



VASSILIKO  
CEMENT

SINCE 1963

# DOMISI

ISSUE 20 (NOVEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019)

building a better future

5  
years  
domisi




**VASSILIKO**  
C E M E N T

SINCE 1963

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*Dear Colleagues, Friends and Associates,*

After a short break, we make a dynamic come back with this publication as a farewell to 2018.

1st Edition March 2013 - 20th Edition November-January 2019.

Our corporate newspaper DOMISI will be 5 years old this year and we are proud of our venture.

The new year 2019 means 365 more days, 365 more pages in the book of memories. It is impressive how a simple change in the calendar, based on an arbitrary counting of time, conceived by mankind, inspires so many feelings, becomes a milestone of changes in our life and an occasion to celebrate.

**As Edith Lovejoy Pierce wrote,** "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

We wish you a happy, new and creative year!



## "Adopt a family at Christmas" Campaign



Christmas is a festivity of joy and love. Christmas means sharing, giving, offering.

This year our Company participated once again in the campaign "Adopt a family at Christmas", organized by the Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC) for fifth consecutive year.

The aim of this campaign is for no family and no child to be left without the essentials.

This year too, in line with the campaign's objective, Vassiliko offered supplies and vouchers for purchases in department stores.

It, also, actively participated in goods collection and in a campaign, promoting the following actions:

- \* Provided a goods collection spot to the public
- \* Participation of the Company's employees, customers and associates in the campaign
- \* Promotion of the campaign through the Company's webpage and social media
- \* Intracompany debriefing to the Company's personnel by posting an information brochure on all announcement boards.

Christmas is for all the most glamorous and joyful festivity and the campaign was an opportunity to confirm it.

### ΑΥΤΑ ΤΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΥΙΟΘΕΤΗΣΤΕ ΜΙΑ ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑ

ΠΑΓΚΥΠΡΙΟ ΣΥΝΤΟΝΙΣΤΙΚΟ  
ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΣΜΟΥ

ΣΩΜΑ  
ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΩΝ

**Έχεις στην καρδιά σου αγάπη;  
Βοήθησε μια οικογένεια που έχει ανάγκη!**

Ας μη μείνει καμία οικογένεια και κανένα παιδί χωρίς τα απαραίτητα που βοηθούν να νιώσουν τη χαρά των Χριστουγέννων.

**Τι μπορείς να κάνεις;**

- ✦ Μπορείς να δώσεις σε μια οικογένεια τα απαραίτητα για το γιορτινό τραπέζι.
- ✦ Μπορείς να προσφέρεις χριστουγεννιάτικα εδέσματα.
- ✦ Μπορείς να προσφέρεις δώρα στα παιδιά.
- ✦ Μπορείς να προσφέρεις οτιδήποτε και όσο εσύ μπορείς!

**Γιατί να το κάνεις;**

- ✦ Για να δώσεις στα παιδιά σου τη χαρά της εθελοντικής προσφοράς
- ✦ Για να νιώσεις τη χαρά της προσφοράς και να βιώσεις ότι «όταν δίνουμε γεμίζει πραγματικά η καρδιά μας».

**Επικοινωνήστε σήμερα και ενημερωθείτε πώς μπορείτε να «Υιοθετήσετε» μια οικογένεια.**

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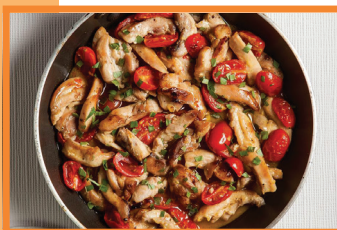
Τηλ. 22 514786 | [info@volunteerism-cc.org.cy](mailto:info@volunteerism-cc.org.cy) | [www.volunteerism-cc.org.cy](http://www.volunteerism-cc.org.cy)  
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## Vassiliko Recipe

**Fast chicken fillets with honey, garlic, cherry tomatoes and basil**

### INGREDIENTS (PORTIONS: 4)

- 700 gr. of chicken fillets, leg quarter, cut in streaks (2 cm thickness)
- 2 cloves of garlic, cut into thin slices
- 20 cherry tomatoes, cut in the middle
- 1 tablespoon of mustard
- 1 tablespoon of thyme honey
- 40 ml of lemon juice
- tablespoons fresh finely chopped basil leaves
- 80 ml of olive oil
- salt, freshly ground pepper



### EXECUTION

In a large pan we heat the olive oil on medium temperature, and we fry (sauté) the chicken for 6-7 minutes, until it becomes golden brown on all sides. We add the cherry tomatoes, the garlic, the salt and pepper and we continue frying for another 2-3 minutes until they become slightly soft.

