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# Young Naturalist`s Journal

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Notes Of Nature

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## AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

Oh, how beautiful the land where I live is!The Khabarovsk territory is the place where virgin nature occupies a significant part of the territory of the region. Wild animals, plants, birds, fish-all this is in our region.

The plant world in the Far East impresses with its beauty and uniqueness, which is endowed with the nature of this region. If you travel through the Ussuri region, you can find yourself in the Northern taiga among firs, cedars and permafrosts; in the subtropics among creepers and thickets of the Manchurian walnut and Amur velvet; in broad-leaved and mixed forests among birches, oaks and maples.

A lot of writers and poets praised the beauty of nature in the Far East. Among them are P. Komarov, V.Arsenjev, V.Sysoev, D.Nagishkin, N.Navolochkin, G.Khodzher and others. They loved the Far East and devoted a lot of literary works to its flora and fauna. I was born in the Far East and I also admire my motherland. I hope the pages of my journal will contribute much to better understanding the flora of our territory and make everyone visit the Far East to be fascinated by its beauty.

## *The Far Eastern Writer Alexander Grachev*

Alexander Matveevich Grachev, a writer from the Far East, was born on June 23, 1912. He spent his childhood and youth on the Don in a poor Cossack family. In winter he studied, and in summer he worked as a farmhand for the kulaks. At the age of 14, he joined the Komsomol and took an active part in the collectivization of the Don Cossacks.

Like many young writers, A. M. Grachev started with poems that were published for the first time in 1930 but he was better at writing prose. Alexander came to the Far East as a first founder. He devoted his first novel "The First Forest Clearing" to the first builders of Komsomolsk-na-Amure. The writer considered the beginning of his literary activity to start in 1934, when three of his stories were published and awarded prizes in the collection "Komsomolsk".

Alexander Grachev was the correspondent of the newspaper "The Tikhookeanskaya Zvesda" during World War II in the Far East against militaristic Japan. He was the witness of military actions at the battle fields.

The writer especially admired the Far Eastern nature and the book «Forest Rustles» is the example of it.

Alexander Matveevich Grachev is the author of the books:

«Tainy krasnogo ozera» • "The mystery of the red lake"

«Padenie Tishima-retto» • "The fall of Tishima-retto"

«Storogka y Burukanskih perekatov» • "Watchhouse at the Burukan rifts"

«Lesnie shorohi» • "Forest rustles"

«Skoz ` martovskie snega» • "Through the March snows"



## *"Forest Rustles", Tale of Nature*

Alexander Grachev's book "Forest rustles" tells not only about the fauna, but also about the flora of the Far East. The writer mentions dozens of plants; one of them is a Grab

### ***WILD APPLE(GRAB)***

A small tree up to 8-15 m tall with light brown, scaly bark and spreading branches

**Spreading.** The grab is occasionally found wild in the Northern and Western part of the middle zone, in mixed and deciduous forests, along their edges.

**Economic importance.** The fruits of the grabs are sour and tart. They contain a lot of sugar and organic acids. In the people they are often called "tear out the eye", as well as sour. Sometimes seedlings of grabs are used as rootstocks for cultivated varieties. The grab is decorative, widely used in agroforestry and green construction in the zone of broad-leaved forests of Europe and, in addition, in the subzone of coniferous-broad-leaved forests. All grabs are beautiful honey plants.



# *WILD APPLE*

## *Story*



The wild apple tree is one of those happy representatives of the plant world that people noticed when they took their first steps on the Earth.

For a long time people have been surprised by the ability of branches of this Apple tree, crouching to the ground, easily take root and give rise to new plants. By the way, the appearance of the branches of the miracle apple tree is unusual: they are twisted like a corkscrew.

The world has never seen anything better than this apple tree. The magnificent flowering of the tree in spring and the abundance of fruit in autumn make the Apple tree the most favorite tree. Weak at the root, wide in scope, a God-preserved, thin tree wide open to the high sky.

In our city, there are many apple trees that decorate the streets in spring and give their pleasant aroma to passers-by.

## ***MAIDEN(WILD) GRAPES***

Woody vine of the grape family. The height is about twenty meters. The leaves are round, showy, up to 20 cm in diameter, each consisting of five oval leaflets. Foliage color is green, in autumn-orange-crimson, reddish. The form of Engelmann is distinguished by smaller, elegant leaves.

**Spreading:** in Western Siberia, the Altai territory, with good shelter, it tolerates winter well, in the Mountain Taiga station, in the South of the Far East, it blooms and bears fruit, although it often suffers from frosts.

**Economic importance:** used for wall decoration, decoration of buildings: fences, gazebos, arches. The leaves are beautiful all season, blooms in July-August, in September – October in abundance appear spectacular bluish-black inedible berries.





# *WILD GRAPES*

## *Story*



Wild grapes are a wonderful phenomenon, because they look very beautiful on fences, walls of houses and in the form of bonsai. I believe that such grapes are a separate art form.

It seems that this grape was created to look at it and enjoy the grace and beauty. The whole world is in its aesthetic richness.

The shape of the leaves of wild grapes amaze with their exquisite grace. Such a seemingly small detail of nature, like a leaf of maiden grapes, is a miracle of beauty. And to touch a miracle by touch, I would look for it everywhere, just to look at it in reality.

You can see it in the suburbs of our city but not everyone because the climate is too cold.

## ***WILD PEAR***

The pear can grow up to 20 meters high. A pear bush does not exceed 4 meters and has thorns on the branches. The plant has scaly bark covered with cracks. The pear has a spreading and dense crown; leaves are rounded, from 2 to 7 cm long and 1.5-2 cm wide, with elongated petioles.

