

International Conference „Growing Valuable Broadleaved Tree Species”
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Parallel Sessions Topic 3: *Non-wood goods and services*

NON WOOD USES OF VBTS RELATED TO CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

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Valuable broadleaved trees besides of special importance of timber supply have had a place in tradition as a source of non wood products. The basis for non wood uses of VBT species have been made by international survey. The national experts looked at the non wood uses of VBTs by studying the traditional uses of the trees. The uses of bark, flowers, fruit, sap and seeds was studied. Many of the trees were and still are used for medicinal purposes and the fact that they are recorded and still in use indicates their importance in society. The presentation focused on these species, that are more frequent use for different purpose. Data are presented in tables collecting information by product and trees.

There cannot be any simple conclusions drawn from collected data. There is no simple East/West or North/South divisions. The main traditional use across countries appears to be their use as dyes. Apart all the other products and services, leaf-fodder is a major product of trees and woods all over the world. Leaf and twig fodder cut from trees played a major role in livestock husbandry and in many areas all over Europe, stored hay was of critical importance to the survival of livestock housed indoors over winter and consequently of course, to the survival of the people.

The most products are gained from alder and birch, where besides bark branches, leaves, fruits, flowers and sap are used. Lime, elm and ash belongs also to the most popular trees of non wood products sources, but not as many products are gained from these trees.

The cross-country comparison is a main part of the presentation with examples from different parts of Europe

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