TREE CARE INDUSTRY
The Official Publication of the National Arborist Association
Volume 5, Number 3 - March 1994

WEED CONTROL - THAT'S FRIENDLY TO TREES
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## Micro Injection Training Seminars

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<td>Memphis, TN</td>
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<td>Enfield’s Tree Service</td>
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Accountability has a new meaning for arborists.

You have always been accountable for your actions - morally, legally, professionally and otherwise. Employers and employees are 100% accountable for workplace safety. Yet in this industry, the “It’s not going to happen to me” syndrome is still present.

In California several years ago, an untrained tree worker was electrocuted. Company owners were prosecuted for failing to provide training. Now the likelihood of such an outcome is far greater.

On January 31, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration published the long-awaited vertical standard for the electric utility industry: Section 1910.269. Much of this standard is devoted to tree trimming operations.

While this standard targets line clearance, those of you who are primarily in residential/commercial tree care are included. If you had an incident as a result of an electrical contact while working on Mrs. Smith’s tree, you would be covered.

The regulation says: “Employees shall be trained in and familiar with the safety-related work practices, safety procedures and other safety requirements .... that pertain to their respective job assignments.” The standard also states that “…the employer shall certify that each employee has received the training required.”

“Shall” means that you must certify. If you certify that training has been provided and it has not, in the eyes of a compliance officer, you pay the penalty. You must also be certain that employees’ performance and work habits meet training standards.

You can’t use someone else’s certification. You are still the master of your own destiny under this regulation, but it is virtually impossible to pass the buck.

Those who do not have documented safety training programs had better get such a program in place. The regulation says you have one year to do it. The NAA has such programs available.

Safety training should be part of your company’s way of life. Aside from the moral and legal issues, safety is a profit center. More on that another time. Meanwhile, your conscience in Washington just laid another one on business.

Robert Felix, Publisher
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Weed Control
That's Friendly To Trees

By Peter Gerstenberger

Most property owners today are demanding low maintenance landscapes. Hand weeding, while still a viable option in some instances, is largely shunned as being too slow or too labor-intensive. Indiscriminate use of chemical controls is receiving increased public scrutiny. It is no wonder, then, that the tree and landscape service provider may question what is the most effective way to control weeds in lawns and tree/shrub/flower beds.

Herbicides are accepted by some, and despised by others. The fact is that they can be beneficial when applied correctly and get rid of weeds or unwanted plant growth without injuring ornamental plants or food crops.

Most herbicides used around residential/commercial grounds or ornamental plantings are called "selective herbicides." A good example of a selective herbicide is one that kills the broadleaf weeds such as dandelion and plantain in a lawn but does not visibly harm the grasses. Selective herbicide formulations are extremely useful and effective so long as they do not come in contact with the root systems of ornamentals, or drift onto susceptible plants. Even selective herbicides cannot distinguish the desirable oaks, maples, roses, etc., from the undesirable weeds.

Herbicides are further classified as pre-emergence or post-emergence, depending on their mode of action. A pre-emergence chemical kills the weeds as they germinate by disrupting the plant's physiological processes. It will not control existing weeds. A post-emergence chemical acts only on growing weed plants and is usually more effective on a plant that is young and growing rapidly.

Lawn maintenance companies have traditionally relied heavily on chemicals to control lawn weeds, but that may be changing. Research at the Davey Institute, the research arm of the Davey Tree Expert Company, has shown that cultural practices can help reduce the need for herbicides for weed control.

In testing a variety of fertilizers to determine their overall performance in weed suppression, Davey researchers found that standard liquid fertilizer and certain natural and synthetic organics were most effective. "Traditional lawn fertilizers formulated with inorganic and synthetic organic products maintained more uniform turf quality than other treatments," says Roger C. Funk, Ph.D., vice president of human and technical resources at Davey.

Another study showed that a higher mowing height suppressed weed growth more effectively than a lower mowing height. Funk says that the 2-1/2-inch mowing height in the study produced a darker green, dense turf that suppressed weeds up to 70% more than a 1-1/2-inch mowing height.

A mixture of Kentucky bluegrass and fine fescue, grasses typically found in lawns of the northeastern and midwestern United States, was selected for testing. The nutrients used in the tests were pesticide-free and included inorganic products, natural and synthetic organics, bio-stimu-

lants (such as humic acid and kelp) and microorganisms.

Herbicides still valuable

Still, herbicides remain a valuable tool in caring for lawns. The most common, most widely used and perhaps oldest herbicide used for lawn weeds is 2,4-D. It is called a systemic herbicide because it is carried within the target plant.

If 2,4-D contacts ornamentals, the mature leaves may twist or curl slightly but they will not usually be severely damaged. The greatest damage occurs to the young leaves and the terminal buds. If higher doses of 2,4-D are applied, most herbaceous plants such as shade trees and shrubs will produce excessively deformed leaves and some branches will be killed. Most perennials will survive and put out normal leaves later the same growing season or the next year.

The chemical 2,4-D is active in extremely minute quantities. It is quite common for a 5-to-10-mile-an-hour breeze to carry enough spray drift to injure susceptible ornamentals and vegetables for a considerable distance. A minute quantity left in the sprayer may be enough to injure a treated plant. Fertilizers and mulches stored near 2,4-D may absorb enough herbicide vapor to damage ornamentals when the materials are used on them.

The ester form of 2,4-D is highly volatile and its vapors may injure nearby ornamentals even if applied on a calm day with little or no breeze. Fortunately this form of 2,4-D is not so widely used as it
was some years ago, having been replaced largely by the acid or amine formulations.

Formulations of 2,4-D are often applied to lawns where tree roots are present in the soil. If the roots pick up the chemical, the leaves on the side of the tree where the chemical was applied will curl and twist. Maple, pin oak, forsythia and magnolia will have a marked curling of leaves, but no permanent damage usually occurs. London plane is more severely affected. Large fissures or cankers may appear on the main trunk and branches, again most severely on the side where the chemical contacted the roots. Once these large strips of ruptured bark appear, insects such as the plum borer will lay eggs in the ruptured bark. Insects can cause severe secondary damage.

Another selective, post-emergence herbicide, dicamba, can be found in "weed-and-feed" combinations popular with homeowners and often containing 2,4-D. The combination is excellent for large lawn areas where it fertilizes the grass at the same time that it is getting rid of most of the weeds. However, the combination can cause extensive problems when it is unintentionally applied too close to trees and shrubs. The combination causes grotesque curling, twisting, cupping and upturning of the leaf edges. Among the deciduous trees and shrubs most commonly injured are oak, maple, willow, magnolia, dogwood, birch, London plane, lilac and forsythia.

When applying herbicide around sensitive trees and landscaped areas, professionals prefer using a timely application of pre-emergence chemical before weed seeds germinate.

According to Greg Richards, chemical products manager at LESCO, many factors are involved in choosing a pre-emergence product. Some of the most significant are the spectrum of weeds you must control, the ornamental species present and their herbicide tolerance, your budget and use restrictions on the chemicals. Identifying weeds and timing the treatments are critical to the success of a pre-emergence herbicide program.

