

TREE INVENTORIES IN MEXICO CITY

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Arboricultural research at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Azcapotzalco has included prominently the elaboration of various inventories in the last 25 years.

The most important was the first description of the street trees in Mexico City incorporating a study of a representative sample of 1261 trees. The research has been always done in collaboration with students in the programs of Environmental Engineering, undergraduate and graduate. Trees as part and parcel of their academic programs has been enthusiastically adopted by students; the recent incorporation thru UFORE and i-Tree of quantitative environmental information and mathematical modeling has been a very important addition, accepted and considered promising by the corresponding committees, enhancing the acceptance of arboricultural teaching and research in our university. The monetary evaluation of the benefits of urban trees due to removal of several contaminants from the atmosphere has to be studied in more depth to be clearly considered adequate and be used more generally. A description of some of the inventories, including those of "majestic trees" in our city and the elaboration problems is presented; also other very significant efforts in Latin America are mentioned, while trying to understand current international trends. The context and problems of improving the life of public trees in Mexico City is briefly sketched.