

SUMMARY

Farm-stead green plantations, orchards, nature gifts in the north of Rokiškis land

/JUODUPE. ONUŠKIS

By Jonas Šedys

About 1940 some old villages' green plantations and their vivid fragments in many other areas still survived. Abundant lime, maple, ash-tree, *Salix alba var argentea* and rare oaks grew in old villages. Birches grew along the road Juodupė–Onuškis. Decorative bushes and shrubs included lilacs, jessamines, snowball trees, bird-cherries, spiraeas, snowberries, slovenwoods.

While individual farms were being established, the following species of trees and bushes were used: pine, spruce, rowan-tree, horse-chestnut, poplar, pea shrub, hagrose, Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) and purple osier willow (*Salix purpurea*).

Perennial flowers predominated in flower gardens of old villages. They were: green rue, *Rudbeckia laciniata*, phlox, tiger lily (*Lilium lancifolium*), common peony, evening primrose, garden asparagus, bleeding heart, day lily and reed canary grass. Also annual flower species were spreading in the individual farms: dahlias, daffodils, irises, later also tulips and gladioli.

Some beautifully blossoming local flora plants were not cultivated in the flower gardens but blossoms of many of them were picked up for bunches, garlands and wreaths. Especially great respect was assigned to such plants as: pasqueflower, wind-flower, globeflower, primrose and lady-slipper.

There were no orchards, only solitary apple-, cherry-, plum-trees and currant-shrubs grew at those old village farm-steads. Only a rare farm-stead owner planted an orchard, many of them restricted themselves by planting a few fruit-trees. Old folk selection, well-known apple-trees were spreading. Only thanks to horticulture enthusiasts, fertile and good taste apple-tree species now widely known reached these places. Quite a few of them now would be worth cultivated in ecological orchards. Sour cherries (*Cerasus austere*) predominated, they grew high and gave poor harvest. Only some farm-steads at Onuškis cultivated *Cerasus collina* producing abundant harvest of vividly red, big berries. They spread into many other localities. Few plum-trees were cultivated, people did not know how to look after them, thus, their harvest was poor. Red currants producing abundant harvest every year were cultivated almost everywhere, and black currant species began spreading.

From olden times various wild berries: such as cloudberry, raspberry, cranberry, bilberry, cow-berry, wild strawberry were being gathered. Only bog whortleberries and roebuckberries were not gathered. Many people were fond of mush-rooming. Everybody gathered edible boletus, orange-cap and birch boletus, yellow boletus, chate-relles and various russules and only experienced muchroomers gathered white-caps. Some older people gathered medicinal herbs, they asked their grandchildren to help. Some forage plants also were gathered.