Annual flowers and vegetable plants may be sensitive to many pre-emergence products. Therefore, in annual beds, your weed control arsenal may consist of the use of mulches and landscape fabric as well as hand weeding. In an extreme case, soil can be treated with a chemical fumigant prior to planting, but fumigants often eliminate useful soil microorganisms.

Most states offer good weed control guides through their extension offices. They are usually updated at least annually and may contain information on non-chemical alternatives. Thomson Publications of Fresno, California, has just released the revised "Insecticide, Herbicide, Fungicide Quick Guide." The publication is cross-referenced by the pesticide and the pests controlled. It sells for $17.50 plus tax. For more information, call 209-435-2163.

Companies such as LESCO, headquartered near Cleveland, offer the professional pesticide applicator considerable technical assistance. The company produces ornamental use formulations and distributes an array of pesticide products and application equipment through a nationwide network of drive-through service centers. Lawn and landscape care companies that wish to minimize pesticide inventories appreciate the drive-through idea. Currently, LESCO has 105 drive-through centers, with plans for 30 more by June. For more information on LESCO products and services, call 800-321-5325.

Is it herbicide damage?

An air pollutant or chemical may damage the trees you are paid to care for. What may be worse, the damage may show up shortly after you applied some spray or fertilizer treatment, making it appear to your client that the treatment was the cause of injury.

Shade and ornamental trees are as different from each other as you are from the person next door. One tree can suffer from exposure to an air pollutant while others of the same species in the area will stay healthy. Also, while a low level of certain chemicals may not injure a tree, two of them present at the same time, even at low concentrations, may cause severe damage. It is up to you to explain to your client what symptoms on the tree can be attributed to air or soil pollution and why one tree can be affected while another one whose branches cross and intertwine with the damaged tree will stay healthy.

Air pollution problems on vegetation stem from one of four classifications of pollutant. First and most common is the large-scale type of pollution episode in which it is impossible to pinpoint the specific source. This type of pollution results when weather conditions prevent the pollutants from rising into the upper atmosphere. Some of the pollutants that are potentially toxic to plants include ozone, sulfur dioxide and the peroxyacyl nitrates, or PANs.

Air pollution can emanate from local point sources which can be more readily
identified. If there is a slight breeze, pollution damage may be found in a fan-shaped pattern on the leeward side of and up to a few miles from the source. The damage to trees and other ornamentals can be seen within a day or two. Common point source pollutants are fluorine, chlorine and ammonia.

A third type of pollutant comes from a localized source often on a client’s property or adjacent to it. In this category are wood preservatives that are used on patio furniture, wood decks, wood fences and fence posts. The chemicals usually involved are pentachlorophenol or creosote.

The fourth type of air pollutant is any chemical that is intentionally but incorrectly applied for control of weeds. Some herbicides volatilize easily or are blown around in tiny droplets. They may cause twisted, curled and even killed leaves on woody plants.

A useful diagnostic text for the arborist is **Herbicide Damage to Trees and Shrubs, A Pictorial Guide to Symptom Diagnosis**, by Dr. Jeffrey Derr and Dr. Bonnie Lee Appleton. While the text is out of print, it is still available for $19.95 from Arborist Supply House, Inc., 800-749-9528.

In the 1980s, acid rain received wide publicity as a potential threat to vegetation and to lakes. Fortunately, research has not confirmed the worst fears about the possible effects of acid rain. One of the few tree species thought to be adversely affected is red spruce growing at high elevations.

Many of the tree problems we now categorize as “leaf scorch” or “needle burn” may one day be recognized as being caused by air pollutant which is today unrecognized and unnamed. We can’t pigeonhole all unknown leaf problems into the category of air pollution damage, but study will probably characterize the damage done by more pollutants and combinations of pollutants.

**Barriers and mulches**

Weed barriers and mulches provide some measure of weed control, and may enhance growth of desirable plants. One can purchase porous geotextiles, a.k.a. plastic with holes, specifically designed for landscape installations. Most tree care providers have a ready supply of wood chip mulch they would like to put to good use. However, when improperly applied, landscape fabrics and mulches can do more harm than good.

At one extreme, a layer of black plastic covered with coarse organic or inorganic mulch can completely suppress weeds but is dangerous to use around woody plants because the plastic is non-porous. Research by Dr. Appleton, associate professor of horticulture and extension nursery specialist at Virginia Tech University, shows that it sheds water and doesn’t allow air to permeate. In short, it creates a hostile environment for tree roots. Similarly, an excessively thick layer of mulch can prevent gaseous exchange or water movement.

The opposite extreme would be a highly porous landscape fabric covered by a thick layer of a fine organic mulch. Appleton’s research showed that a fine mulch provides an excellent medium for weed seed germination. A highly porous plastic will not prevent the young weed plants from sinking roots. Once rooted, weeds grow very rapidly and will often tear the fabric if pulled.

The ideal combination in most cases is a relatively coarse, 1-to-4-inch organic or

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inorganic mulch over a low porosity geotextile. On slopes, a rougher fabric can help hold the mulch in place.

Appleton’s research noted one particular problem when using a fabric/mulch combination around trees. When highly porous fabrics were topped with dense organic mulches, tree roots tended to grow up through the fabric into the mulch. Thus, pulling up the fabric for any reason will remove fibrous roots and stress the desirable plants.

Other precautions should be taken. Keep fabrics evenly covered. Exposed geotextiles degrade rapidly in sunlight. Remove or kill any mulch-layer weeds when they are small. Only apply fabrics to weed-free ground - treat with a pre-emergence herbicide if necessary, and do not use geotextiles around annuals unless you plan to re-plant in the same holes each year.

Weeds are pests, much like an insect pest or disease we may see on a tree or shrub. Research has proven that many insects and diseases are best controlled by integrating two or more control strategies. It should not be surprising that weed control is best handled with a similar integration of tactics, including pulling them by hand.
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Wildlife and arboriculture
In the November 1993 issue of Tree Care Industry is an article titled "Arboriculture & Wildlife," which is one of the very few I've encountered on urban wildlife management. This article is full of practical and common sense tactics to enhance wildlife diversity in urban settings while not compromising safety or good arboriculture. As words like biodiversity and ecosystem management become increasingly important to the public, these kinds of practices and suggestions are more significant.

Thomas Charles, urban forester
Department of Conservation, Maine

Give credit
(The following is an open letter to Donald F. Blair, a frequent contributor to Tree Care Industry.)

I know that you want to give credit where credit is due, and for this reason I'd like to add a comment regarding your article in TCI (September 1993) on the evolution of the safety saddle. Incidentally, I believe I've read all of your articles in the tree care publications and have found them very informative; and I always appreciate the humor expressed.

Getting back to saddles. Mr. Kuehmerling - Karl - was always keenly interested in protecting his tree crews, especially the climbers, who sustained frequent injuries from falls because the safety harnesses they individually designed were primitive and inadequate. I'll tell you the story sometime, if you're interested, how Karl took the many individual ideas his crews were using (bosun seats, bowlines, etc.) and came up with the safety saddle that you picture in your TCI article as the one manufactured by Bartlett in Detroit. I believe Bartlett will verify the fact that this was first known as the Nelson saddle because Karl first had this saddle made up for his men when he was a supervisor for the Nelson Co., the first large line clearing company, headquartered in Dayton, Ohio.