**Spreading:** Spreading area is southern Russia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Kazakhstan and the Far East. It grows both in forests, mainly deciduous, and on the edges. It can form entire pear forests, but mostly grows as single trees.

**Economic importance:** They are suitable for making compotes, fruit drinks, jams and wines. They can be used both raw and cooked or dried. Suitable as food for Pets and wildlife. The early flowering time and its abundance make the pear an excellent honey plant. Fruits are rich in vitamins B, C, various acids, sugars and tannins.



## ***WILD PEAR***

### *Story*



The nature of the Far East impresses with its variety of plants and trees. Each sprout makes you think about life and the world around you. Among the picturesque plants stands out the wild pear.

To see it bloom is already a dream. So I want to look at the flowers, and then try a variety of wonderful pears. The wild pear attracts with its size, beauty and variety of colors of each fruit. In the Apple orchard, which is located near the drama theater, you can see various plants, including a wild pear. Every year it blooms profusely in the spring and yields a crop in the fall.

When I found out that the plant lives from 150 to 300 years, I was shocked. Is it possible that you can plant a tree in early childhood with your parents, and your children and grandchildren will see it? This is awesome!



## ***DOG ROSE***

The rosehip is deciduous shrubs and shrubs, sometimes evergreen, with erect, climbing or creeping stems of various heights or lengths, from 15-25 cm to 8-10 m. The height of the same species can sometimes change depending on the growing conditions.

**Spreading:** some species have a very wide range: spread in most areas of the high latitudes of the Northern hemisphere, as well as in Japan on the Islands of Hokkaido and Honshu in the high mountains on the coast of the sea of Japan, Sakhalin, China, the Korean Peninsula, Siberia, Kamchatka, the far East.

**Economic importance:** dog rosehip fruits were used for human food at the end of the ice age. The fruits of many types of rosehip are edible fresh, dried in the form of tea (broth). A rosehip fruit is used to make puree, paste, jam, marmalade, pastila, stewed fruits, sweets, kissel, kvass, and the like. Rosehip fruits are the main vegetable raw material for vitamin plants. For this purpose, there are industrial rosehip plantations in all parts of the world.





## *DOG ROSE*

### *Story*



I think everyone drank rosehip tea when they were ill. The taste of tea is not so good, but it helps well.

In our city, you can see rosehip bushes in many places. It grows along sidewalks on Pervostroiteley Street, Oktyabrsky Avenue and in other places. When the rosehip blooms in spring, you can smell it from afar. Rosehip berries are edible. Sometimes I took a few homes, and sometimes I ate them all at once. They are difficult to peel and you have an unpleasant feeling in your mouth after eating them.

And only my grandmother comes up with the idea of cooking stewed fruits or dry them. When if I have a cold, I usually take a dog rose`s medical broth which is very useful. In some peoples, mothers waved branches of prickly briars over a sick child, driving away the «spirits of disease» from them. If you are going to collect rosehip berries together with adults, be careful not to cut your hands on prickly thorns. And remember – you cannot pick berries from those bushes that grow near the roads – they are poisoned by the exhaust gases of cars. Such berries can be harmful instead of being useful.

## ***BIRD CHERRY***

Genus of Bird Cherry (*Padus*) belongs to a large family of Rosacea and has 20 species, the genus combines trees, rarely shrubs with simple serrated leaves. The flowers are white, fragrant, collected in racemes; the fruit is a juicy drupe. Cherry trees usually grow on fertile soils with excessive running moisture or in the mountains – on rocky slopes and scree. In forests, they can be found on the edges or among the bushes of thickets.

**Spreading:** the bird cherry grows usually in the European part of Russia, in Western and Eastern Siberia, in the Far East.

**Economic importance:** cherry is not only decorative, but also known as a fruit crop. Mature fruits are eaten fresh, ground with sugar, used for making liqueurs, tinctures and soft drinks. Their juice is tinted with confectionery and wine. Cherry trees are bred in gardens and parks as ornamental plants, especially spectacular forms with weeping branches, double flowers and colorful leaves.



# *BIRD CHERRY*

## *Story*



"Sweet cherry blossomed with spring" - who does not know these wonderful poetic lines! The cherry tree is a very beautiful tree, and it has always been an integral part of my life. Every summer I gather it with my friends and relatives and eat tart berries. I remember the feeling of being thirsty after eating a lot of berries! It is very tasty, if ripe.

My grandmother used to make cherry jam, it was just delicious! I remember that for the sake of such berries, we climbed fences, benches and playgrounds. We went all over the yard in search of cherry trees. I'll taste it this year, too. I advise you to taste this delicacy!

## *Summing Up*

*I want to say that in the course of working on the journal. I learned a lot of new and useful information about plants that I know and about those that are not found in our city. I also realized that there are many beautiful, and sometimes even rare, plants in Komsomolsk-on-Amur. I have never seen such an abundance of plants because I was not interested in it before.*

*The plant world of the Far East is diverse and rich, I was convinced of this. The Far East has an amazing beauty and extraordinary fairy-tale nature, and its plants have an incredible healing effect. But people today very often destroy nature, fires destroy hectares of woodlands. It is unacceptable!*

*It was nice to insert colorful and aesthetic images in the articles, and I felt a deep sense of admiration. I hope you will read this journal and enjoy it as much as I did.*

*I want to express my gratitude to the teachers who helped me write this journal and pushed me in the right direction of writing my work.*