In a bowl we mix the honey with mustard and lemon and pour over the chicken. We stir softly, scatter the basil and cook for another 5 minutes until the cherry tomatoes become very soft and the chicken is ready.

We may opt for green salad and rice as side dishes.

Preparation: 15' / Cooking: 15'

Source: [www.kathimerini.gr](http://www.kathimerini.gr)





# Christmas and New Year's Day in Cyprus... echoes from the past!

Our everyday hectic routine, the stress and pressure of daily life, the change in the way we communicate and the 'modernization' of our lives, have alienated people from the Christmas spirit and all Christmas customs have faded from our memory.

Let us go through some of the twelve-day customs, as recalled by our grandparents to teach the younger ones and to revive the memory of the older ones.

When we talk about the twelve-day period, we refer to the period between Christmas Eve and the Epiphany day.

When Christmas is approaching, housewives prepare themselves to start with the cleaning of the house.

Usually, a month before, they decorate the Christmas tree and their house to welcome this festive atmosphere. During the old days, people used to cut cypresses or pine trees and plant them in a pot covered in aluminium foil. They used to decorate the small tree with pine cones, known as 'mapouroi' and painted them in various colours. They used balloons, cotton, sugar coated almonds and various other homemade ornaments as decoratives. The star was made of paperboard and was placed at the top of the tree.

A few days before Christmas, streets were flocking with children singing Christmas carols at the sound of a metal triangle, going from house to house. Household masters offered children gifts, such as money and sweets. "Good morning, good people, and if you so desire, can tell you of Jesus' Holy birth. Christ is born this day in Bethlehem and the heavens and whole earth rejoice."



Nowadays, our families go to the pastry shops to be supplied with Christmas delights, such as melomakarona (Christmas honey cookies), kourabies (almond shortbread), stavroukouloura (cookies with a cross on them) and Christmas cake. According to the tradition though, housewives had to make the sweets on their own so that the smell of Christmas spreads around their home and the entire neighborhood. Christmas homemade snacks included usually the kneading of cookies, soft cookies (koumoula), Christ's bread which they were called "gennopites".



After forty days of fasting, all households were full of all those delights. On Christmas Day, after the morning mass, the entire family gathered around the table to enjoy a hot trahana (dried food of whole-wheat flour) or chicken soup with egg-lemon sauce. By noon, the pork and lamb skewer was ready, as well as many other traditional delicacies, including the famous stuffed turkey. In Pafos and in other regions of Cyprus, a pork, well-bred during the year, is slaughtered to honor Christ. In Saint Dimitrios of Marathasas, the church service performers carry a boiled pork meat to the church that they





offer to the congregation with a glass of Zivania (Cypriot pomace brandy), in the church yard, at the end of the service.

Looking forward to New Year's Day, we become children again as we anticipate our gifts from Santa Claus...

On New Year's Day, we celebrate the memory of Saint Vassileios and each family makes a cake in his honor. Saint Vassileios cake in the villages was either a big round bread with sesame or a human-figure shaped bread, or a bread with a dough figure stuck on it, whereas in the cities, it was usually a sweet. Even today, this cake is cut by the household master around the family table; the first piece is offered as an honor to Christ, the second one is dedicated to poor people, the third piece is for the household master and all the rest is distributed to each family member; whoever finds the hidden coin is considered to be the luckiest of the year. In Lagoudera, a village of Pitsilia, the cake is cut by the priest during the Epiphany day and it is shared among the churchgoers.

To this day, families with small children prepare for the Saint Vassileios who will arrive bringing gifts and leaving them under the tree. In order to please the Saint, people leave a glass of milk and cookies. In the past, in many villages, they used to place sweetened boiled wheat on the table wine, a comb for Saint Vassileios to comb his beard, an olive branch and the host's pouch because it is thought that the Saint will consume the food and bless it. Moreover, on this night, various cereal nuts (called Vassilis) were used to be placed in a dish and sprayed regularly until they sprout. On Saint Antonios name day, January 17, these nuts were planted in the fields where other cereals were also planted.

On New Year's Eve, the entire family gathered to say goodbye to the year about to end and to welcome the new one with food, drinks and many wishes.