When Karl left the Nelson Co. and started his own line company and supply store, he continued to manufacture this same saddle as the #1 Kuehmerling saddle - it is still featured in our 1993 catalog as our #1 saddle.

I'm not trying to take anything away from the Bartlett Co. They are highly respected competitors of ours. I'm just trying to set the record straight because the TCI articles you and others are contributing will be researched by future generations of tree industry people, and Mr. Kuehmerling should receive credit for the great amount of time and effort he devoted to developing safety products and procedures. He gave his time generously to promoting safety among his own employees as well as through numerous safety committees connected with the National Arborist Association and smaller local groups.

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Charles Ritz
Karl Kuemmerling, Inc.
Massillon, Ohio

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Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations affect every tree firm, particularly those who transport pesticides listed as hazardous materials. Each driver must carry proper documentation, including a Shipping Paper, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and label information. It is also important to carry an Emergency Response Guidebook for information on cleanup if a chemical spill occurs. Special marking may also be required when transporting certain hazardous materials.

If your firm transports hazardous materials across state lines, or transports hazardous materials above the product's Reportable Quantity (RQ), DOT requirements will directly affect your operations. Always check state regulations as well.

Federal DOT information is published in the Code of Federal Regulations. Title 49 CFR addresses transportation requirements. Section 171.101 of the manual lists Hazardous Materials that must be included on shipping papers.

Shipping papers
A Shipping Paper simply describes any hazardous materials transported on a particular vehicle, and it must be carried on that vehicle. You must obtain and carry the MSDS for each product your firm transports. The MSDS contains the information needed to complete the shipping paper.

Shipping papers must include in this order, the proper Shipping Name; Hazard Class; the product's ID number; Packing Group; and Total Quantity carried in either weight or volume. Other information required includes the CHEMTREC emergency number and a statement such as: "This is to certify that the above-named materials are properly classified, described, packaged, marked and labeled, and are in proper condition for transportation according to the applicable regulations of the Department of Transportation." The shipping paper should be signed and dated and include your company name, address and phone number.

The shipping name must be clearly identified if the product is a hazardous material. This can be done by adding a column titled "HM" to note with an X if the product listed on the table is a hazardous material. Other options include marking with a bright color or listing all hazardous materials first, with other transported products listed last.

Perhaps the best source of information on requirements for transporting a material is the manufacturer, particularly when determining the Packing Group number. The Packing Group was previously listed as an "ORM" classification. New DOT regulations have changed the Packing Group to Classes I, II, or III. If the current Packing Group classification is not listed on the MSDS sheet, contact the manufacturer.

Vehicle marking
DOT refers to all containers as "packaging" and includes containers from manufacturers as well as any containers that you use to transport materials, such as tanks, sprayers and bottles.

Materials in bulk packaging require vehicle marking. If it contains a hazardous material, or hazardous substance above the RQ, bulk packaging must be marked with panels, placards or displays. These items cannot be "homemade." If you are not familiar with them, contact a transportation supply house.
Bulk packaging is any packaging, including a transport vehicle or freight container, that meets specific criteria. Contact DOT for further information.

**DOT identification numbers**

If a vehicle crosses state lines, and has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,001 or more pounds, or transports hazardous materials in bulk packaging, you must post DOT numbers on the vehicle. Such vehicles must also have the company name, city, state and DOT number clearly displayed, typically on the cab. Obtain DOT numbers free of charge from Federal Highways Administration, Office of Motor Carrier Operations, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. Phone: 202-366-1795. Ask for form MCS-150.

Contact suppliers and distributors for DOT information. Remember, however, that they are not responsible for you. For labels, placards, and other items, contact:

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Portions of this article excerpted with permission from Pest Management magazine, published by the National Pest Control Association, Dunn Loring, Va.

Brian Barnard is the Government Affairs specialist for the National Arborist Association.
What Makes A Good Leader?

By Richard G. Ensman Jr.

Organizational theorists have put forward countless concepts of leadership over the years. Most of these theorists stress the importance of a particular cluster of professional qualities, such as the ability to organize work effectively, or the ability to motivate subordinates.

True leadership, however, demands strong and vibrant personal qualities that set forth high ideals and mobilize others toward action. A number of those qualities - from A to Z - follow. Ask yourself whether these characteristics of authentic leadership can describe you.

Active - A true leader is oriented toward action and is constantly trying to make things happen.

Bold - A leader is never afraid to try new things and is usually eager to strike out in new directions.

Challenging - A leader challenges other people to acquire new knowledge, to try out new ways of doing things.

Dedicated - A leader exemplifies the kind of dedication he/she wants to see in others by practicing it.

Enthusiastic - A good leader is usually buoyant and builds a sense of excitement, adventure even.

Frank - A leader is candid, honest and above board; quick to offer sincere praise to others and to offer honest, firm criticism - along with a willingness to help - when things go wrong.

Grateful - A leader knows he/she cannot accomplish everything that needs to be done alone, and always shows thanks for the efforts of co-workers and staff.

Humble - However successful a leader may appear, he/she knows that much of that success and good fortune is due to others and is generous in giving them credit.

Innovative - A leader is willing to be somewhat of a creative risk taker. While recognizing the importance of careful study and planning, he/she is willing to take novel approaches to the job at hand and encourages this trait in others.

Just - A leader looks at all sides of an issue before making a decision, tries to be fair to those around him/her and encourages the pursuit of fairness in others.

Knowledgeable - While not an expert in all things, a leader demonstrates mastery over crucial skills and is willing and eager to share that knowledge.

Listener - A leader listens and knows he/she learns through other people and is always anxious to hear what they’re thinking and feeling.

Masterful - A good leader is a good strategist and knows how to systematically deploy physical and human resources to get the best results for all.

Neighborly - A leader acts as a good neighbor to others, is willing to work with others in a genuine spirit of cooperation and eager to engage in joint projects and undertakings.

Organized - A true leader knows how to keep his/her desk, agenda and mind clear and is able to keep tasks and responsibilities in their proper order and devote just the right amount of attention to each.

Persistent - Things may not always happen quite the way a leader wants, but he/she exhibits tenacity and keeps people moving toward important goals - even when they seem elusive.

Quiet - A leader doesn’t need to be the center of attention and is usually willing to let others take center stage and bask in the limelight.

Relaxed - A leader knows how to enjoy himself on and off the job, and how to build and maintain a comfortable but goal-oriented atmosphere in the workplace.

Sensitive - A good leader is acutely conscious of the thoughts, concerns and fears of others and accommodates them in conversation and actions.

Thoughtful - A leader is always thinking - about competitors, about new business strategies, about new work methods, about the future - and inspires forward-looking thinking in others.

Understanding - A leader knows that others don’t always perceive things the same way yet makes an effort to learn and appreciate different viewpoints.

Versatile - A good leader practices a variety of skills and is quick to apply his/her talents to emerging problems and challenges.

Winner - A leader strives for excel-
lence in all things. He/she wants to do the best job possible - and inspires others to do the same.

Young at heart - A leader possesses a willingness to learn new things, to explore, to test. And while wanting to put new ideas to use, he/she is not afraid to fail once in a while.

