



01. Pioneer scrublands
Several species along the slopes of Mount Mottarone have a tendency to have a pioneer attitude. Approximately 40 percent of the pioneer and invasion species are Betules, which occupy collapsed areas formerly used as pasture or harvested by fires.

02. Fagus sylvatica
Fagus sylvatica is a tree belonging to the Fagaceae family. It is found mainly on the northern slopes and at higher altitudes.

03. Reforestation
The main occurrence of reforestation on Mottarone is particularly on the Borromeo family properties found in the municipalities of Stresa and Gignese. These are therefore reforestation of the upland plain mainly with mixed conifers (40% with pure picea (100%).

04. Castanea sativa
Castanea sativa is a tree belonging to the Fagaceae family. Along the slopes of Mount Mottarone we find it in the lower altitudes, below 800 meters.

05. Acer platanoides
Acer platanoides is a tree belonging to the Sapindaceae family. Along the slopes of Mount Mottarone, we find it below 600 meters in elevation.

06. Tilia europaea
Tilia europaea is an arboreal or shrubby plant in the Malvaceae family. Along the slopes of Mount Mottarone we find it at the lower altitudes.

07. Fraxinus ornus
Fraxinus ornus is a plant in the Oleaceae family. Along the slopes of Mount Mottarone we find it at lower altitudes.

Baveno, Belgirate, Brovello Carpiugnino, Casale Corte Cerro, Gignese, Gravelloa Toce, Omegna, and Stresa: all of these municipalities, with the exception of Belgirate, contribute to the formation of Mottarone, a relief between Lakes Orta and Maggiore. Chestnut forests, which make up about half of the forest cover and are mostly located on the shore of Lake Orta and the plain of the municipalities of Gravelloa Toce and Baveno, clearly predominate due to the region's lower heights. Large privately held pastures once existed, but they have been increasingly abandoned since the turn of the century, giving rise to large Maple-tree-grasslands, invasion thickets, and artificial reforestation.

This region is home to a large number of unique wild-life species because of the distinctive character of the ecosystems represented there. There are known to be 27 species of Coleoptera, 17 Lepidoptera, 1 species of Cyclostomes, 27 species of bony fish, 3 species of amphibians, 7 species of reptiles, and 25 species of mammals. It is the region with the highest level of biodiversity on a provincial scale for this taxonomic category, with 181 bird species reported, of which 72 are breeding. Regarding reptiles, the region is one of three provincial locations where Natrix tessellata is known to exist (Blonda et al., 2002).