

PALMS AND CYPRESSES IN SUVOROV STREET

Rendered by *Anna Kostenko, April 2018*

Self-edited

Let's plunge into the history of our city and learn a little more about the process of landscaping one of the city's central and favorite streets – Suvorov Street. We all know Kherson as a green city now, with beautiful alleys, lots of multi-coloured flower-beds, many parks and cozy squares. But what was there before?

It is worth noting that after the liberation of Kherson from the Nazi occupiers in March 1944, along with the restoration of the destroyed city, work began immediately on its landscaping. Very few green plantations had survived in Kherson by that time, since most of them had been cut down for firewood. Nevertheless, in the spring of 1945, only a year after the liberation of Kherson, the first young trees planted by the residents of the city turned green on its streets, parks and squares. However, again, it was not possible to keep each of them growing. *“Green plantations in the city are the pride of Kherson. However, public utilities do not pay enough attention to them. Therefore, about 12% of young plantations perished in 1946,”* the newspaper "The Naddnipryanska Pravda" reported. The communal workers, no doubt, had enough other business restoring the city.

In the spring of 1957, a very unusual event occurred in the city: 14 railway carriages with valuable subtropical plants from the Georgian city of Makharadze arrived at the Kherson station. Kherson had had a long-standing friendship with this Georgian city (as a reminder of this there still exists Makharadze Street in our city). The Georgian Institute of Tea and Subtropical Crops sent the plants specially for planting in the reconstructed central streets of the city. “The institute's parcel” was really impressive: 110 palm trees, 200 lemon seedlings, 400 cedar seedlings, 300 cypress trees, 100 evergreen oak seedlings, 500 seedlings of Isabella grape, many wisteria plants and others. In the accompanying message of the Secretary of the Makharadze District Committee S.Chanuvadze and the Chairman of the District Executive Committee D. Sabashvili it was

said: "We are confident that these seedlings will grow successfully on the territory of Kherson oblast and symbolize fraternal friendship between the Georgian and the Ukrainian people."

The unusual cargo was received in Kherson by a group of Georgian experts led by the research associate of the Anaseul Institute S. Valpalomidze who had arrived in advance. A few days later, an unprecedented planting of subtropical plants took place in the streets of Kherson. *"The day before, cedar seedlings were planted in Suvorov Street, palm trees in Suvorov Square, by the new children's cinema named after Pavlik Morozov and near the hospital in Ushakov Avenue. There will soon be created a cypress alley,"* reported the newspaper "The Naddnipryanska Pravda" in those spring days.

It is interesting that 55 years later almost none of Kherson old-timers could remember the palms and cypresses in the streets of the city. Only one of them said that, really, in the late 50's in Suvorov Street they planted something "thermophilic" which disappeared in the subsequent winters. In 1959-1960 instead of the dead "southern guests", here appeared plane trees. Therefore, the present green plantations in Suvorov Street are already half a century old. Nowadays, Kherson gradually regains the glory of one of the greenest cities in the country becoming an even cozier southern city for comfortable living and rest.

Based on:

1. <http://artkavun.kherson.ua/na-ulitse-suvorova-rosli-palmyi.htm>
2. <http://mycity.kherson.ua/avtory-ag/zaharov-2015/kiparisy-i-palmy-na-suvorovskoj.html>

Supervisor: *Hanna O. Sheldahayeva*