Zestful - There's an exuberance, even a child-like eagerness in the heart and soul of a true leader. He/she happily anticipates the start of each new day and each new challenge and is quick to infect others with the same upbeat spirit.

So, how many of these traits can describe you? More important, how many opportunities can you find in the days and weeks ahead to acquire and practice the skills of genuine leadership?
WEED CONTROL IN TREES

1. Black plastic is no longer recommended to prevent weed growth around tree and shrub plantings in wet soils because
   a. it prevents evaporation of excess soil moisture which can promote root and canker rots caused by fungal pathogens.
   b. it can depress oxygen levels in the soil and increase potentially toxic levels of carbon dioxide concentrations in lower soil layers.
   c. it can cause a superficially shallow root system which is then more prone to freeze damage to feeder roots.
   d. All of the above.

2. Disadvantages of using landscape fabrics include:
   a. aesthetically unpleasing when left uncovered with some type of decorative mulch.
   b. no nutrient benefits derived from decomposition like organic mulch (woodchips, leaves, etc.).
   c. when covered with more than an inch or two of fine organic mulch, weeds can become established on top of the mulch.
   d. many perennial weeds and grasses can grow right up through the fabrics.
   e. All of the above.

3. Organic mulch should not be placed against the trunks of trees or excessive moisture can promote root rot and cankers, inadequate root crown tissue hardening and rodent girdling.
   a. True
   b. False

4. One of the best methods for reducing weed competition around trees is to
   a. spray a wide-spectrum herbicide to kill all the weeds, rototill to a 6 inch depth and apply 4 inches of organic mulch.
   b. apply 2-4 inches of mulch right over the weeds followed by herbicidal spraying or wicking of weeds that come up through the mulch with a systemic herbicide.
   c. use a string trimmer (weed whacker) to whip the weeds to death making sure you do not injure the bark on the tree or shrub.
   d. All of the above.

5. When selecting a chemical control for weeds, it is imperative to
   a. identify the weed and research its life cycle so you can select the most effective herbicide and apply it during the targeted plant’s most susceptible growth stage.
   b. find out if that chemical is registered in your state, is registered for use on that crop, and labeled to kill your specific weed problem.
   c. select a wide spectrum herbicide that will kill almost every type of weed problem you run across.
   d. select an herbicide that does not have a foul odor or complaints are sure to follow.
   e. A and B

6. Environmentally speaking, herbicides that have short residual are the preferred type if they will control the weeds that are giving you problems.
   a. True
   b. False

7. Knowledge of lateral root spread of specific tree and shrub species is critical when applying many herbicides or “weed-and-feed” fertilizers because the roots may extend outward two to three times the radius of the crown and absorb the chemical applied by the uneducated applicator.
   a. True
   b. False
   c. All of the above.

8. One of the best techniques for controlling weeds in a lawn under an established tree’s canopy is to
   a. adjust the turf mowing height, fertilization, watering and core aeration regime to promote a thick, dense turf so the weeds do not have a place to grow.
   b. spray a labeled weed killer when wind speeds are lowest and relative humidity is highest.
   c. lightly rototill or scarify the soil and reseed the area with a shade tolerant grass species or variety.
   d. Mechanically remove the weeds by hand to prevent potential herbicide uptake.

9. To get the best weed control when using geotextile landscape fabrics, research suggests
   a. applying the fabric over a weed-free environment and possibly applying a pre-emergence herbicide before fabric installation.
10. The difference between effective weed control using pre-emergence herbicides and post-emergent herbicides is that pre-emergent herbicides must be applied before the weed has germinated and post-emergent herbicides are applied after the weed is up and growing.
   a. True
   b. False

11. Amine formulations of herbicides are generally better weed control products than corresponding ester products because they tend to penetrate into the leaf tissue better. Amines are, however, slightly volatile which can cause injury to non-target susceptible plants.
   a. True
   b. False

12. Symptoms of over-mulching include
   a. abnormally small leaves
   b. chlorotic foliage often resembling iron deficiency
   c. leaf margin necrosis
   d. all of the above
   e. A and C

13. Research has shown that turfgrass can reduce the amount of tree roots present by _____% or more in the top few inches of soil.
   a. 30
   b. 50
   c. 70
   d. 90

14. Mulch has been shown to nearly triple, 4-6 double, 1-2 triple, 2-4 double, 2-4 tree growth and should generally be applied _____ inches deep with coarser textured mulches applied a little deeper, especially in well drained soils.
   a. triple, 4-6
   b. double, 1-2
   c. triple, 2-4
   d. double, 2-4

15. One of the best and least expensive weed control techniques for trees involves applying wood chip mulch over as much of a tree’s root system as you can.
   a. True
   b. False

20. Most experts agree that to prevent mulches from harboring rodents which girdle trees and shrubs, the mulch should not be placed closer than
   a. 1-2 inches to the base of woody plants.
   b. 3-5 inches to the base of woody plants.
   c. 8-10 inches to the base of woody plants.
   d. 10-20 inches to the base of woody plants.

21. When organic materials are used as a mulch, especially with a fine particle size, nitrogen may need to be added to prevent nitrogen deficiency in the plants, especially if the organic materials are not composted.
   a. True
   b. False

22. Continual application of the same mulch type can create eventual changes in soil acidity and alkalinity, thereby affecting nutrient uptake and plant health.
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Organic mulches should therefore be rotated and soil pH measurements taken periodically to prevent this.

a. True  
  b. False

19. Many experts agree that it is best to delay applications of mulch in the spring until the ground has warmed enough to promote root growth.

a. True  
  b. False

20. When determining final mulch depth, it is imperative to know the underlying soil texture and drainage characteristics of the site. Otherwise you may be applying too thick of a mulch layer on wet clays, or not enough mulch on excessively well drained sandy sites.

a. True  
  b. False

21. Research has suggested that landscape fabrics and geotextiles not be used in areas where plants will need to be moved.
periodically unless you plan to replace the plant in the same hole you cut into the fabric. More holes mean more weeds.

a. True
b. False

22. The ultimate choice of a weed control strategy should be based on the following:

a. What material is best for the plant.
b. Weed spectrum present and alternate controls.
c. Permanence of plantings and cost.
d. Aesthetics and requested/desired mulch types.
e. All of the above

ANSWER KEY

1. d
2. e
3. a
4. b
5. e
6. a
7. a
8. a
9. e, according to research by Dr. Bonnie Appleton
10. a
11. b; Ester formulations are considered more effective than amines but are more volatile so beware of spray drift when using esters.
12. e, according to Dr. Francis Gouin, University of Maryland
13. d, according to research at the Morton Arboretum by Dr. Gary Watson
14. d, research by Watson and others
15. a, especially with trees prone to stress
16. b
17. a, numerous researchers
18. a
19. a
20. a
21. a; Research by Drs. Bonnie Appleton and Jeff Derr.
22. e

This test was compiled by Chris Carlson, a professor and director of Horticulture Technology at Kent State University, Salem, Ohio, campus.

Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Kent State University, Tree Care Industry Magazine or the National Arborist Association is implied.
General J.H. Binford Peay III, vice chief of staff, United States Army, addresses the morning assembly of arborists.

