

The Spirit of
T **Beautiful**
Trees



R. A. Raju



The Spirit of Beautiful Trees

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*Dedication to,
Lord Sri Heramba*

*Who is affectionate son of
Soundaryalahari and
Neelakanteswara
The elder brother of Kartikeya*

*Who had elephant head and
Naga as sacred thread*

*The Lord of all obstacles and
Embodiment of wealth and wisdom*



"The landscapes beautified by a variety of flowering trees,

*Coral red flowers of Erythrinas, Golden showers of
Indian Laburnum,*

*Vermillion blooms of palas, deep mouve floral
clusters of Jacarandas,*

*Blazing blooms of Frangipani, honey scented
white neem inflorescences,*

Large opulent purplish-red flowers of red-silk cotton,

Sacred peepal trees near shrines,

Always remembers the fascinating Indian trees,

Glistening blue breast of peafowl,

Brilliant blue wings of king fishes,

Melodious singing cuckoos,

*Snow-white winged ducks and feathers of painted
storcks of marshes,*

Display the marvel of miracle nature in India,

*It is feast of the eyes and an unforgettable sight to every
foreign traveller."*



About the book

The flowering trees are symbolic of beauty, love and tranquility. They beautify the surroundings and elevate the positive emotions of humans. The nature convey its happy greetings and deep love to her children in various seasons through blossoms of various trees. Planting of flowering and fruit yielding trees has been popular in India since ancient times. Ancient rulers showed much interest in developing ornamental gardening in their *havelis*, royal palaces, forts and prominent public places. They introduced several exotic flowering trees to beautify the gardens.

The development of any country depends upon balanced growth of both material goods and bioaesthetic environment that gives Joyfulness of its people. Mere accumulation of material wealth did not give happiness to the people. The graceful and gallant trees, blazed colour of flowers, amazing wild animals and songs of little birds makes the environment merry and refine the hearts of its people. Nature is a master-artist that paints the environment with various colour pigments in different seasons systematically. The orange – scarlet flowers of *Gul Mohurs*, hangy inflorescence of Indian Laburnum, blue Jacarandas, bright pink flowers of lagerstroemias, dazzling red erythrinas and blossoms of scarlet colvilleas create an eye feast picture and fill the soul with happiness.

Beauty seldom lies in concrete buildings and sky scrappers. The rich flora and fauna of the nature is the real beauty that give soulful happiness to the inhabitants. Shiny green trees, colourful flowers play a major part in making the environment pollution-free and romantic.

Architects of cities should have an aesthetic sense to balance the rhythm and accent of flowering with buildings and roads.

The present book is an attempt to create understanding of flowering trees and how to utilize them to beautify our roads, gardens and public parks and offices. The contents of book is informative, explained in a simple way so that it could find its place in the hands of even layman. In a nutshell, it is valuable reference book for the students of Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, architects, bioaesthetic planners, extension personnel, and nature lovers as well.



Foreword



Dr. M. S. Swaminathan

Ex. Director General, ICAR, New Delhi
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Trees are the most precious gifts of nature to human kind. The multiple roles they play in helping to improve the quality of human life have been described by many poets and saints. In the context of global warming, there is increasing interest in trees from the point of view of carbon sequestration. Thus, the present publication on “*The Spirit of Beautiful Trees*” by Dr. R. A. Raju is a timely one.

We need to create greater interest in trees among our young students. Nearly 25 years ago, I wrote to all our Universities and Forest Departments asking them to identify the oldest tree in the area. Most of them wrote back describing a banyan tree in their neighbourhood. I however wanted to locate the oldest living tree of India. After a great deal of search, a *Morus Serrata* tree near *Joshimath* was identified as being over 1300 year old. The age of this tree was related to the visit of *Adi Sankara* to that area, who conducted prayers under that tree. Thus,

trees in our country are not only beautiful but also serve as spiritual flames. I hope this book will help to spread a love of trees in every one, both young and old, male and female and will contribute to the greening of India

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M. S. Swaminathan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M' and 'S'.

M. S. Swaminathan



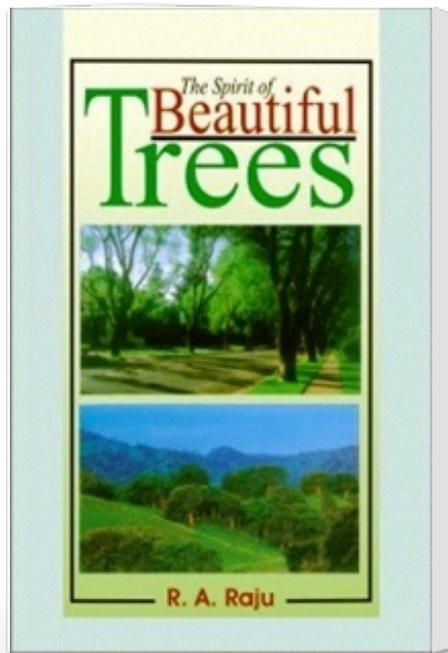
Front line

Trees are natural assets of immense value to any country. They not only preserve the physical features of the earth, stop soil erosion, mitigate floods but also make the streams flow perennially and help in sustaining river flows. Trees also make the climate equable, cool and encourage the precipitation from clouds. They provide shelter to wild life and support the biological chain. Tree cover helps in maintenance of ecological balance of nature. Besides, Trees meet the needs of timber, fuel, medicines and other commercial products which are indispensable requirements of human beings. Trees are natural heritage of the country and they represent the remarkable biological diversity and genetic resources of the earth.

The clean environment and beautiful surroundings of nature elevates human emotions and fills the hearts with joy. Beautiful trees are valuable asset to any country because of their multiple utility. They symbolizes beauty of nature and make the inert atmosphere into live environment. The gracy flowering trees display their colourful blooms in various times of the year and indicates the advent of seasons and their significance. Planting of flowering and fruit trees has been popular in India since antiquity.

Beauty not lies in massive buildings and huge structures. Surrounding vegetation removes drab environment and adds graciness to buildings. Some of the majestic trees like peepal, neem and mahua are very hospitable. Apart from humans, they attract a large number of visiting birds and other interesting creatures and gives boarding for them. The reckless distruction of trees continuing day after day as the burgeoning

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