

ACCLIMATATION OF EXOTIC PALMS IN THE CITY OF GENOA - THE *CARYOTA URENS* L. CASE, CULTIVATED IN OPEN AIR BY GENOA-PEGLI (DURAZZO PALLAVICINI PARK)

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The introduction of exotic palms in Genoa and surroundings started from the end of XIX century and gave to historical parks some species well-acclimatized. This species are: *Phoenix dactylifera* L., *Phoenix canariensis* Hort. ex Chabaud, *Chamaerops humilis* L., *Trachycarpus fortunei* (Hook. f.) H. Wendl. , *Washingtonia filifera* (Pursh) H. Wendl. et Drude e *Butia capitata* (Mart.) Becc. *Jubaea chilensis* (Mal.) Baill., *Erythea armata* S. Wats. , *Washingtonia robusta* H. Wendl., *Livistona chinensis* (Jacq.) R. Br. ex Mart., *Phoenix reclinata* Jacq., *Livistona australis* (R. Br.) Mart. , *Sabal minor* (Jacq.) Persoon , *Sabal palmetto* (Walter) Lodd.ex Shult.& Shult.f.

In recent decades, other palm species were introduced, such as *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Cham.) Glassman and *Phoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb. The most important historical parks were these palms grown are : Gropallo villa (Genoa-Nervi), Rossi-Martini villa (Genoa-Sestri Ponente) and Pallavicini villa (Genoa-Pegli) . Recently, this last one had increase its palm collection, achieving the number of 37 species of outdoor cultivated palms. This goal could be passed-on introducing in cultivation the palm species cold resistant tested in other countries and trying with those species that could be adapted in some places of the city, so the searching is going on.

Following this line-action, in 1996 was introduced, in open air cultivation, an adult plant of *Caryota urens* L. . About it, during the early years of the XX century was writed that it couldn't survive in our region, dieing to -2 degeeth. In Pallavicini villa, during the 1997's winter, it resisted to a -7 degreeth temperature. Maybe this result derive from the initial disponibility of an adult plant that could resist to cold temperatures more than young plants, but its success depend on warms winter of past years, because a hard cold (such as in 1985's winter) isn't still come back in our country.

Caryota's specimen of Pallavicini park is blooming now and this could be give us a new generation of cold resistant and acclimatized *Caryotas*, but how much cold they will be can tolerate?

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