Arborists Donate A Gift To The American People And To The Environment

Three hundred tree care professionals from 85 companies participated in "National Arborist Day, a Gift to the American People" at Arlington National Cemetery on October 16. The event, sponsored by the National Arborist Association (NAA), provided an estimated $250,000 worth of environmentally sound tree care services to many of the trees at Arlington, one of the nation's most distinguished landmarks.

"National Arborist Day, A Gift to the American People" was part of an ongoing effort by the members of NAA. Their goals are to improve the environment by providing professional tree care services, and to draw attention to the importance of trees. The NAA sponsored similar events at Ellis Island and Liberty Island in New York, and Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

With a dedicated but small staff of professional arborists to care for 14,000 trees, officials at Arlington were very appreciative of the effort.

NAA firms from Maine to Florida and as far west as California and Colorado travelled to Arlington Cemetery, located just across the Potomac River from downtown Washington, D.C. Arborists climbed and otherwise tended to trees ranging in height from 20 feet to over 80 feet. Trees were pruned, fertilized and cabled. This care adds to a tree's life, preserves its...
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If you can't get to it safely you can't prune it or otherwise work in a tree. NAA's video orientation to ROPES, KNOTS & TREE CLIMBING provides:

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NAA's video training programs make actual on the job training much easier. After viewing an NAA video a trainee can go into the field with basic background information. Repetitive viewing of NAA's video training program re-enforces the training provided in actual work situations.

Attendance sheets provided with this program allow an employer to easily document employee training which meets OSHA requirements. Tests are also provided to measure employee comprehension.

To order the ROPES, KNOTS & TREE CLIMBING video program please fill out the order form on page 37 or call the National Arborist Association Hotline at: 1-800-733-2622.

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beauty and enables it to increase its contribution to the environment.

The trees most in need of attention were chosen by event coordinators to receive care.

The NAA identified 15 work zones at Arlington. These zones included the graves of two presidents, William Howard Taft and John Fitzgerald Kennedy, as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. More than 230,000 people are buried in Arlington’s 612 acres.

Representatives from NAA were with each team of volunteers at the zones to explain the importance of tree care to the more than 10,000 visitors who walked through the cemetery that day. The event was free and open to the public.

The benefits from increased tree care and maintenance are extensive and vital in creating a healthier environment. Consider the positive effect that mature trees have on global climate change, energy use and other environmental factors.

In a year, one healthy 50-year-old sugar maple can remove up to 120 times the amount of carbon from the atmosphere as a 10-year-old tree. In general, most trees begin to remove and store significant amounts of carbon when they are 20 to 30 years old. Dying and declining trees may actually release more carbon into the atmosphere than they remove in a growing season.

"We are honored to have participated in this important event at Arlington National Cemetery because there is no other landmark that is more important or means more to the entire nation," explained Robert Felix, executive vice president of the NAA. "The benefit to the environment from a project such as this is truly invaluable."

The National Arborist Association is a non-profit organization. Its members are committed to educating the public about the environmental benefits of tree care through public service events such as National Arborist Day. For further information, call the NAA at 1-800-733-2622.
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March 15
ILCA Plant Identification Seminar
Deciduous Plants in Winter Condition
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March 19
ILCA Landscape Equipment Auction
Powers Auction Service
Crystal Lake, Ill.
Contact: Julie Nicoll, 708-932-8443

March 23-24
MFPA Winter Meeting
Holiday Inn South Convention Center
Lansing, Mich.
Contact: 517-482-5530

May 12-15
ISA/Western Chapter Annual Conference and Trade Show
LaPosada Resort
Scottsdale, Ariz.
Contact: 602-955-5315

June 5-7
Tree City USA National Conference
Arbor Day Farm/Lied Conference Ctr.
Nebraska City, Neb.
Contact: National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655

November 17-19
TCI Expo '94
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Contact: 800-733-2622
Pruning And PR

By Burton Smeltzer

In September 1992, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation authorized Gustin Gardens Tree Service, Inc., to proceed with a pruning contract that called for pruning more than 1000 flowering cherry street trees in the exclusive Kenwood section of Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The trees are mostly Yoshino cherry, Prunus vedoensis, the same species that attracts tourists to Washington, D.C., every April. At least 75% of the trees are in a state of general decline and are overmature. Many are over 60 feet tall and 50 feet in canopy spread. The diameters on the multi-trunk trees measure 36 to 48 inches. These cherries are considered huge by any standard.

The trees had not been pruned for at least 10 years, partly because of their condition and partly because of the many complaints Kenwood residents made to the D.O.T. after the previous pruning.

Even in a state of decline, these trees far surpass the beauty of the famous flowering cherries in the nation’s capital.

Knowing the condition of the trees and the temperament of the residents, Gustin’s started a public relations campaign.

Gustin’s invited the board members of the Kenwood Community Association and county inspectors, including their supervisor, Guy Turenne, to a meeting at the job site in late September. The work was to follow National Arborist Association standards for Class I pruning. The poor condition of the trees dictated that Gustin’s leave as much foliage as possible to help keep them alive and not to remove any limbs that contributed to the overall canopy unless they were dangerous. This was difficult to explain to the board members, since many of the limbs were severely decayed and, according to Class I specs, should be removed.

Turenne explained the county specs for elevations over the roads, cleanup, etc., and I recommended that Theodore Libbey, Kenwood’s board president, send a newsletter to residents explaining exactly what was to be done. I also recommended that we meet again after a block of trees had been pruned. In this way, everyone was given a chance to inspect and critique what was to be done.

After the second meeting, all were pleased with the results and a spirit of cooperation replaced the initial uneasiness.

Averaging approximately two days a week with a crew of five men and one supervisor, Gustin’s finished the last cherry tree on December 31, 1992. The majority of residents complimented the work and were pleased to see the trees being pruned properly. And when the job was done, Dot Brewer, Montgomery County arborist, gave Gustin’s an excellent rating for the overall contract.

Gustin Gardens foreman, Mark Gordon, and crew members Tim Rightenour, Jamie Smith, George Gregg, and Dave Moldover were especially pleased to receive a letter commending the work from their inspector, Lou Cutsail.

I recommended that the cherry trees be fed simultaneously with the pruning to maintain their remaining health and vigor.

Doggett’s 12-24-24 Fall Formula was chosen because it contained a slow-release nitrogen material that would break down slowly and not produce excessive growth to stress declining root systems. Care was taken not to inject the material too deeply since most of the remaining roots were close to the surface. The formulation was also chosen because of its ability to stimulate new root growth vital to declining root systems. With a low soluble salt rating of 30, the Doggett Fall Formula would not burn new root tissue or dry out existing roots when used with adequate soil moisture.

Burton Smeltzer is a certified arborist and supervised the Kenwood project. Gustin Gardens Tree Service, Inc. was founded in 1946 by Ray Gustin Jr., a giant in the tree care industry who passed away in 1990. The eighth and most current edition of the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraiser’s Guide for Plant Appraisal, is dedicated to him. Scott Shullenbarger, Ray Gustin’s grandson, is now president and manages the company. Reference to commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by TCI magazine.
Each year gypsy moths defoliate hundreds of thousands of acres of trees. In residential areas. Big cities. Small towns. National parks. And state parks. But the trees can be saved.

