

INTRODUCTION

No, plant grows naturally in a room or a greenhouse and strictly speaking, therefore, there is no such thing as an indoor or house plant. All are outdoor plants that man has discovered somewhere in the world, cultivated, often crossed or improved and now used to adorn his living room, balcony, patio, office or greenhouse.

The chief characteristic of house plants, one that they nearly all have in common, is that they are not hardy. If they were, they could be grown outside in the garden without ado. Beyond that, different house plants make different demands on their environment.

It was recorded that a window at noon on a sunny day in May or July, an illumination of 160,000 to 320,000 lux would be recorded. The minimum illumination a plant needs to survive in the middle of winter is 700 lux. These figures determine the range in which nearly all plants grow, therefore, light intensity is one of the most important factors that affect the plant habit of growth. Nearly all kinds of trees in their juvenility stage need low or moderate light intensity. The vegetative growth will be, negatively or positively, influenced by both light intensity and duration.

On this ground, many kinds of trees at their juvenility stage could be used as indoor plants. Accordingly their location either in garden or indoors will affect their habit of growth as well as their

usage. Another factor which has great influence on the growth of indoor plants is the medium of the pot in which the plant is grown. This investigation aimed at studying the effect of light intensity at different locations on the growth of *Aralia longifolium* L. and *Cupressus sempervirens* L. Also, the study included the effect of media constituents on the growing of the two genera. These two genera are important one from the point of view of landscaping i.e. ***Aralia* spp.**, a genus of aromatic herbs, shrubs and small trees of aralia or Ginseng Family (Araliaceae), containing about 35 species. Some are cultivated for ornamental foliage and some possess medicinal properties. They are often planted as single specimens on the lawn for the bold subtropical effect of their foliage.

Cupressus spp. - The cypress, this genus at one time included the chamaecyparis, but now it embraces but a dozen species, all hailing from the temperate parts of the northern hemisphere.

***C. sempervirens* L.** The cultivated form of this strictly erect-growing cypress has earned a number of common names such as Italian Cypress and Pencil Pine, but generally it is called the Mediterranean Cypress, being a native of Southern Europe and West Asia. There are two distinct types in this species; one usually grown in strictly erect in habit, the other more spreading although still pyramidal. In its native South Europe and West Asia, it is famous as a garden subject, having been used for centuries. It's foliage is dark green and it's form like that of the lombardy poplar.