UDC 630*:582.475.4(477-25)

PROSPECTS AND PECULIARITIES OF USING DIFFERENT CULTIVARS OF PICEA A. DIETR GENUS IN LANDSCAPING

V.M. Maurer, V.V. Shevchuk

Nowadays introduction of new promising woody crops with particularly valuable for landscaping qualities to landscape gardening construction is particularly relevant. These, no doubt, are representatives of the genus *Picea* A. DIETR, which are becoming increasingly popular due to their outstanding decorative properties.

Researches were conducted on the basis of fir cultivars collection established at training and experimental nursery of the department of reforestation, NULES, in 2012. Planted firs in the collection represent 21 forms and 8 species of different geographical origin.

Comprehensive assessment of fir collection cultivars' decorativeness was conducted using modified by us O.A. Kalinichenko, O.G. Khoroshih and O.V. Khoroshih's techniques. Studies have shown that most species and cultivars of *Picea* A. DIETR genus belong to highly decorative ones. First of all, they are *P. engelmanii* (Parry) Engelm, P. obovata var. "Argentea", *P. obovata var. "Lutescens", P. pungens "Glauca Globosa"* (and others).

In the context of research purpose the results of survival, condition and adaptability of fir cultivars after planting represent outstanding interest. Survival rate of planted plants at the end of the third year was over 90%. The period of adaptation of most collectible firs lasts 2-3 years. *Picea orientalis* L, *Picea obovata 'Densifolia',* Ledeb. та *Picea sitchensis* (Bong.) Carr. adapt faster. In general plants of formal level adapt to new conditions more slowly.

Comprehensive assessment of decorativeness, survival and adaptability of species and ornamental forms of firs collection indicates that the most promising for use in ornamental nursery and landscape construction are cultivars: *Picea pungens* Engelm. P. *engelmanii* Engelm, P. *obovata var. densifolia, , P. obovata var. "Lutescens", P. pungens "Glauca Globosa", P. abies 'Ohlendorffii ', P. abies 'Reflexa', , P. abies 'Compacta', Picea mariana 'Argentea*'.