

LA MURTA



# THE GARDEN OF SECRETS

LA CASONA



ALZIRA

## LA MURTA



## ALZIRA, VALENCIA

## FOREWORD

The Natural Municipality Area of La Murta and of La Casella is one of the major places of interest in the Alzira municipality, due to its landscape, natural, ethnological and historical character. With a total of 771 hectares, the landscape's diversity always allows the discovery of new environments.

One of those environments is known under the name of Romantic Garden of La Casona de La Murta, a name given by Ana Llavador, when she was in charge of La Aula de La Naturaleza (Nature Class), in a well-made guide published 10 years ago. This name comes from the fact that the garden has remained hidden behind the walls fencing the house.

Over time, the Romantic Garden has been modified in its living and material elements: its accessibility has been improved, sanitary facilities have been built and the interest from visitors has kept growing for this emblematic natural place.

In order to both preserve this natural place and allow visits, environment-orientated educational actions play an essential role, in the knowledge and the ability to explain the importance of its protection. To achieve an updating of the guide of "the Garden of Secrets", was necessary Coraline Chane, a landscape architect and former member of the Eurodysee Programme, led an exhaustive study of the existing vegetation, and took part in its improvement, in order to restore the splendour of this particular environment, a goal reached thanks to the main presence of native species which have kept an imperceptible connection with its more natural context.

Through this guide, we will rediscover other aspects of a particular natural place so special of Alzira, that we keep protecting. Thank you on behalf of it, and to Coraline Chane.

Pep Carreres and Rodríguez  
Councillor of Agriculture and Environment Department





## HISTORY

“This Mansion was built in its actual enclave in 1677 and was mainly used as a guest house for women and as a carpentry workshop for the monastery.

With the disentanglement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the monastery went through a decline period, with the new owner of the lands turning the original guest house into a typical recreational residence of the time, which contrary to the monastery, will be better preserved after the secularisation of the site.”

Extracted from: *Análisis constructivo, descriptivo histórico y patológico de la Casona del Monasterio de La Murta (Alzira)* from Carla Bernia Pérez (2017) Valencia.



## CHRONOLOGY

### 1485-1551

La Casona of La Murta became a hospital and a guest house for both pilgrims and sick people, who fled the plagues.

### 1649-1706

The guest house accommodated in priority women who came to visit the Virgin of La Murta.

### 1727-1755

La Casona was used as a guest house and as a carpentry workshop.

### 1838

The monastery complex was sold to two people from Alzira who sold all the materials of the monastery, leaving it in ruins. Later, the Cantos Figuerola family purchased the complex and turned the guest house into a residential house.

### 1989

The City Council of Alzira purchased the property for the price of 240 million pesetas.

### 2002

The monastery complex was declared “Site of Cultural Interest”. As for La Casona, some urgent restorations were carried out.

