Almonds are harvested in September-August, depending on the cultivars.



Pistacchio - Pistachio



Pistachio vera is a short-stemmed plant. It is a long-lived plant (from 200 to 300 years). Its growth is very slow. Pistachios' fruits are drupes, with pearly leathery skin. They have characteristic seeds inside. Seeds have a violet red pericardium and a emerald green almond.



Larch Pine – Pino Laricio



Laricio pine (*Pinus nigra laricio*) is a subspecies of *Pinus nigra*. It has a more slender posture than the black pine. It reaches an average height of 35 meters but it can easily exceed 40-50 meters. Its leaves are needle-shaped, dark green leaves. Its flowers ripen in March-May.



Beech - Faggio



Beeches (*Fagus sylvatica*), also called common beeches or western beeches, are trees belonging to the *Fagus* genus and the Fagaceae family. They are big trees, they have a very slow and long-lived growth and they are secular trees. They can reach 30-40 m in height. They have a smooth and thin grey-grey bark, with horizontal streaks and often with whitish spots due to the presence of lichens. They have hard and compact wood. They have dense foliage and oval leaves. In autumn they get a characteristic orange or red-brown colouring. Beeches have a massive and very ramified crown and a thick foliage. They are monoecious plant that produces male and female flowers on the same plant but in different positions. Its flowering usually takes place in May. Their fruits, called beech, are big edible achenes. Their beeches, if toasted or ground, are a substitute for coffee.

Viola - Etna Violet



They are plants 5-30 cm tall, with ascending or grooving stems between the pulvins of *Astragalus siculus*. The stipules have more or less elongated apical segment, and numerous lateral segments (up to 10), often with unilateral development. The lower leaves have oval-rounded lamina. The upper leaves have more or less lanceolate lamina. Their flowers are 2-4 cm long, their colour are: violet-blue, yellow or white. Their sepals are 7-10 mm long, widely lanceolate and sharply narrow in short tip. They bloom within May and June.



Saponaria



Saponaria is a plant in the Caryophyllaceae family. It is a plant 10-15 cm tall. It blooms within June and August. Its fruit is a pyriform denticid capsule that contains numerous compressed and reticulated reniform seeds. Saponaria grows on calcareous rocks and volcanic sands (1300-2000 mslm). This plant is an interesting pioneer species in the high-altitude lavas of Etna and in the calcareous slopes of the Madonie.

Camomilla dell'Etna - Chamomile



Etna chamomile (*Anthemis aetnensis*) is a plant belonging to the Asteraceae family. It is endemic to Sicily. It is a perennial suffrutescent plant, 10-30 cm tall. It is found on the slopes of Mount Etna. It forms dense grasslands on volcanic sand soils, at an altitude of 1800 - 2400 m (sometimes it is found even over 3000 m).

Tannaceto



Sicilian herb-bitter (*Tanacetum siculum*) is a plant in the Asteraceae family. It is endemic to Sicily. It is a perennial herbaceous plant with a branched, bushy habit. It is a pioneer species that colonizes recent lava flows. It is an endemism of eastern Sicily, on the slopes of Etna. It grows in open spaces, in *Betula aetnensis* thickets, in clearings, in high altitude pastures, frequently in association with *Astragalus siculus*.