One of the customs preserved to this day is the custom of the olive leaves. According to an old Byzantine habit, people try to verify if their beloved ones love them; for this reason, they cut a fresh olive branch

once the church bell tolls, for the evening mass. They take leaves and throw them in the fire, praying to Saint Vassileios to reveal to them whether they are loved by their beloved ones, saying:

'Saint Vassileios, king, walking and spraying with water, please reveal to me if this person loves me'.

Epiphany is well known as the celebration of Lights, because in the past, people used to baptize their children who received divine enlightenment.

On the Epiphany day, in the coastal cities, the Holy Cross is tossed into the sea. After the holy blessing, followers go to the beach where the priest is chanting 'My Lord, being baptized in the Jordan River...and tosses the Holy Cross into the sea. Young people make a dive into the sea to catch the cross and deliver it to the priest.

Following the end of this Holy Blessing gathering, the priests visit the houses and sprinkle all the rooms of the house and the tenants with holy water, while chanting at the same time 'My Lord being baptized in Jordan River' to have a good and blessed year.

Each family also bakes traditional pancakes. They throw some on the roof of houses with a few sausages to feed and send away the goblins who are believed to enjoy the sausage and the pancake and to be eager to eat it and leave.

One more custom on this day takes place in the villages, where small children ask for the ploumistiran (from the verb ploumizo = give a tip) or pouloustrinan (deriving from the French pour estrenne = good luck). This tip is usually a small amount of money (whereas in the past it used to be nuts, such as almonds, raisins, pomegranates etc.) and children used to say, 'Good morning on this Epiphany day, the tip first!

Habits endure in time. Christmas is one of the most important festivity of the year. The family is gathered at home and Christmas becomes a festivity of love. Despite the pressure of everyday life and the daily duties, let us keep the customs and traditions of our ancestors alive. Our children will pass tradition on to their own children!

**Happy New Year!**



# Annual Event Of Holy Blessing Of Waters and Cutting Of Saint Vassileios cake

10 JANUARY 2019



Holy blessing by His Beatitude Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos B'



Cutting of Saint Vassileios cake by the Executive Chairman, Mr. A. Antoniou.



## Health & Safety awards 2018

### Awarding of colleagues for 35 years of service



*Awarding of Health & Safety awards  
"Aristovoulos" Award: Theodoros Moiseos  
and Christina Vegli*



*Awarding of Health & Safety awards  
"Agisilaos" Award: Evangelos Raptis*



*Awarding honorary plaques  
for 35 years of contribution  
Antonis Evripidou*



*Awarding honorary plaques  
for 35 years of contribution  
Dimitris Lazandreas*



*Awarding honorary plaques  
for 35 years of contribution  
Paraskevas Heracleous*



## *This weekend we travel to...* **KATO DRY**

Our colleague, Mr Dimitris Lazandreas, who comes from Samothraki, an island in the Thracian Sea, lives in a small village somewhere south-west of Larnaca for the last 38 years. Somehow, this small, traditional village, with its picturesque narrow streets and the stone-built houses seems to have stolen his heart.

Today, he takes pride in giving us a tour to his village, Kato Drys.

### **WHERE IS IT LOCATED?**

Taking Skarinou upwards, in about ten minutes you reach this beautiful village. It borders with the villages of Pano Lefkara, Kato Lefkara and Vavla. It is built at an altitude of 520m above sea level and is crossed by Agios Minas river.



### **HISTORY**

There are two versions as to how it got its name. The first version says it got it from the large number of oak trees found in the village (Drys=oak tree). According to the second version, many years ago, two villages existed there, Pano Drys and Kato Drys and in-between the two villages stood a huge oak tree (drys).

### **PERSONALITIES OF THE VILLAGE**

In 1134, Saint Neofytos was born in Kato Drys where his house is saved to this day. According to tradition, the parents of Saint Neofytos lived in the settlement of Apliki that was abandoned at the end of the 18th century, due to frequent sliding phenomena and the soil subsidence.

One more prominent figure of the village was the late Argyros Stakis, also known as Reo Stakis, who was a big benefactor of the village. The transport of water to the village houses, the construction of communal buildings and of the medical facility of Staki are some of his greatest projects.





## RESIDENTS' OCCUPATIONS

The residents mainly work in the field of agriculture, viticulture, renovation and construction of buildings and in Lefkara embroidery, since the village is bordering with Lefkara village.