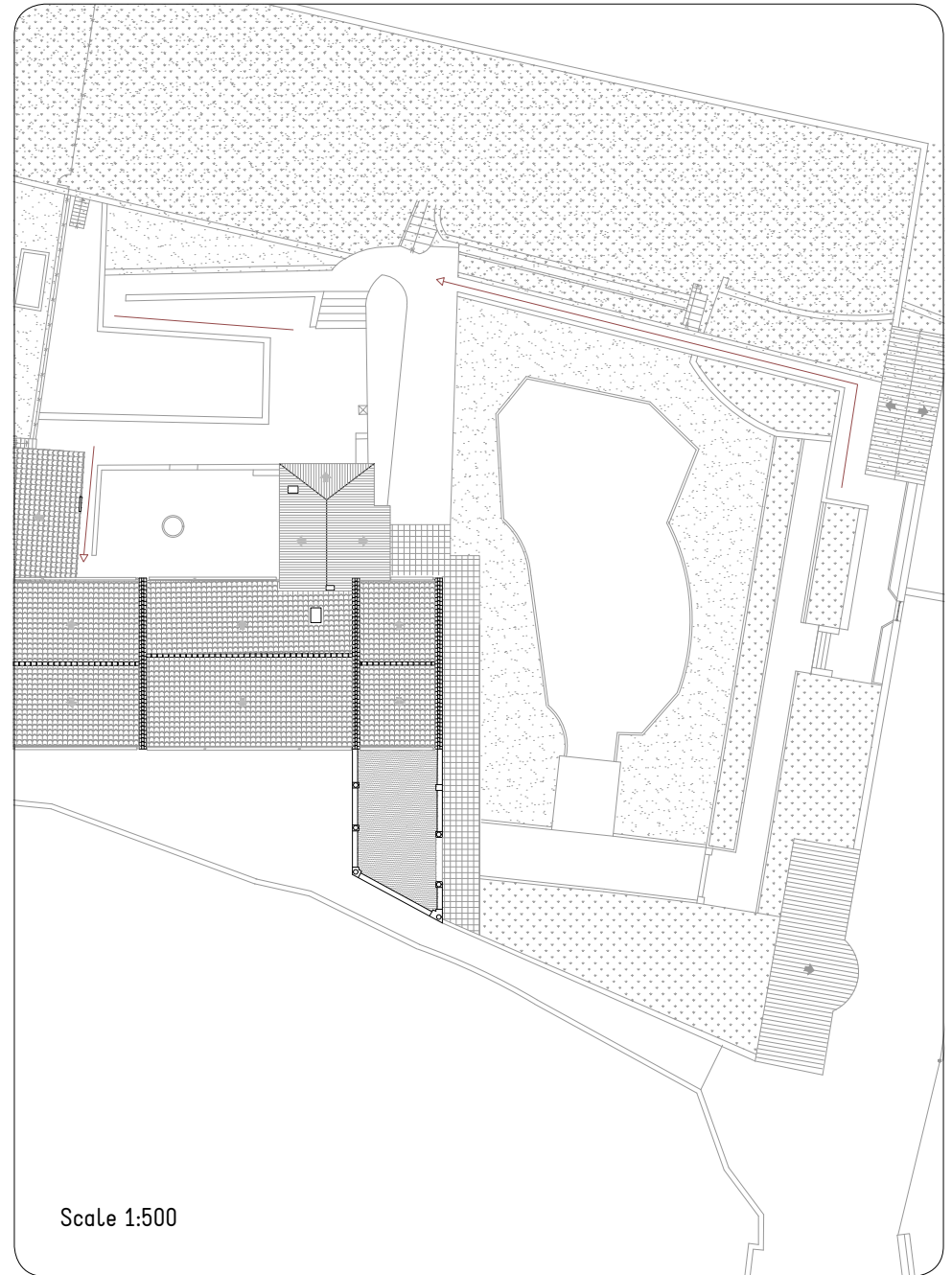
### 2010

Different restoration work on the roof was carried out, as well as a study tracking archaeological remains.

### 2015

More restoration work was carried out in the Mansion.

LA CASONA - ROMANTIC GARDEN



Scale 1:500



### EUROPEAN NETTLE TREE, HACKBERRY

*Celtis australis*

**Family:** Cannabaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region

**Height:** 30m

**Type of plant:** Deciduous tree

#### Uses and properties:

- Its wood is very hard, compact, resistant and very flexible. It is used in barrel-making and in coal mining, in order to make walking sticks, fishing rods, whips and agricultural tools.
- Its cooked fruit and its leaves are good against dysentery. Moreover, the sweet taste of its fruits makes it a treat for children.
- It generates good firewood and produces an excellent charcoal.
- From its root a yellow dye is extracted.

#### ETYMOLOGY

*Celtis* is the Latin name given by the Romans; *australis* indicates its distribution throughout the south of Europe.



### ALEPPO PINE

*Pinus halepensis*

**Family:** Pinaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region, North Africa

**Height:** 20m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen tree

#### Uses and properties:

- It is used to soothe coughing and fight against bronchitis.
- Its resin is used to make the "visc", a substance which is used for bird hunting.
- It also seems that, in the past, its resin and oil were used to keep snakes away, by placing it on windows and doors.

#### ETYMOLOGY

*Pinus* was the native name for pines, a name mainly attributed to the pine and its wood; *halepensis* refers to the Syrian city of Aleppo, where this pine is from.



### BAY LAUREL

*Laurus nobilis*

**Family:** Lauraceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region, Asia

**Height:** 10m

**Type of plant:** Small evergreen tree

#### Uses and properties:

- It is mainly used for its leaves once dried or fresh, it is used as condiment to flavour stews, rice dishes, etc.
  - Its essential oil gives a particular scent. It is also used in medicinal and veterinary applications (in particular as an antiseptic).
- However, it is a toxic plant and, if taken in excess, it can cause serious intestinal disorders, because its young buds contain a bit of cyanide.
- The oil extracted from its fruits, called bay laurel butter, is used externally in frictions to relieve bone and muscular pains.

#### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

It is the symbol of victory, dedicated to the god Apollo. Its leaves were used to crown victorious heroes from battles or emperors and Roman nobles, hence the epithet *nobilis*.





**LAURUSTINUS**  
*Viburnum tinus*

**Family:** Adoxaceae  
**Origin:** Mediterranean region  
**Height:** 4m  
**Type of plant:** Evergreen shrub

**Uses and properties:**

- The laurustinus produces black berries which are a bit bluish, toxic, vesicating (can cause serious skin irritation). If ingested, it has a drastic purgative effect, which can cause unintended poisoning.
- The bark, once infused, relieves uterus pains that occur during menstrual period.
- It relaxes the uterus whenever an abortion threat happens and it can prevent it.
- It has a slight activating effect on blood circulation.

**PARTICULARITY**

Its early flowers in spring are very appreciated by bees.



**OLEANDER**  
*Nerium oleander*

**Family:** Apocynaceae  
**Origin:** Mediterranean region, China  
**Height:** 4m  
**Type of plant:** Shrub

**Uses and properties:**

- The bark of its branches is used to fight against warts.
- The oleander is used in herbal medicine against heart failure and cardiac arrhythmia.
- Its infused leaves are used against scabies and ringworm contagion, whereas its crushed leaves mixed with cereal flour can be used as a rat poison.
- The rest of the plant is not recommended to any use, because it is highly dangerous and very poisonous.

**ANECDOTE**

Cases of criminal poisoning have been recorded with this plant used in small doses during long periods of time.



**COMMON MYRTLE**  
*Myrtus communis L.*

**Family:** Myrtaceae  
**Origin:** Mediterranean region  
**Height:** hasta 3m  
**Type of plant:** Evergreen shrub

**Uses and properties:**

- Antiseptic leaves, with antibiotic, calming and astringent effects.
- It is used in infusion to get rid of respiratory infections and to clean wounds and ulcers.
- From its leaves and the "murtones" (name of its fruits) we can get a good liquor with astringent effects.

**ANECDOTE**

People tend to mix this plant up with the Mastic Tree (*Pistacia lentiscus*). The valley of La Murta was named after this plant, called "Murta" in Spanish.



**SPANISH DAGGER**  
*Yucca gloriosa*

**Family:** Agavaceae  
**Origin:** Central America  
**Height:** hasta 4m  
**Type of plant:** Evergreen

**Uses and properties:**

The white petals of its flowers and the ripe pulp of its elongated fruits are edible. It is prepared raw as well as cooked in salad mixes.





### BUTCHER'S-BROOM

*Ruscus aculeatus*

**Family:** Asparagaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region, Eurasia

**Height:** 1m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen shrub

#### Uses and properties:

- The butcher's-broom improves blood circulation and strengthens capillary walls.
- It helps the elimination of uric acid and increases sweating, which contributes to its blood purifying effect.
- Applied on the skin, it reduces cellulite, thanks to its invigorating effect on tissues.

#### PARTICULARITY

It seems to have alternate leaves, but in fact, its true leaves are tiny. And its very small flowers which are unisexual, star-shaped, grow alone or in pairs in the centre of its tiny leaves.



### SAGO PALM

*Cycas revoluta*

**Family:** Cycadaceae

**Origin:** Asia

**Height:** 3m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen

#### Uses and properties:

- Sago palm is very appreciated as an ornamental plant.
- Its ingestion is very toxic, particularly for pets.
- In Papua-New-Guinea, they make a flour from the core of the sago palm called "Sagu flour".

#### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Sagu palms can live up to 300 years. They are real living relics. With more than 300 million years of existence, they appeared before dinosaurs.



### POMEGRANATE

*Punica granatum L.*

**Family:** Lythraceae

**Origin:** Iranian-Turanian region, Asia

**Height:** 5m

**Type of plant:** Deciduous small tree

#### Uses and properties:

- From its sour fruits, a very refreshing syrup is extracted called the grenadine, that soothes throat disorders.
- From its root, a substance is extracted and used to fight intestinal tapeworms.
- Its bark is used as an astringent.
- Its juice is used as a natural dye in the making of non-synthetic products.

#### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In Koran, it is said that its fruit purges hatred and jealousy. *Punica* is the name given to the tree and its fruits by the Romans, the name is derived from the city of Carthage: the Latin word *Punicus*, -a, -um, means Carthaginian / Punic. The epithet *granatum* is also a Latin name and refers to its fruit seeds.



### BEAR'S BREECHES

*Acanthus mollis*

**Family:** Acanthaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region

**Height:** 1m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen perennial

#### Uses and properties:

- It has very efficient medicinal properties, with astringent, emollient, antidiarrhoeal, analgesic (painkiller), expectorating effects. The main active agents are situated in the leaves and the root, the only parts of the plant that have medicinal properties.
- They have the capacity to soften tissues and tumours.
- They are recommended against diarrhoeas, bronchitis, cold, liver problems and used externally, it can help against stomatitis, pharyngitis and vaginitis.

#### ETYMOLOGY

The name of this plant comes from the Greek word *akantha*, which means "thorn".



### CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM

*Phoenix canariensis*

**Family:** Arecaceae

**Origin:** Canary Islands (Spain)

**Height:** 20m

**Type of plant:** Palm tree

#### Uses and properties:

- Its leaves are used as livestock feed or to make manure, they are used to make brooms and thatch roof in rural areas.
- Its fruits are edible, but not palatable. They are usually used to feed livestock.
- The most common use of the Canary Island date palm is the traditional extraction of its sap: the "guarapo" (sugar juice). It can be consumed fresh or fermented to make brandy, or slowly cooked to obtain "palm honey", which is very popular in bakery and as a sweetener too.

#### PARTICULARITY

Palm trees are not real trees in the botanical sense, but tree plants.



### MASTIC TREE

*Pistacia lentiscus*

**Family:** Anacardiaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region

**Height:** 3m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen shrub

#### Uses and properties:

- It is recognised to have appetising, tonic, hypotensive, balsamic and aphrodisiac properties.
- Its leaves are used for wound healing, to reinforce gums and to heal mouth ulcers.
- It is used as an anesthetic for toothache.

#### ETYMOLOGY

*Pistacia* is the name given by the Romans to the tree and its fruits, although it has an oriental origin. It is the naturalist Carlos Linneo who gave it the name *Pistacia* whereas French botanist Joseph Pitton de Tournefort called it *Lentiscus*, leaving this name as an epithet for this species.



### AFRICAN LILY

*Agapanthus spp.*

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae

**Origin:** South Africa

**Height:** 1m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen perennial

#### Uses and properties:

- Very useful as an ornamental in garden design.
- It is used as a remedy against heart disorders and stomach pains.
- Native Africans have used it against infertility. They considered it as an aphrodisiac, in other words, as an amulet of love.

#### FLOWERING

Its spectacular blue or white clusters of 20-30 flowers can be observed at the end of spring or in summer.



### COMMON IVY, ENGLISH IVY

*Hedera helix*

**Family:** Araliaceae

**Origin:** Europe, Asia and North Africa

**Height:** 12m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen climber

#### Uses and properties:

- Ivy is used as a remedy for external wounds.
- It is also used externally against cellulitis, rheumatism, neuralgia (pains caused by nerves), ulcer, or used as a painkiller or as an emmenagogue (to stimulate menstrual flow).
- It is used internally against coughing, respiratory disorders (bronchitis, asthma, etc) and to avoid constipation.
- Its fruits are poisonous.

#### PARTICULARITY

Its flowering from the end of summer to the end of autumn, is a very important food source for bees and other pollinating insects.







## LARGE LEAVED LIME

*Tilia platyphyllos*

**Family:** Tiliaceae

**Origin:** Central and South Europe and West Asia

**Height:** 30m

**Type of plant:** Deciduous tree

**Uses and properties:**

- An infusion of its flowers calms nerves and stomach ulcers.
- It is also used for arteriosclerosis problems (hardening and thickening of the walls of the arteries) and to lower blood pressure.
- Its wood is of good quality, easy to work with, to carve small everyday life objects: sculptures, toys or musical sound boxes, as well as an excellent charcoal to make powder or for drawing.
- Its bark fibre is used to obtain strong ropes.

### ETYMOLOGY

*Tilia* was the Latin name given by the Romans; *platyphyllos* means "large leaves".



