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LECTURE -3

CLASSIFICATION OF FLORICULTURAL PLANTS



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- ✓ Plants are classified based on the similarities of their characters.
- ✓ Plant taxonomists compare flowering patterns, stem and leaf structures, life cycles, genetic similarities, and many other characteristics in deciding which plants are the most closely related.



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A. Based on their life cycle

1. Annuals

✓ Flowering plants completes its life cycle only in one growing season.

✓ The duration of a life cycle varies from few weeks to several months depending on the species.

✓ These flowering plants are useful in landscaping.

Ex- Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*), Marigold (*Tagetes spp.*) etc.



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3. Perennials

- ✓ They are mostly woody species growing for several years through adverse weather conditions (winter, summer, and fall).
- ✓ They continue vegetative growth for long time, flower and fruit in a variable manner and live for a number of years. Examples: *Magnolia grandiflora*, *Delonix regia*



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B. Based on uses

Flowering plants can be used in a variety of ways, both indoors and outdoors.

1. Cut Flower

✓ Cut flowers refer to flower buds that are cut with stems, branches and leaves to be used for bouquets or decorations.

Two categories

✓ (i) “fresh cut flowers” (ii) “non-fresh cut flowers”

✓ Typical fresh cut flowers include roses, carnations, orchids, chrysanthemums, lilies, gerbera etc.



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2. Potted plants

✓ Plants adapted to indoor conditions and for home and small gardens.

✓ Slow growing, and mostly foliage plants

✓ Sansevieria (*Sansevieria spp.*), Indian Rubber plant (*Ficus elastica*), Philodendron (*Philodendron spp.*).

✓3. Bedding plants

✓ Annual plants raised for planting outdoors in flower beds.

✓ Seeds sown in indoors in the off-season and transplanted later in the growing season.

✓ Petunia (*Petunia spp.*), Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*), Pansy (*Viola tricolor*).



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4. Hanging plants

✓ These are hanging basket plants either annual or perennial, flowering or foliage in decorative containers and hung by elegant ropes from the ceiling in the doorway area.

✓ Ex- Geranium (*Pelargonium spp.*), and Spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*).

5. Dried Flower

✓ These are flowers which are used after being dried for different occasions.

✓ These flowers are dried using different preservatives.

✓ Ex: Statice, Gypsophila, Straw flower (*Helichrysum*)



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6. Landscape plants

Crops which are grown in the garden for beauty and function

(a) Lawn: It is an area of grass grown as a green carpet.

(b) Ground covers:

- ✓ Plants are low growing and effectively cover the soil in place of lawn to cover unattractive sites.
- ✓ Ground covers can grow in any areas like shady areas and are used to fill bare spots.
- ✓ Eg. *Vinca minor*, *Vinca major*, *Carex spp.*, *Sedum spp.*, *Echeveria spp.*, and *Dianthus spp.*



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(c) Climbers

An annual or perennial herb or a shrub with a special structure- to climb over a support

- i. *Scindapsus aureus* (Money plant)
- ii. *Monstera deliciosa* (Swiss cheese plant)
- iv. *Hedera helix* (English Ivy)

(d) Shrubs

- ✓ Woody stem, usually well branched near the base.
- ✓ Do not have a prominent central trunk. Flowering shrubs have very attractive flowers

- i. *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* (red heart),
- ii. *Nerium oleander*,
- iii. *Tecoma stans* etc



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Foliage shrubs:

Produce rich and dense foliage that have no flowers.

i *Dracaena fragrans* (Corn plant),

ii. *Acalypha wilkesiana*

iii. *Duranta erecta*

Shrubs with Bracts

i. *Bougainvillea glabra*,

ii. *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (Poinsettia)



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(e) Trees: Trees are woody plants usually with well-defined trunks or stems

Functions of trees in the landscape

- i. Provide shade,
- ii. to ensure privacy,
- iii. to avoid monotony,
- iv. to reduce glare,
- v. to serve as wind breaks,
- vi. to reduce high summer temperature

Trees which shed their leaves during summer
(Deciduous trees)

- i. *Jacaranda mimosifolia*
- ii. *Azadirachta indica* (Neem tree)

Trees that do not shed their leaves throughout their life span
(Evergreen trees)

- i. *Spathodea campanulata*
- ii. *Grevillea robusta*
- iii. *Juniperus procera*
- iv. *Cupressus sempervirens*



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