## SIGHTSEEING

The village numbers some important attractions to visit showcasing our land's culture and tradition:

### ART MUSEUM:

This museum is housed in a traditional residence belonging to Gavriil and Eleni Papachristoforou. It was built in the 19th century and constitutes a specimen of local architecture. The mansion looks like a traditional rural household, in all premises of which, we can see the tools used in the past for the needs of their work and household chores.

### BEE MUSEUM:

The bee museum presents the way of life and the occupations of Kato Dry residents and the surrounding area since the old days until the discovery of machines. It is housed in a traditional mansion owned by Tsamilli family. In this neoclassical building we witness the history of beekeeping and wine making, the agricultural tools, the homeware appliances, the kitchen, the loom, fabric and an ancient wooden bed. Lefkara embroidery holds a prominent place. Outside the house, one can see jars, beehives, zivania distillers, an oven, a trough for the washing of cloths, a scale (karka) for the weighing of carobs etc.

### PLANE TREE:

There is an impressive centenarian plane tree in the entrance of the village where it is worth taking a rest under its dense foliage and to savor the dishes of the unique restaurant named after this tree.

### CHURCHES OF THE VILLAGE

- Church of Panagia Eleousa (16th century)
- Church of Saint Charalambous (1897)
- Chapel of Saint Neofytos
- Chapel of Saint Georgios
- Chapel of Timios Prodromos
- Chapel of Saint Spyridon

Besides the above, it is recommended to visitors to stroll around the village and admire the scenic neighborhoods with houses of popular architecture, the renovated mansions, the stone-made water fountains, the old school and the Venetian bridge.

Mr Lazandreas gave us a small taste of a small village in Mountainous Larnaca; **Have a safe and beautiful ride!**



**DISTANCES:**  
 Nicosia 62km / 52'  
 Larnaca 43 km / 35'  
 Limassol 49 km / 36'  
 Pafos 115km / 80'





# INTERVIEW OF CHRISTOS AGRIDIOTIS

## 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AND RETIREMENT



Politeness, professionalism, calmness and power are the words coming to mind when we describe Mr Christos Agridiotis. After 40 years of service and contribution, he retires and through this interview he recounts his path and his feelings.

***Could you describe the first day of Mr Christos Agridiotis, in April 1978, at Vassiliko Cement Works. How did you evolve all those years?***

My first day at Vassiliko Cement Works was on April 1st, 1978. On April Fool's Day! But this was not a lie. It was a truth that lasted for more than 40 years! I arrived at work earlier than the scheduled time, well-dressed and clean-shaven. Eager to work and learn. I was just 24 years old and felt ready to spread my wings. Back then I was the youngest one but today...I am the oldest.

All those years I worked with diligence and eagerness and learned a lot. I was fortunate because I found myself in the largest heavy industry of our country that could give me a lot. I knew I could further develop myself because I wanted to. As years went by, I climbed up the hierarchy ranks and as a result, I'm retiring today as the Accounting Department Manager.

***How does it feel to part from the work place where you spent 40 years of your life? What is the feeling at the end of your professional course?***

It is hard for me to part from, where I worked for more than 40 years. It is not just the facility, the offices, the plant; it is primarily the people you cooperate with and you get in contact daily; with those people we set objectives and attained them through collective effort, compassion and love. Nevertheless, I have mixed feelings. On one hand, I feel satisfied

that my career draws to its end and that I have done my best, gaining (hopefully) the respect of my colleagues and associates. On the other hand, I have this bitter feeling that a cycle is ending and I will not contribute anything professionally any longer and I will lose daily contact with my dear colleagues.

***What was the toughest incident you had to confront all those years and what is the best memory you take with you, leaving the company?***

All those years I had experienced both pleasant and difficult moments at Vassiliko. The most difficult moment was when, in 1986, we had to move from the Company's headquarters in Nicosia to Vassiliko plant premises. We had two children back then; one of them was a baby and the news fell like a staggering blow. However, with God's blessing, we managed and moved on.

I recall many beautiful memories but the most beautiful one was when I was offered the Supervisor's/Manager's position at the beginning of 1990.

***How do you imagine your daily routine from now on?***

As of now, my daily life will radically change. It will be hard to get used to it at the beginning but hopefully, in the long run, I will see it as a well-deserved opportunity to take some rest after so many years of work. I will be able to keep myself busy with hobbies that please me.