## MEXICAN FAN PALM, SKY DUSTER

*Washingtonia robusta*

**Family:** Arecaceae

**Origin:** Mexico

**Height:** 30m

**Type of plant:** Palm tree

**Uses and properties:**

- In its native area, the leaves were used during funerals.
- Today, this palm tree is cultivated as an ornamental plant, both in gardens and along streets.
- They often have withered palm leaves still hanging from the trunk.

### ETYMOLOGY

The scientific name *Washingtonia robusta* is derived from the name *Washingtonia* in honour of George Washington (1732-1799) the first president of the United States, and from the Latin epithet *robusta*, which means "robust, strong, growing".



## MAHALEB CHERRY

*Prunus mahaleb*

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region

**Height:** 10m

**Type of plant:** Deciduous tree

**Uses and properties:**

- Its wood is very appreciated for its pink hue and its pleasant smell.
- Its flowers and its leaves have a pleasant scent, that is used in perfumes.
- Its leaves or its decoction are used to enhance the taste of milk, to flavour alcoholic beverages, and can be a substitute for tobacco.
- Its fruits are used as dyes.

### ETYMOLOGY

*Prunus* was the Roman name of the cherry, and also the name given later to similar species that have stone fruits; *mahaleb* comes from *al-mahlab*, which is the Arab name of this cherry.



### EUROPEAN FAN PALM

*Chamaerops humilis*

**Family:** Arecaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region

**Height:** 2m

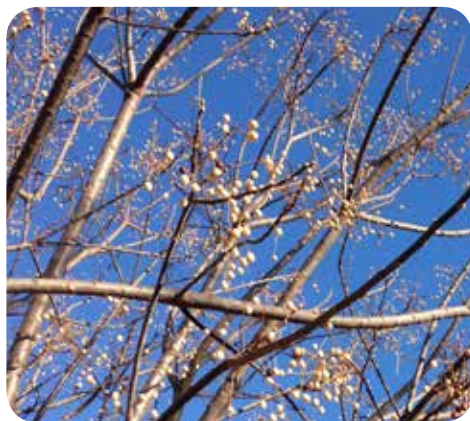
**Type of plant:** Palm tree

**Uses and properties:**

- Since Roman Time, its leaves have been used for the making of “palm barns”, baskets, chairs, shopping bags, etc.
- The ripe dates are edible, they have a sour taste, and do not have any culinary value because of their astringency, due to its concentration of tannin. However, its fruits can be used for anti-inflammatory prostatic property.
- The buds of its tender leaves can be eaten in salad, but this implies the definitive destruction of the plant.

### LEXICAL CURIOSITY

The popular saying “Estar como un palmito” (to be like a palm tree) means that a person is well-dressed and elegant.



### CHINABERRY

*Melia azedarach L.*

**Family:** Meliaceae

**Origin:** Asia

**Height:** 15m

**Type of plant:** Deciduous tree

**Uses and properties:**

- The most used parts of the chinaberry are the bark and the roots. This tree is used as a febrifuge (against fever) in small doses and as a bitter tonic. In bigger doses, it is a purgative and a narcotic.
- Its leaves, bark and fruits are poisonous, and contain insecticide properties with medicinal applications.

### ETYMOLOGY

Swedish naturalist Linneo suggested the name *Melia* for this tree because it is a very ancient name. The epithet *azedarach* was the ancient name for cinammon and comes from the Persian word *azadarakht*.



### BARK BUSH

*Osyris lanceolata*

**Family:** Santalaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region, Africa

**Height:** 9m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen shrub

**Characteristics:**

- It can be used as a small tree or a shrub, isolated or with other species.
- It grows slowly.
- Its stone fruits (similar to a peach or a plum) are red or orange.
- It flowers in spring.
- The male flowers appear at the axillary tips (located at the leaf axils).
- The female flowers appear single at the tip of the twigs.



### PITTOSPORUM

*Pittosporum spp.*

**Family:** Pittosporaceae

**Origin:** Asia

**Height:** 5m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen shrub

**Uses and properties:**

- It is mainly used for hedges due to its evergreen leaves.

### ETYMOLOGY

The epithet *Pittosporum* derives from Greek and means “seeds with a resinous cover”.