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ISA Western Chapter Plans Unique Conference Format

Meeting formats tend to be the same wherever you go. To appeal to and attract the broadest audience possible, innovative meeting planning is a must. The Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture is trying something different at its 61st annual conference; intensity, diversity and variety.

The meeting will be held May 12-15 at La Posada Red Lion Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona. There are educational options which will provide as intense an experience as attendees want and at a variety of levels.

Dr. Alex Shigo will present a special, full day, pre-conference seminar entitled “A Systems Approach To Tree Management”.

Noted legal authority, Victor Merullo, will provide a two hour work shop on “Arboriculture and the Law.” In addition there will be 15 information-packed seminars on a variety of current, pertinent arboricultural topics. Well known speakers such as Roger Funk, Tom Smiley, Bob Tate, Ted Stamen, Bob Felix, John Britton, and a host of others will make the presentations.

Another special offering this year is a 2-day workshop designed specifically for treeworkers. The workshop will cover climbing, ropes and rigging, presented by Bob Phillips, Ken Palmer and Bob Weber, all well known authorities. Peter Gerstenberger, Safety Director of the National Arborist Association, will present an electrical hazards and trees session. Participating vendors will present a large equipment maintenance program.

Dr. Dallas Demmitt, formerly a consultant with the Phoenix Suns, will present a special seminar entitled, “Communication Skills That Reduce Stress and Enhance Relationships”.

There is more. Each evening there will be a panel discussion using that day’s speakers.

For registration and hotel information, call WC/ISA conference headquarters at 602-955-5315. Book early and take advantage of Southwest Airlines 2-for-1 airfare. Travel reservations can be made with Carol Brown of Carlson Travel at 800-524-2630. (Be sure to mention WC/ISA conference.)

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The Doggett Corporation, the tree fertilizer company, has formulated a new powdered water-soluble concentrate for liquid injection into the root areas of trees and shrubs. It consists of humic acid, kelp, fish protein, chelated micronutrients, with an all-natural wetting agent. This product may be applied by itself or as an enhancement to a regular fertilizer application. Mixing rates of fertilizers may be reduced when used in combination with this new product. The Doggett Corporation, Lebanon, NJ 08833. Phone: 800-448-1862.

Highway Products introduces a 5th wheel tool box designed for the new 1994 Dodge pickup. The aluminum tool box features a single, reinforced, brite diamond plate lid and brite diamond plate face along with a stainless steel folding T handle latch and lock mechanism. One spacious sliding tray with removable dividers is included as standard equipment. Options include an interior light, spray can rack and extra tool trays. Highway Products, Inc., 6241 Crater Lake Hwy., Central Point, OR 97502. Phone: 800-TOOL-BOX, 800-866-5269. FAX: 503-826-3551; 503-826-3607.

The Mat Factory introduces Safety Deck II, the innovative interlocking safety mat system designed for child safety and grass retention. Safety Deck II's specially designed non-slip surface and impact absorbent understructure ensure maximum protection underfoot for children at play. Safety Deck II is excellent for grass retention as it enhances and promotes grass growth in high foot traffic areas while also enhancing drainage efficiency. Mat Factory, 760 W. 16th Street, Suite E, Costa Mesa, CA 92627. Phone: 714-645-3122; 800-628-7626. FAX: 714-645-0966.

Southco Industries, Inc.
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We are a full service arboriculture firm with offices in the Midwest and the East Coast. With our continued expansion, we are seeking qualified arborists for production, plant health care and sales positions within our company. We consider safety, quality, production and communication to be the foundations of proper tree care. If you believe the same and wish to make arboriculture a career, we would like to hear from you. Send your resume with salary history to Carol Demski, c/o The Care of Trees, Inc., 2371 S. Foster Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090. Phone: 708-394-4220.

Established Maryland company looking for a hands-on salesperson? manager? who is a highly motivated and experienced individual able to work in all phases of tree/shrub care. Excellent compensation and benefits. Send or fax resume to A & A Tree Experts, Inc., 7081 Millford Industrial Road, Pikesville, MD 21208-6098. FAX: 410-486-1812.

Outside sales position opening - Please send resume or contact us at Western Tree & Landscape Supply. Sales position includes aerial trucks, chippers, stump grinders, small arborist and landscape tools. c/o Mike Hutnick, 7627 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael, CA 95608. Phone: 916-944-4439. FAX: 916-944-4487.

Large established full service tree company in the Baltimore metropolitan area looking for an assertive person, preferably with B.S. or Assoc. Degree in Arboriculture or related field. Year-round work with generous medical and pension plan to work with spray and fertilization programs with future in sales and management. Salary negotiable depending on experience. Send resume with salary history to Carroll Tree Service, 19 East Sudbrook La., Baltimore, MD 21208. All resumes held in confidence.

Arborists, field representatives, climbers, technicians. Ira Wickes Arborists, one of the oldest and most respected companies in the business, is looking for high-quality people to help us continue to grow. Excellent compensation, benefits, incentives. Please send resume or contact us at Ira Wickes Arborists, 11 McNamara Road, Spring Valley, NY 10977. Phone: 914-354-3400.

Experienced climber/foreman wanted to manage crew. We are a fast growing, quality oriented company in the Chicago North Shore. Minimum 3 years experience, CDL and self-motivation required. Excellent compensation and benefits available. Please send resume and contact The Kinnucan Company, 28877 North Nagel Court, Lake Bluff, IL 60044. Phone: 708-234-5327.

Attn. professional tree persons: Tired of the cold? Palm Beach County's tree health professionals are looking for motivated, knowledgeable people. If you are thinking of moving to SE Florida, give us a call. CDL a plus. DFWP 407-968-1045.

Climber/foreman/sales rep/mechanic/spray tech: Well-established, quality oriented, full service tree company seeks career minded self-starters who are team players. Ideal applicant is well-rounded and able to perform a combination of above tasks. Enjoy steady,
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For 1994, every Corona professional grade pruning tool has been improved. Simply. Take our new precision-machined pivot bolt design, for instance. For 60 years we've employed a reverse-threaded machine bolt and lock nut. Simple, reliable, but requiring two wrenches and a little dexterity to adjust. Our new design is self-seating, self-aligning and right-threaded. It won't work loose. And it makes blade changing in the field a one-tool, one-minute job.

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Without changing our tools basic, proven designs, we've streamlined and strengthened our forgings. And we're spending more time polishing metal parts to give them greater rust resistance and to make them easier to clean and disinfect.

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year-round work, pleasant working climate and splendid beach community. Send resume with salary history/requirements to Arbor Tree Experts, Inc., 1440 Southern Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23454 Phone: 804-425-1995. Attn: Garry.

Colorado-based full service tree company needs staff horticulturist with min. 3 yrs. exp. & B.A. Send resumes to TCI, Box S, P.O. Box 1094, Amherst, NH 03031.

Tree company in south Florida looking for motivated, qualified arborist with CDL & min. 2 yrs. exp. Top climber with foreman capabilities most desirable. Professionally aggressive. Year-round work, well established co. since 1978, built on team work. Mail resume and salary requirements to Bill Hodges, 5796 Western Way, Lake Worth, FL 33463, or call 800-932-7267.

