THE ROLE OF SPECIES SELECTION IN URBAN GREENING

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Abstract

Proper species selection is a critical component in urban greening. Selecting specific trees for certain growing conditions will allow for fewer long-term problems as trees continue to grow since space is often limited. Therefore it is very important to select trees that can use this limited space to be able to survive adequately. For example, site factors combined with street type and patterns are play an important role in the selection of plant materials and their replacement for both Jalan Tun Zaidi Adruce and Jalan Tun Openg. It is also critical that that the municipals understand the implications of planting a particular species in a particular location where the plant selected should be able to achieve its purposes as it matures in the streetscape environment. The types of tree species planted in and around the city of Kuching in relation to site suitability are highlighted with further recommendations on suitable species are also discussed.

Introduction

The garden city ideal (Howard, 1902) and the notion of public green space within (Nicholson-Lord, 1987) and green belts around cities and greenways that transverse developed areas (Flink and Searns1993, Smith and Hellmund, 1993), epitomize the inherent human desire to return cities nature's embrace. Cities and citizens take pride in creating high quality and extensive landscaped areas adorned with plants and natural features. Municipal governments worldwide have, in response, made assiduous provisions and adopted different innovations (Platt et al., 1994) to meet this increasing community need. However, cities and towns are dynamic with ever changing land uses. In planning the urban landscapes, it must be assumed that cities and towns will continue