### JAPANESE PERSIMMON

*Diospyros kaki L.*

**Family:** Ebenaceae

**Origin:** Asia

**Height:** 12m

**Type of plant:** Deciduous tree

**Uses and properties:**

- Its fruit contains a juicy orange pulp, a bit fibrous, and is very sweet when ripe.
- Its fruit also has astringent properties.
- It is very valuable as an ornamental plant.

### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In the past, persimmon was considered as “gods’ food”. Etymologically, the word *Diospyros* comes from the Greek word “Dios”, which means “divine”, and *Spyros*, which means “food”.



### SPANISH BROOM

*Spartium junceum*

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region

**Height:** 3m

**Type of plant:** Deciduous shrub

**Uses and properties:**

- Its fruit looks like a dark flat legume.
- It has diuretic and purgative properties.
- From this plant, fibres can be extracted to make ropes or fabrics.
- A yellow dye is produced from its flowers.
- It can be used to make baskets and brooms.

### ETYMOLOGY

Its scientific name is derived from the Greek word “spartion”, a word used to designate different plants that produced textile fibres and fasteners.



### MEDITERRANEAN CYPRESS

*Cupressus sempervirens*

**Family:** Cupressaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region, Cyprus

**Height:** 35m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen tree

**Uses and properties:**

- Due to its wood’s characteristics, numerous Flamenco guitars were made with its wood (famous Flamenco musician Paco de Lucía’s first guitar).
- Its leaves are recommended to heal wounds.
- Its cooked bark is used to relieve rheumatism and joint pain.
- Its pine cones are used to stop diarrhea and urinary incontinence, they are a vasodilator in treatments against varicose veins and haemorrhoid.

### ETYMOLOGY

*Cupressus* is the Latin name coming from *Cyprus*, where it is native; the Latin epithet *sempervirens* means “always green”.



### INTERMEDIATE PERIWINKLE

*Vinca difformis*

**Family:** Apocynaceae

**Origin:** Central and South Europe

**Height:** 0,8m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen perennial

**Uses and properties:**

- It is a powerful vasodilator of the cerebral arteries.
- It is hypotensive, and is used with success in case of headache and dizziness.
- It is an ideal plant to fight senility problems.
- Its astringent and haemostatic effects explain why it was used in the past to stop pulmonary haemorrhage that occurred during tuberculosis.
- It prevents the milk production of breastfeeding women.
- It is a general tonic and in particular for the digestive system. It is also used to stop diarrhoea.
- It is used externally for haematomas, contusions and injuries, in order to stop bleeding.



### LAVENDER

*Lavandula spp.*

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region

**Height:** 1m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen shrub

**Uses and properties:**

- It is used as a medicinal plant and for its essential oil.
- It is very appreciated by bees and beekeepers for its honey production.
- Its scent makes it ideal to perfume the inside of wardrobes and drawers.
- It is used in cosmetics and to make cleaning products.

#### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

We have been using lavender for more than 2 500 years. In the past, Romans used lavender oil to bathe and to cook. It is very likely that its current name comes from there (whether it is from *Lavare* meaning bathing, or from *Livendula* meaning livid or blueish).



### LAVENDER COTTON

*Santolina chamaecyparissus*

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region

**Height:** 0,5m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen shrub

**Uses and properties:**

- Its oil is used to eliminate all types of internal parasites.
- In infusion, it helps to improve digestion and is used as a deworming.
- Applied externally, it also prevents wounds to get infected.

#### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In the past, it could be seen in monastery gardens, as an aromatic plant that brought condiment and flavour to food, and as a medicinal plant in ointment preparation and remedies against pains.



### ROSEMARY

*Rosmarinus officinalis*

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region

**Height:** 1,5m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen shrub

**Uses and properties:**

- In Valencian gastronomy, it is frequently used to season paellas and regional dishes.
- Rosemary is a very bee-friendly plant that produces an excellent honey.
- Its properties are very diverse: applied externally, it has a very efficient anti-inflammatory effect, ideal for muscular pain and rheumatism.
- Convalescent, exhausted and depressed people will find in its infusions a tonic that will bring back their lost vitality.
- It is a good digestive after meals.

#### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Apparently, Egyptian pharaohs would order to put a bunch of rosemary on top of their graves, in order to perfume their trip to the country of the dead.