***I wish all the best to my colleagues in their work as well as in their personal and family life. I also wish Vassiliko Cement Works to keep on growing, as it has been doing so since its establishment in 1963.***





## EQUALITY EMPLOYER

The Equality Employer Certification awarded to our Company makes us all proud because this is the pinnacle of Vassiliko Cement Works efforts, to develop and ensure a working environment promoting gender equality, equal opportunities, reconciliation between professional and personal life etc.

Both the support and respect to our personnel are fundamental values for us, since they refer to our Mission and Vision and are proved through continuing actions and practices on our side illustrating the Company's human face.

For the attainment of Sustainable Development's 17 objectives, the Company has developed and is constantly developing practices promoting good health and prosperity, quality education and gender equality. These practices led to our certification as an Equality Employer.

Examples of practices adopted by our Company that promote equal opportunities, ensure good health, education and balance between professional and personal life are the following:

- ❖ Education and development of the entire personnel
- ❖ Lectures on various social issues
- ❖ Health screening by our physicians (General Practitioner, Occupational Physician)
- ❖ Daily support by the Company's Nurse
- ❖ Flexible working hours
- ❖ Summer school for employees' children
- ❖ Paid leave for days of training during a weekend and/or on days of an official holiday
- ❖ Paid leave for exams preparation (at educational level)
- ❖ Additional days of leave, exceeding the ones foreseen by the legislation, for reasons of force majeure
- ❖ Corporate events with the participation of employees' families
- ❖ Rest area for employees



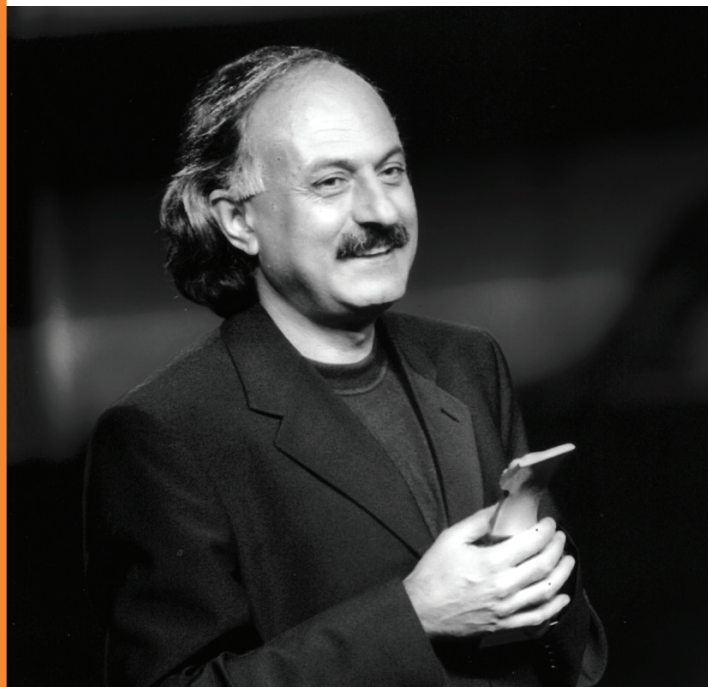
- ❖ Adoption of various Codes (Behavior, Against Bullying, Combat Sexual Harassment) etc.

***Our fixed Company's objective is the continuing support to its personnel and the upgrading of its practices in order to promote, in all possible ways, the establishment of a healthy working environment, where we will all evolve both at professional and personal level.***

**Despina Knekna**  
Human Resources Manager

## FIGURES WHO CHANGED HISTORY

### MARIOS TOKAS



Marios Tokas was born on June 8, 1954 in Limassol, where he spent his childhood and adolescence years. He experienced the ferocity of war as the Turkish invasion found him doing his military service. As he used to say, this period marked him deeply and became a source of inspiration for some of his work.

He made his first appearance in Greek discography in 1978. His first album, interpreted by Manolis Mitsias, was entitled "Ta tragoudia tis pareas". He also cooperated with the most prominent Greek singers, such as Dimitris Mitropanos, Yiannis Parios, Georgios Dalaras, Paschalis Terzis, Glykeria, Charis Alexiou, Dimitra Galani, Antonis Kaloyiannis, Tolis Voskopoulou, Marinella, Stelios Dionysiou, Lakis Chalkias, Aleka Kanellidou, Katerina Kouka, Vassilis Skoulas etc. Success came one after the other and his music travelled quickly and everywhere. Songs like "Annoula tou chionia", "S'agapo san to gelio tou Mai", "H nychta myrizei giasemi", "San trello fortigo", "Exartatai", "S'anazito sti Saloniki", "Ta ladadika", "Thalasses", "Didyma feggaria", established his presence in the world of music.

