

The Office of the Agricultural Museum and Culture of Kasetsart University inaugurated the Thira Sutabutr Thai Cultural Garden on February 2, 2003, the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the University, to honor Doctor Thira Sutabutr for his Contributions to the University and society, particularly with regard to plants

The Thira Sutabutr Thai Cultural Garden is an open-air museum for the study of plants figuring in Thai culture by members of the Kasetsart University community and the general public. The plants are arranged in nine groups according to the Project for the Conservation and Development of Plants in Thai Art and Culture of Ajan Orathai Pholdi, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Museum and Culture of Kasetsart University. The nine groups are:



1. The Trees under which Buddhas have attained Enlightenment

The Buddha Metangkorn: Flame of the forest

The Buddha Sumetha : Neem

The Buddha Sitthattha : Kannikar

The Buddha Katsapa : Banyan

The Buddha Gotthama : Bodhi

Plants in the Life of the Lord Buddha

The Birth of the Lord Buddha : *Sala India, Montha*

In his youth, the Prince Sitthattha in the First Plowing Ceremony : Java Plum

The Enlightenment of the Lord Buddha : the bodhi tree, *Kusa*

The Entry into Nirvana of the Lord Buddha : *Sala India, Montha*

2. Plants in Prehistory

At the Spirit Cave archaeological site, remains of 14 types of plants used by inhabitants 13,000 to 8,500 years ago have been found, these are *Kra-jap*, cucumber, mung bean, *thua noi* bean, *nang phaya seu* *khong*, bottle gourd, pepper, betel, *kleum* olive, *ma-chang*, *ma-yao*, *samor thai*, areca nut



(*Ficus benghalensis* L.)



4. Plants in Inscriptions

The Wat Sri Chum Inscription, Sukhothai Inscription No. 2 (ca. A.D. 1350), mentions the bodhi tree. *Kra-thing*, *intha-nin*, *sik*, *dorksorn*, and *dork phut*.

The Inscription of Wat Asokaram (A.D. 1399) mentions Saraphi, Iron wood and Phikun

5. Plants in Literature

Important Plants of the Sukhothai Period

The *Traiphum Phra Ruang*, a cosmological work written in A.D. 1345, speaks of the trees of each continent, identified by their direction from the center, Mount Meru

The continent to the north : *kalaphreuk*

The continent to the east : *sik*

The top of Mount Meru : *parichat*

The base of Mount Meru : *ngiu*

The continent to the south : *wa*

The continent to the west : *kra-thum*

Below Mount Meru : *Khae foi*

The fragrant trees of the continent to the north are Cinnamomum, Sandal wood, Eagle-wood, Parichat (Night Jasmine or Coral Tree), Krathing, Champak, Youtaka, Maluli and Jasmine

Important Plants of the Ayutthaya Period

The Lilit Phra Lor. (ca. A.D. 1450) a work of the early Ayutthaya Period, mentions *ta seu*, *hu kwang* and sugar cane.



3. Plants in Legend and Chronicles

The tree of Sukhothai legend : the sugar palm

The tree in Ayutthaya legend : man

The tree in Thonburi legend : thong lang

The tree in Bangkok legend : ratchapbreuk

(*Mesua ferrea* L.)

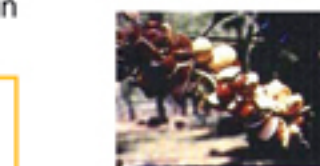


6. Plants from which Thai Musical Instruments are made

Plants used in making Thai musical instruments are *ma-rit*, *ma-kieua*, Ching-chan, pha-yun, teak, and phai-bong bamboo.



(*Dalbergia oliveri* Gamble)



(*Ochna integerrima* Merr.)



(*Aquilaria crassna* Pierre)



(*Shorea roxburghii* G. Don)

7. Plants in Thai Music

Plants figure in the musical compositions of His Majesty the King and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.



9. Plants in Thai Decorative Art

Motifs of New Stone Age art :
ton son, ton dork mai, dork mali



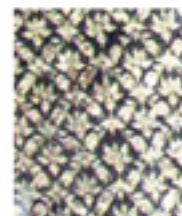
Motifs of Metal Age art :
dork kaeo, phum khao bin

Motifs of Per-Dvaravadi Period art :
prajam yam dork jan



Motifs of Dvaravadi Period art :
dork bua, phuang ma-lai

Motifs of Sukhothai Period art :
dork kan yaeng, kruai choeng



Motifs of Ayutthaya Period art :
bai thet, dork chaiyaphreuk.

On the occasion of the forty-eighth birthday of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on April 2, 2003, the Office of the Agricultural Museum and Culture of Kasetsart University, under Director is Associate Professor Doctor Jaisakhran Hirunphreuk and Deputy Director Ajan Orathai Pholdi, inaugurated the Plants in the Musical compositions of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Garden Project to celebrate the genius of Her royal Highness in composing many musical works on Thai plants including "Tap Chom Suan Khwan," "Phleng Dork Mai Sai," "Phleng Dork Mai Phrai," "Phleng dork Mai Ruang," "Phleng Tao Kin Phak Bung Somg Chan," "Phleng Pla Thorng Thao," "Phleng Athit Ching Duang," and "Phleng Nam Lort Tai Sai,"



Thira Sutabutra Thai Culture Arboretum



กัลปพฤกษ์ (Cassia bakeriana Craib)

Office of the Agricultural Museum and Culture of Kasetsart University
สำนักพิพิธภัณฑ์และวัฒนธรรมการเกษตร มหาวิทยาลัยเกษตรศาสตร์

8. Plants in Ceremony and Belief

The nine suspicious plants and what they symbolize are:

1. *chaiyaphreuk* luck
2. *ratchaphreuk* greatness
3. *thorng lang* wealth
4. *si-suk bamboo* happiness
5. *kankrao* protection form danger
6. *song bandan* aspiration to power
7. golden teak holiness
8. *pha-yung* building security
9. jackfruit support of wealth and status

(Sterculia foetida L.)



(Afgekia sericea Craib)



(Shorea siamensis Miq.)

Auspicious plants for each of the years of the twelve-year cycle

- Year of the rat coconut, banana
- Year of the ox sugar palm
- Year of the tiger jackfruit, rang
- Year of the hare coconut, ngiu
- Year of the dragon ngiu, bamboo
- Year of the snake bodhi, rang
- Year of the horse ta-kian, banana
- Year of the goat parichat, phai pa, bamboo
- Year of the monkey jackfruit
- Year of the cock yang, fai thet
- Year of the dog samrong, lotus
- Year of the pig lotus, Asiatic pennywort