

**SOME NEW FLOWER PLANTS USED IN DESIGNING OF GARDENS AND BALCONIES IN STRUMICA (R. MACEDONIA)**MICEVSKA A.,<sup>1</sup> RIZOVSKA ATANASOVSKA J.<sup>1</sup>*Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Faculty of Forestry in Skopje, Skopje, Macedonia*  
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**ABSTRACT:** Besides other plants, the flower-decorative plants are taking the highest application when greening our gardens and balconies. Their usage is bigger considering their decorative characteristics, such as flowers, leaves or habitus. The most interesting are the flowers with variable colors and dimensions and most important the long duration of flourishing in summer. This work is dealing with annual, and perennial plants that are quite new for making gardens and balconies arrangements.

**Keywords:** flower plants, gardens, balconies, annual, perennials

**1 INTRODUCTION**

In order to decorate, design a place it is necessary to find appropriate plant that can be decorative in first place and can fulfill the needs for aesthetic and functional space. It is very important every plant to be put in right place considering there its position towards the sun (exposition) where it can show all the decorativeness of its characteristics, such as color, dimensions of the flowers and flourish.

The needs for designing a place where one can enjoy in its decorativeness make people to be more inventive and original in their ideas. But quality arranged green spaces such as gardens, balconies or others depends also on the condition and nature characteristics of the area where they happened to be designed.

From the ancient times of our civilization, flower-plants were considered as decoration and were privilege of the wealthy people of a time. But as the time pass, the flower plants happened to be important part of people's life, first as spice, and then in various rituals and customs. They enter in the life of the common people in every segment of their living satisfying their need for esthetics.

There are countries in Europe that are dealing with selection and hybridization of flowers and decorative plants. Every day there are new varieties, cultivars, forms of flower species that are easily spread out through many countries nowadays. Here the interest is pointed on ones that are used in designing gardens and balconies recently in our country, which means some new species, cultivars, varieties and forms.

**2 MATERIAL AND METHOD**

The research of the flower plants was spread out in Strumica, in the private gardens and balconies and in Garden-centers where information for their sell was taken. Then, mostly through terrain work were noted the gardens and balconies decorated with flower species. Then there had to be found for which ones the interest was the biggest. After that the determination was made. Collected information was selected, processed and the results are shown in tables where different data is exposed. Also there were taken pictures of the species that are theme of this work.

**3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

There are the flower plants that were most found in the gardens and balconies in Strumica (R. Macedonia).

*Gazania rigens* (L.) Gaertn. (fam. Asteraceae) - treasure flower or small gerbera is usually planted directly in the ground in the gardens or in pots in the balconies (Fig. 1). This plant can only reach 10-15 cm in height. Its leaves are narrow, green from the upper side and gray on the other. The flowers are taking attention with their various colors that are very alike gerbera. This sun loving plant open wide its flowers during the day, but in the evening or when there is lack of light they are closed. Its flowers stand on the stems through the summer. It cannot stand low temperatures, so it belongs to the group of annual plants, but anyway it still can be considered as popular plant.



**Figure 1:** *Gazania rigens*

*Impatiens hawkeri* W. Bull (New Guinea group) (fam. Balsaminaceae) - This plant is decorative because of its flowers (Fig. 2), which can be in any color except in blue. There are plenty of flowers on the stems (that are with bigger dimensions), and together with the leaves, give complete decorative effect of the plant. The habitus is wide, up to 20 cm high. This plant doesn't want to be exposed too much on intensive sun light. It cannot stand low temperatures, so it belong in the group of annual plants.



**Figure 2:** *Impatiens hawkeri* (New Guinea group)

*Sutera cordata* (Thunb.) Kuntze (fam. *Scrophulariaceae*) – bakopa is creeping plant that cannot stand low temperatures and ice. It has small white or purple flowers and leaves in shape of a hart (Fig. 3). This plant creeps low and it can be spread out 40-60 cm. The stems are full of small flowers that stand there through whole summer.



**Figure 3:** *Sutera cordata*

*Argyranthemum frutescens* (L.) Sch. Bip. (fam. *Asteraceae*) - summer chrysanthemum is perennial and is one of the most decorative plants used in designing gardens and balconies nowadays. Besides the flowers, decorative are the leaves too. The flowers are small and gathered in big number on a stem. They can be found in every color but blue. The habitus is wide, 10-15 cm (Fig. 4).



**Figure 4:** *Argyranthemum frutescens*

*Lychnis* × *haageana* Lemoine (fam. *Caryophyllaceae*) - red lava, got its name after intensive red or orange color of the flower which appear in summer (Fig. 5). The color of the flowers is more intensive if they have sunny position. The leaves are narrow and hairy. This plant can reach 30 cm in height. It loses its decorativeness in autumn when its leaves fall down, but in spring it starts up with its growing again.



**Figure 5:** *Lychnis* × *haageana*

*Verbena* L. - cultivars (fam. *Verbenaceae*) – Verbena has small flowers gathered together at the top of a stem. They can be in various colors and can flourish with lots of flowers in the whole summer period. The leaves are small and tinny (Fig. 6). The decorative effect will be bigger if it is set in hanging pots and on balconies, but as it spread out very quickly, the effect can be reached if it is set directly in ground too. It is sensitive on low temperatures, but if it's well protected it can survive to the next vegetative season.





**Figure 6:** *Verbena* cultivars

*Platycodon grandiflorus* (Jacq.) A. DC. (fam. *Campanulaceae*) – called Balloon flower, except for its decorativeness it is also used in medicine too. This perennial has green leaves that fall down in autumn, but in spring with the new vegetative season it start with its growth again. It can reach 15-20 cm in height and can be 20-30 cm wide. Its buds have form of a balloon (where its name comes) which later open in form of a star. The flower can be single or double, white, pink or blue colored (Fig. 7). It can equally grow on sunny or semi shaded positions, but it cannot stand too moist soil.



**Figure 7:** *Platycodon grandiflorus*

In Table I are presented the new flower species that were most found in the gardens and balconies nowadays.

**Table I:** Characteristics of the flower ornamental plants

No	Species	Flower	Vegetation period	Habitus	Composition forms
1	<i>Gazania rigens</i>	Single in various colors	Annual	Straight	Single, groups
2	<i>Impatiens</i> 'New Guinea'	Single in various colors	Annual	Straight	Single, groups
3	<i>Sutera cordata</i>	Single, white and purple	Perennial	Creeper	Single, groups
4	<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i>	Single/double, in all color variable	Perennial	Straight	Single, groups
5	<i>Lychnis</i> × <i>haageana</i>	Single red and orange	Perennial	Straight	Single, groups
6	<i>Verbena</i> cultivars	Single in various colors	Annual	Creeper	Single, groups
7	<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>	Variable	Perennial	Straight	Single, groups

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

In this work are presented seven flower species that are most used as new ornamental plants in the gardens and balconies in Strumica (R. Macedonia) nowadays.

They are variable considering the color of their flowers which flourish intensively in summer.

According their vegetative period, three of them are annuals and four perennials.

By their habitus, two of the species are creepers and five are straight up.

Considering their use in the gardens and balconies in pots or directly in the ground, they can be set single or in groups.

They are quite easy for nourishing. The perennials have to be replaced in order to remain the flower effect, and the annuals in winter should be removed in warmer places for the next vegetative period when the temperatures would be good enough for them.

At last, according all of that it can be concluded that the use of these flower species should be more intensive in future because of their decorative characteristics. They don't need special conditions for their nourishing. They flourish intensively through the whole summer and can be used in various composition forms and combined with other species/plants.

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