City forester - Responsible position supervising the planting, care, and maintenance of over 500,000 trees on municipal streets, boulevards, parks, and related areas. Requires an accredited bachelor's degree with major course work in urban forestry or forestry and three years professional experience in urban forestry including one year in a supervisory capacity. Must have or be able to obtain, upon employment, a valid Missouri Commercial Driver's License and Ornamental and Turf Pesticide Applicator's license. Nonresidents, if appointed, must es-
Establish residency within the city limits of Kansas City, Missouri. Salary range of $2,660 to $4,582 per month plus excellent employee benefits. Apply by April 8, 1994 to Personnel Department, 12th Floor, City Hall, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. EOE/MF/D

Forester - Position available assisting the City Forester in the care and maintenance of trees on city streets and public grounds. Requires an accredited bachelor’s degree in forestry or closely related field. Relevant forestry experience may be substituted on a yearly basis in lieu of the degree requirement. Prior supervisory experience preferred. Must have or be able to obtain, upon employment, a valid Missouri Commercial Driver’s License and

Ornamental and Turf Pesticide Applicator's license. Nonresidents, if appointed, must establish residency within the city limits of Kansas City, Missouri. Salary range $1,722 to $2,986 per month plus excellent employee benefits. Apply by April 8, 1994 to Personnel Department, 12th Floor, City Hall, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. EOE/MF/D

Pruning dept. manager - Swingle Tree Co., a Denver tradition since 1947, is looking for the right individual to manage our pruning dept. operations. Successful candidate will have 5 yrs min. experience pruning shade trees & ornamental shrubs. Related degree helpful. Responsibilities include assuring of quality, safety & profitability. Creative leadership re-

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TREE CARE INDUSTRY - MARCH 1994
gardening motivation of crews, evaluation of techniques & equipment is essential. This is a leadership position with full management responsibilities. Swingle will provide a drug free, entrepreneurial work environment where performance is rewarded and mediocrity is removed. At your disposal will be the newest equipment and the best arborists in the region. Compensation includes base salary, performance bonus, health, dental, disability insurance, & pension plan. Send resume, references & salary requirements to Swingle Tree Company, 8585 E. Warren Ave., Denver, CO 80231, Attn: Mr. Greene.

Tree trimmers - We are a growing, well established Chicago area, full service tree care company which appreciates its employees and offers good pay and benefits package as well as steady work. If you have rope and saddle experience in trimming shade and ornamental trees we would like to talk to you. If you have a CDL drivers license, this is a plus. Our employees take pride in their work. Contact us today. B. Haney & Sons Inc., 3344 Lincoln Street, Franklin Park, IL 60131 Phone: 708-678-7809.

Sales & production management. Medium sized company with loyal client base in central NY looking for energetic, self-motivated, ambitious arborist to work in sales and manage production. Profit sharing and ownership position possible, applicant must possess a strong arboricultural background. Send resume & salary history to Cascadilla Tree Care, Inc., 877 Bostwick Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Phone: 607-272-5447.

Horticore Professional Landscape & Tree Service is hiring certified arborists, crew leaders and bucket truck operators with proven experience in arboriculture. Excellent career opportunities and benefits for arborists who are self-motivated, safety oriented team players and believe in the highest quality standards of customer satisfaction. Degree in horticulture, forestry or arboriculture and pesticide certification a plus. Come live and work in the beautiful Smokey Mountains of Asheville, NC. Send resume to Darrell Schneider. P.O. Box 1373, Candler, NC 28715. Phone: 704-667-5601.


FOR SALE


Hardware and software, by an arborist for the arborist. For more information about the industry's best selling package, call or write Arbor Computer Systems, 117 Weston Road, Westport, CT 06880. Phone: 203-226-4335.


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Hardware and software, by an arborist for the arborist. For more information about the industry's best selling package, call or write Arbor Computer Systems, 117 Weston Road, Westport, CT 06880. Phone: 203-226-4335.


1987 Vermeer 555A stump grinder, 830 hours, pro teeth, $8500. Phone: 708-798-3145.

1986 Vermeer 60° tree spade mounted on 1986 (gas) GMC 6000, low mileage, low hours, ready for work, $25,000; skid mounted Bowie hydromulcher, 1100 gallons, spare pump, hoses and accessories included, excellent condition, $6000; 6-ton Hudson tilt trailer, excellent condition, $2000. Phone: 516-734-5569.


ArborWare software lets you control virtually unlimited customer transactions. Estimates & proposals, work tickets, routing, invoicing & statements, accounts receivable, IPM, inventories, and more. Includes tree/shrub, chemical, disease & pest libraries. Mouse support, LookUp & Help Windows, CAD type landscape designer. Reports for all of your financial, management and marketing decisions, DOA reporting, graphs, client history and more. Solid backing by the combined commitment of working arborists and computer experts. Phone: 800-49-ARBOR.

Various equipment available - 72 Chevy chip truck, $4500; 68 Chevy chip truck, $1500; 92 Toro disk chipper, $5000; misc. Steel saws, spinner/breaker, chain sharpener, etc. Call 914-354-3400.


Surplus equipment. (4) VO-50 Versalifts, 88-93, all diesels w/forestry pkgs., $42,000-$59,000; (2) Skyworkrs: 83 GMC 70, $34,500, 50' rear mount, 4X4, $18,500; (6) chippers, 5 diesel Asplundhs, $5600-$11,800, 1 - 1200 B/B, $16,800, 1 - C-14 Trelan, $28,500; (2) log loaders, 1985 Brig. w/Prentice 120 (10 wheeler) & log body, $36,500, 1988 F-90 on 6-wheeler, $22,800; (3) stumpers: 1 Vermeer 665-B, new, 0 hrs., $16,800; 1 Rayco DXH1675, 250 hrs., $19,800; 1 mini chief & trailer, $5800. Call 508-256-0341, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Skyworker - Largest new parts inventory, used equipment inventory, major service facility in U.S. Phone: 706-376-3192. FAX: 706-376-6701.

1981 Teco Saturn 50, aerial bucket, 57' W.H. Ford 370 gas, 5+2, aluminum chip box, white paint, utility owned, well maintained. Looks and runs great. $22,000 or B.O. Phone: 203-748-5763.

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1987 Brush Bandit chipper, Model 100, Ford motor, many options, many new parts, asking $6500. Call Ira Wickes Arborists. Phone: 914-354-3400.
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To order please fill out the order form on page 37 or call the National Arborist Association Hotline at 1-800-733-2622.
81 Hi-Ranger, 52 PBRI, F-700, 370 V8, split shift, dump box, factory overhauled 1989, $25,000. Phone: 513-236-9962, Marlow Tree Co.

Bucket trucks with chip boxes: 1986 Aerial Lift on Ford 700, gas, $35,000; 1977 Skyworker on Ford 600 gas, $20,000. Recently rebuilt and new steel knuckles. These buckets have been completely maintained by lic. shops. Inspected by Aerial Lift, Inc. Phone: 413-624-8862.


Complete truck packages for sale or rent at highly competitive prices, ready for quick delivery. Chip trucks and bucket trucks featuring galvanneal steel bodies on Ford diesel chassis-cabs. MIRK, Inc. Phone: 216-669-2000.

FMC tree sprayer, Tandem axles, 200-gal tank, 2 hose reels, Wisconsin engine, bean pump (30 gpm, 700 PSI); $3800. Phone: 519-945-4385 (res. after 6 p.m., 519-969-5451).

