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Research into the Selection of Tribal Greening Plants

Charles Arcodia*

School of Economics and Management, University of Science and Technology, Beijing, China

***Corresponding author:** Charles Arcodia, School of Economics and Management, University of Science and Technology, Beijing, China, E-mail: charles@gmail.com

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Introduction

China's rural areas have seen unprecedented change as a result of rapid economic growth and urbanization [1,2]. As a result, the traditional rural landscape has been greatly disrupted, affecting agricultural production and rural farmer's quality of life. Traditional urban greening technology is currently used primarily in China's rural greening programmes, while the use of native plants has received insufficient attention, accounting for only a small proportion of tree species used [3]. However, there are significant obstacles to native plant implementation, such as vegetation type, a lack of characteristics, and a lack of seedling sources for native plants [4]. As a result, the phenomenon of "a thousand identical villages" separates the human environment from the natural landscape of rural China. In the face of emerging scenarios and new problems, research and development of greening technology suitable for Chinese villages has become a necessary technological breakthrough in order to achieve the goal of constructing "green and livable rural villages and towns [5]." Plants are an important component of open spaces, as well as environmental perception and preference. Some scholars use the term "visual environment" to describe people's visual perceptions of their surroundings, but others prefer the term "visual landscape" to emphasize the visual characteristics of the landscape. In this context, the landscape referred to as the environment can range from micro to macro scale, referring to urban parks, plants, and plant organs [6].

Landscape Perception

The influence of landscape and its elements on people is referred to as visual preference for landscape. To a large extent, landscape perception and preference are dominated by limitations in human vision; however, some scholars have proposed that most observers can judge the merits and inferiorities of the landscape [7]. Many scholars have examined characteristics of people's preference for natural landscapes through a variety of subjective and objective methods since visual landscape study emerged as a field of research in the Western world in the twentieth century, concluding that characteristics of the landscape itself have a huge impact on visual preference [8].

Regardless of the research method used, most scholars use images as a medium for landscape research. However, because photographs do not fully capture the viewing experience and do not show the inherent diversity of the landscape, their value for research is limited. A large number of studies have found that social measurement research using images correlates well with a similar reaction when directly experiencing the represented landscape. When compared to physical experiments, the use of images saves valuable research funding while also providing better control over the experimental subjects. As a result, images are a low-cost medium for studying public visual preferences. Within this framework, the use of eye-tracking technology to collect eye movement information in order to analyses people's cognitive processes and preference characteristics is thus potentially useful. Fixations, saccades, and following up are the most common types of eye movement information [9]. The corresponding indicators, such as total duration of fixations, average duration of fixations, number of fixations, and average amplitude of saccades, can be used to assess the subject's attraction to the stimulation target. Furthermore, changes in pupil size have always been linked to people's desire for visual stimulation.

Plant selection and application are critical in rural greening, with plant selection being critical in producing positive effects, particularly in rural areas [10]. Choosing preferred native plants not only fulfils the function of rural greening, but also highlights local characteristics, preserves a distinct regional flavour, supports the cultural landscape and tourist attractions, and thus improves the effect and quality of rural greening. As a result, the goal of this study is to select favourable native plants based on visual preference in order to generate supporting evidence for rural greening and landscape construction in China.

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