A Vegetable Mosaic

Explore the diverse plant landscapes that shape this great green lung of Madrid.

Parks are not only a feast for the eyes, but also a display of diverse plant life! From imposing trees to delicate wildflowers, the flora here is essential for the health and beauty of the park.

The design of the Valdebebas-Felipe VI Forest Park and Princesa Leonor Park revolves around representing the main forest systems and plant landscapes of Madrid's geographical surroundings and the central Iberian Peninsula. With a clear forestry vocation, approximately 85% of the total area of the forest park is covered by areas of this nature. Both parks recreate a gradient of naturalness, from urban gardening on the facades to very forested areas in the interior.

The aim is to highlight the cultural dimension of the forest and the positive aspects of a humanized landscape.

The use of native species adapted to local ecological conditions is prioritized, which also helps to minimize resource consumption, especially water. This is the first tree that was planted.

Stone Pine. ***Pinus pinea***

The stone pine produces edible pine nuts and its crown offers fresh shade in summer.

Rosemary. ***Rosmarinus officinalis***

Broom. ***Retama sphaerocarpa***

Some plants in the park bloom in winter, offering food to insects when they need it most.

Holm Oak. ***Quercus ilex***

The holm oak can live for over 500 years and is one of the most drought-resistant species.

Olive Tree. ***Olea europaea***

Mastic Tree. ***Pistacia lentiscus***

The mastic tree, in addition to being a typical Mediterranean shrub, produces an aromatic resin highly valued in perfumery.

Rockrose. ***Cistus ladanifer***

Lavender. ***Lavandula spp.***

Thyme. ***Thymus vulgaris***

Thyme has been used since ancient times as a medicinal plant for its antibacterial properties.

Santolina. ***Santolina chamaecyparissus***

Did you know...?

Plants "talk" to each other. Although they don't have voices, plants communicate using chemical and electronic signals. When damaged, like cut grass, they release protein fragments that alert their neighbors to danger. Additionally, they can attract pollinators by releasing certain chemicals. Thus, plants are experts at sending and receiving messages.

Plants can move. Although they appear motionless, plants constantly move to improve their chances of survival. This movement, called phototropism, not only responds to light, but also to water, nutrients, and danger signals like grazing. Thus, they adjust their leaves, stems, and roots to thrive in their environment.

Plants can indicate global changes. Plants are very sensitive to changes in their environment and have been used for centuries to detect them. Some, like certain ferns in tropical forests, are especially vulnerable to droughts and temperature increases. These climate changes intensified since the burning of fossil fuels in the 1980s. Observing how plants respond helps us better understand our future.

Problematic and Invasive Exotic Plant Species

As with animals, some non-native plant species can become invasive, outcompeting native plants and reducing biodiversity. We are actively managing these plants to preserve the park's natural flora.

Pampas grass or Common Reed

Cortaderia selloana - Common Reed

Arundo donax - Tree of Heaven

Ailanthus altissima