1986 GMC 7000 w/48-ft. Hi-Ranger, flat deck, cab guard, tool boxes, tool lines, $19,000. Phone: 519-945-4385 (res. after 6 p.m., 519-969-5451).


Classified ad rates: $50 per inch ($45 for NAA members), (1-inch minimum), payable in advance, due the 20th of the month two months prior to publication. Send ad and payment to: Tree Care Industry P.O. Box 1094 Amherst, NH 03031

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Pruning In ‘The Big Apple’

By David Spier

“David, I have a tree for you.” It was Justine, a good client, on the phone. “Good,” I replied. “Where is it” “Manhattan,” she said.

I’m a “country boy.” I plow my garden with a team of mules and, at night, dump as much hayseed as chain saw dust out of my boots. Still, I took the job.

Her brother John owned a building in Manhattan and needed more sunlight on his garden. I explained to him on the phone that thinning a Norway maple was only temporary; it would fill in again. “Good,” he said. “Then you’ll have to come back more often.”

I took the train into the city, carrying the minimum equipment: a hand saw, my 0-11 “tree saw,” a couple of 100-foot lengths of Arborplex and a saddle.

John met my cab at 105th Street, and then took me to Manhattan Avenue. There was a line of Norway maples, ginkgos and London planes - an oasis on a concrete desert.

“I planted these,” he said. “I just started busting concrete and planting. They caught me and made me move some of them.” Twenty years later a lovely green space was testimony to his efforts.

His apartment was in a block of decaying brownstones, many of which were being renovated.

The Norway maple was easy. I had only to climb four flights of stairs to the roof and toss a rope to “crotch in.” On the third floor a door was ajar and I saw an ornate shrine, brightly lit, with an enormous statue of Buddha. “I’ll have to ask John about this,” I thought.

As I worked in the tree, windows popped open and smiling faces of every age and color appeared. Apparently tree pruning wasn’t a common sight.

Next was the takedown, a good-sized Ailanthus. I crashed the crown in handling-sized pieces, but then I had a problem - 35 feet of smooth trunk to be shortened and no spurs. Luckily I remembered my old Davey foreman, John Morgan, showing me how to make rope stirrups (basically, any kind of hitch around the trunk with loops for your feet).

When the tree was “whittled down” to fit “prone” in the backyard, I realized I had no felling wedges and no place to hitch a pull rope. Just then a lovely young Puerto Rican woman emerged from a doorway and asked: “Where is that tree going to fall?”

“Right here,” I replied, handing her the pull rope.

Later, his father-in-law, an ancient Filipino, helped cut up the brush with a machete. He told me this was how lawns were mowed in his native province.

John persuaded several neighbors to have their trees pruned so I stayed a second day. Then the rains came. I was soaked and uncomfortable when John offered me food or drink. I opted for tea. “I don’t have any tea, but I’ll ask Mr. Ishi Bashi. He’s a Japanese Buddhist monk.”

That explained the shrine. Soon a smiling man appeared with a cup of tea on a silver tray. I felt quite honored.

Later, John escorted me to the bus stop. “I promised my sister I wouldn’t let you get mugged in the city,” he laughed.

Those hay seeds must have been showing.

David Spier owns and operates David Spier Tree Care in Stuyvesant Falls, New York.

Do you have a story for From the Field? TCI will pay $100 for published articles. Submissions become the property of TCI and are subject to editing for grammar, style and length. Entries must include the name of a company and a contact person or the will not be considered for publication. Articles and photos must be received by the first day of the month for the following month’s issue.

Grind Waste Wood into Compost

The Haybuster HD8 Big Bite Industrial Grinder is ideal for grinding tree limbs up to 6 inches in diameter and waste wood into compost, landscape mulch, wood fuel or other organic products.

The HD8 is easily pulled with a ¾-ton pickup. Load with any skid steer loader. Powered by 100 hp diesel with 26-inch hammermill. Eight-foot tub makes it easy to feed tree limbs and wood debris. Ten-foot and twelve-foot tubs are also available.

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You Win with American Arborist

Practical Rigging
An American Arborist Supplies sponsored article
By: Ron Danise

LIFTING WITH RATCHETING TOOLS

One of the newer innovations in the arborist industry is the ratcheting bollard device. While everyone has their own variation on how to best lower a tree or limb, everyone seems to agree that the ability to winch a limb up is the greatest thing in the world. Many people marvel at the fact that they can now undercut pieces and then lift them up and away from a roof or other structure. Others have used the device to tighten ropes for lifting limbs or adjusting tension for speedlines.

Whatever the application, there are several important facts one needs to keep in mind. For instance, if you are attempting to lift a limb up over a structure, you should almost always have a butt line tied on. In most cases a butt line can help reduce the potential hazard when a cut limb jumps around in a tree. The butt line gives you complete control when you decide to let the piece down.

A tag line can be quite handy to aid in guiding a piece when working between structures. The ground crew has control of the base of the limb and can lead it away from roofs, gutters, wire, etc. Wind may play an important part in the way you decide to complete a cut and additional lines may give greater control.

Another serious consideration is that your rigging hardware and slings are probably stronger than the points at which they will be anchored. When lifting heavy pieces, the pulley is usually located at a high point in the tree and the load you are trying to lift may be more than the top of the tree can handle. Using a single crotch for lifting can be dangerous because you can very easily exert more force on the block anchor point than the actual weight of the limb being lifted. It you have any doubts as to whether your block anchor point will hold the load, try to use several crotches with a long sling to distribute the load. Also, play it safe and reduce the size of the piece being cut.

Keep in mind that the angle of the pull is just as important as how much you pull. The leader of a tree is very strong vertically. It is amazing how much load bearing ability is lost as the angle widens and the load becomes horizontal. If you are making a number of heavy lifts, always attempt to keep your pulls as vertical as possible.

Remember, loads in motion place greater dynamic loads on everything. That means not only the tree, but the pulley, the ropes, and all of the anchor points. If you use a butt line, it can share the load and reduce much of the stress on the small top parts of the tree.

There is no second chance. Once you cut a piece off, it's yours. You can't put it back on the tree. If there is any doubt whatsoever, reduce the size of the piece. Use common sense, use good judgement, and use techniques you KNOW work well in similar situations.

American Arborist Supplies sponsored article

Just ask John Kerns, our Grand Prize Winner!

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First and only brush chipper manufacturer with specialized dealers providing local service and hands-on training after the sale.

First with longer feed table (72") to keep operator at a safer distance — twice the distance as some competitive units.

First with curb-side feed to keep workers away from traffic.

Vermeer 1250 Brush Chipper

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Since 1884 Samson has offered the highest quality ropes to our customers. Today, professional Arborists rely on Samson rope for maximum performance and value.

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Ask a climber who knows us and he’ll probably talk about True-Blue®, our premium climbing rope in a distinctive, high-visibility blue. Or Arbor-Plex, the industry workhorse, the most widely used climbing and bull rope. Perhaps he’ll mention Tree-Master, the world’s best 3-strand climbing line. Or maybe he’s using Pro-Master, a strong and tough 3-strand bull rope that’s priced right for any job.

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