

Signs of quality for the conservation and local use of native plant species



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Genetic diversity is essential for the functioning of natural selection. Public action is justified for the conservation of native plants and genetic diversity of plant species. Encouraging initiatives and approaches guaranteed by certifications quickly create local economic development by creating vocational tracks for preserving plant genetic diversity. Many works of landscaping, public parks, wilderness restoration of environments, and preservation of flowers for bees, use seedlings and plants whose origin is not defined or known. These actions can lead to significant risks to biodiversity.

In France, excluding forestry regulations covering about 50 tree species, other trees and shrubs, who are mostly found in rural plantations (hedges, rows of trees, agroforestry, riparian strips, compensatory plantations, renaturing, etc..) are not subject to regulation. In France, at least 250 species of trees and shrubs are concerned. The origin of trees and shrubs for sale is largely unknown, even for local species.

These trees and shrubs are not necessarily adapted to local conditions. They often have low genetic diversity. If plantations are successful, the cross-pollination of these plants with allochthonous strains spontaneous changes the local gene pool and influence the resilience and adaptability of local wild species to natural disturbances. Being long-lived woody plants, this genetic pollution is present for many years. Trees and shrubs are long-lived woody plants ; this genetic pollution is exercised for many years.

Trees are present in biodiversity corridors, greenways and linear parks. They are important genetic transmitters. Rural trees are leaders in the maintenance and strengthening of the adaptability of trees and shrubs to climate change. Finally, natural regeneration is no longer a guarantee of genetic diversity in some areas, due to a too low density of woody local plants or due to plantations, sometimes widely, conducted over the last 20 or 30 years from plant material of unknown origin or even cultivars.

The stakes are fourfold :

- Create an eco-friendly economic sector local,
- Preserve resource sites,
- A national database of wood from local and a national surveillance network of woody plants,
- Fight against pests.

Creating a mark «trees and shrubs of local origin» is based on :

- Areas of crops adapted to the territories of use,
- A harvest specification by species,
- A cultivation workbook for each species,
- A legal notebook tracking from seed to plant,
- Information carriers and communication.

