Michigan's Department of State Highways has been doing an excellent job in maintaining newly planted trees on the state's highway rights-of-way.

This particular operation is on Interstate-96 near Lansing. Once the landscape contractor's guarantee period of 90 days expires, tree survival becomes the responsibility of the Department.

Trees on this 11-mile segment were watered continuously for 3 months beginning July 1, 1967. Each tree received about 10 gallons monthly. Work was done by regular road maintenance forces, augmented by seasonal workers. A 1000-gallon truck mounted tank with pressure pump and 1½-inch fire hose with fog nozzle proved to be a practical approach for watering the young plants.

District Maintenance Engineer Joseph Badaluco reports that, "We use a 1½-inch hose because a 1-inch garden hose would be too slow. Pressure on our pump is kept to a minimum and the fog nozzle breaks up or disperses the heavy stream of water we would get with a regular nozzle on a 1½-inch hose."

Besides watering, trees were sprayed with insecticide and fungicide. Spray work was handled by a specially trained district forestry crew, using a Roto-Mist sprayer.

This year plants are being handled by this specialized crew. Maintenance includes fertilizing, watering, spraying, and some cultivating during this second year. Badaluco anticipates that trees will need only limited maintenance during 1969 which will be the third growing season on the site. In the cover picture is Dan Stump, Lansing, a student doing summer work with the Department.