### STRAWBERRY TREE

*Arbutus unedo*

**Family:** Ericaceae

**Origin:** Mediterranean region, Africa

**Height:** 8m

**Type of plant:** Evergreen tree

**Uses and properties:**

- Its leaves and bark have an antiseptic and anti-inflammatory effect on the urinary tract.
- Its wood is dense, very hard, of excellent quality as firewood and very appropriate to make charcoal.
- Its fruits are astringent and it is best not to indulge in them, because when they are very ripe, they have a high alcohol content. They can be eaten raw or turned into purees, desserts, vinegars and brandy.

#### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

*Arbutus* is the name given by the Romans; *unedo* comes from *unus* or *uno* and from *edo*, which means "to eat only one", referring to the alcoholic content of its fruits.



**CAST-IRON PLANT**  
*Aspidistra elatior*

**Family:** Asparagaceae  
**Origin:** Asia  
**Height:** 0,8m  
**Type of plant:** Evergreen perennial



**PHILODENDRON**  
*Philodendron*

**Family:** Araceae  
**Origin:** Mediterranean region  
**Height:** 1m  
**Type of plant:** Evergreen perennial



**CALLA LILY, ARUM LILY**  
*Zantedeschia aethiopica*

**Family:** Araceae  
**Origin:** South Africa  
**Height:** 0,6m  
**Type of plant:** Evergreen perennial



**ALOE**  
*Aloe vera*

**Family:** Asphodelaceae  
**Origin:** Africa  
**Height:** 1m  
**Type of plant:** Succulent plant

**Uses and properties:**

- Its internal use was recommended as a laxative, tonic and fortifying for digestive, renal and hepatic problems, or it can be used as a heart pace regulator, among other applications.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

The aloe appeared in the Chinese "Book of Medicinal Herbs", considered as one of the two first books written in the history of Literature.

The Arabs were the first ones to sell the aloe. Its name as we know it today is believed to have Arabic origins, and refers to its bitterness ["aloe", "alloeh" means "bitter" in Arabic language].



**ELEPHANT'S-EAR**  
*Alocasia spp.*

**Family:** Araceae  
**Origin:** Asia  
**Height:** hasta 5m  
**Type of plant:** Evergreen perennial



**NATAL LILY**  
*Clivia miniata*

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae  
**Origin:** Africa  
**Height:** 0,5m  
**Type of plant:** Evergreen perennial



**BOSTON FERN**  
*Nephrolepis exaltata*

**Family:** Lomariopsidaceae  
**Origin:** Tropical regions  
**Height:** 2m  
**Type of plant:** Fern

## SYMBOLOLOGY

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- Bear's breeches (*Acanthus mollis*): its rolled up leaves were considered as symbol of eternal life by the Greeks, and was used during funerals.
- African lily (*Agapanthus spp.*): due to its etymology, it is called the flower of love.
- Nettle tree (*Celtis australis*): is the symbol of strength and longevity because it can live up to 500 or 600 years. Elderly people from Provence wear a dry fruit from the nettle tree as a lucky charm.
- Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*): is a sacred tree for many peoples, due to its longevity and of its evergreen colour. It is called "the tree of life".
- Sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*): is considered as a living fossil, that is why it symbolizes longevity. It has a high medicinal value.
- Ivy (*Hedera helix*): it is associated to immortality due to its evergreen leaves, and also to faithfulness, because it is a climbing perennial that intertwines while growing.
- Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*): is a tree linked to glory, value and greatness wherever you go in the world, and it has transcended time and space.
- Myrtle (*Myrtus communis*): associated to the goddess Venus or Aphrodite symbolizes fertility and faithfulness. In Christianity today, it is used as a sign of purity and faithfulness, and it is used to crown new Christians.

- Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*): symbol of fertility and of the masculine principle. It represents the god Thot, who invented writing and who is also the god of wisdom and science.
- Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*): throughout history, many symbols were attributed to the pomegranate. In ancient times, it was considered as a symbol of fertility, fecundity, love and prosperity. In Islam, it is considered as a Paradise tree.
- Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*): is a plant that represents health, good omen, sincerity, faithfulness, rebirth, immortality and felicity. Cultivate this plant on your windowsill and it will ward off diseases.
- Butcher's broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*): it is thought that its branches are capable to ward off torments or to prevent the danger of witches.
- Large-leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*): a sacred tree for Germanic peoples.
- Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*): a plant very used for its protection spell (against snakes, poison, fear, spirits, etc.) and as a powerful love spell.
- Arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*): it expresses purity, sympathy or recognition.