A milestone in his career was when he met Greek national poet, Yiannis Ritsos, who entrusted him with unpublished poems for which Marios Tokas composed the music, published in an album in 1981 entitled "Pikrameni mou genia". More musical works followed using poems written by Costas Varnalis, Costas Karyotakis, Tefkros Anthias, Costas Montis, Theodosios Pieridis, Michalis Pashiardes, Kyriakos Charalambides and others.

He passed away on April 27, 2008 without having the chance to publish works that he so much cherished; they were left in the form of sheet music and recordings, a dowry and a heritage for his children.

Πηγή: <https://mariostokas.gr/>

## Do it like us!

A new form of cooperation with "Anakyklos Perivallontiki" was launched in 2018 with the placement of a bin for clothes' recycling in our facilities.

Assist them in their work, by placing the clothes you no longer need in the bin outside our offices or in the purple bins in your neighborhood.



#### WHAT TO PLACE IN THE BIN?

- Clothes and pairs of shoes (men's, women's and children's shoes)
- Linen (e.g. curtains, bedsheet)
- Bags
- Belts



#### DO NOT PLACE:

- Dirty or wet clothes
- Carpets
- Pieces of fabric
- Single shoes



#### WHERE WILL YOUR CLOTHES BE TAKEN TO?

- After sorting, some clothes are offered free to destitute individuals.
- Some other clothes will be offered to low-income people.
- Clothes inappropriate to be re-used are recycled in order to create cleaning cloths, oakum, insulation and other materials.
- The expenses for recycling shall be covered by the sales revenue.





**10  
+1****WEIRD THINGS ANIMALS DO  
THAT YOU PROBABLY  
DID NOT KNOW...**

The animals do many weird things that we could not have imagined...  
The information below, no matter how incredible it appears, is true!



Beavers should never stop gnawing various objects because their teeth never cease to grow and so this is the way to preserve a manageable length.

Cows produce more milk when they listen to music.

Tigers have stripes not only on their fur but also on their skin.

The gender of a turtle is distinguished by the noise it makes; male turtles growl while females hiss.

The jelly-fish of the species "Turritopsis nutricula Immortal" lives forever.

An ostrich can run faster than a horse, while a male ostrich roars like a lion.

The streaks on the nose of dogs are unique, like fingerprints.

Crows have the intelligence of a 7-year old child.

Elephants can smell water even at a 3-mile distance.

A giraffe is the only animal without vocal cords.

Butterflies taste with their legs.





## Corporate Football Team





## Green Corner

# Vassiliko Gardener is making suggestions for planting your own garden



Cercis  
siliquastrum  
or Judas tree  
(Cercis siliquastrum)

One of the most resistant ornamental plants.

**Ecological significance:**

It is resistant to drought. It offers shadow during summer, while in the winter, as it is a deciduous tree, allowing the sun to pass through.



Eucalyptus

One of the tallest flowering trees. It can grow everywhere with clay soil and a lot of water, on condition that temperature does not fall below zero. Its leaves contain the well-known eucalyptus oil which is used in pharmaceuticals.

**Ecological significance:**

A wet soil is well drained by eucalyptus, with its high evaporation, cleaning the air and sanitizing the surrounding environment.



Rosemary

It prefers dry soil and a sunny place to be planted. Frequent irrigation is needed during hot periods.

**Ecological significance:**

Low need in watering. It is used in cooking, in the manufacturing of medicine and as an insect repellent. It cleans the air from microbes.



Ficus

An indoor plant or an ornamental plant in gardens and parks. It is impressive due to its growth potential and the large emerald-green and shiny leaves.

**Ecological significance:**

It cleans the air effectively, capturing the dust.



Pistacia lentiscus

An evergreen, aromatic, resiniferous bush, up to five meters high, with smooth and usually greyish bark.

**Ecological significance:**

Resistance to drought adapting to all types of soil.



Viburnum

It requires light and fertile soil. Due to its good adaptation and resistance to the Mediterranean environment, viburnum is preferred to make fences.

**Ecological significance:**

Not much watering is needed; it is resilient to cold and air pollution.



Oleander

A "rugged" plant growing in all soils, without special demands.

**Ecological significance:**

It is very resistant to pollutants. It may function as a repellent to insects, rodents and reptiles.



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**VASSILIKO**  
C E M E N T

SINCE 1963