

LANDSCAPE TREES OF KUCHING, SARAWAK

(POSTER)

Siti Rubiah Zainudin¹, Dayang Awa Abang Lingkeu¹ and Durie Austin

(1) Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia.

(2) Kuching North Municipal Council, Sarawak.

ABSTRACT

The city of Kuching has transformed enormously over the past ten years. These can be seen through many developments such as office buildings, schools, houses and roads to cater the needs of the ever-growing populations. In spite of the fast phase of developments, greening of the city however is not forgotten. Like any other city in the world, benefits of trees in the urban environment has been greatly emphasized and recognised. More than 50 % of the landscape trees are in their early functional period suggesting that tree planting 10 to 15 years ago has resulted in many established trees that promise future benefits. The benefits of landscape trees in the urban environment, species composition and the importance of proper species selections are highlighted.

Introduction

Sustainable urban trees are naturally occurring and planted trees in cities, which are managed to provide the inhabitants with continuing levels of economic, social, environmental and ecological benefits today and into the future (Richards, 1993). Features of sustainable landscapes include adequate tree species and age diversity, a large percentage of healthy trees that are well adapted to local growing conditions. Sustainable urban landscapes will become the focus of the future and it should have the ability to adopt and survive climate change, pests and constraints (McPherson et al., 1998). Urban trees bring a natural richness and diversity to city streets, as well as provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to the city of Kuching residents. The city of Kuching is divided into 2 areas: north and south. Each of these is administered by a Datuk Bandar – a Commissioner for Kuching North and a Mayor for Kuching South. The