"A Tree Party In Bean Town" turned out a record crowd as more than 900 delegates attended the 49th annual convention of the International Shade Tree Conference, Inc., in August.

This was the first time since 1960 that ISTC had met in Boston and the warm hospitality of the New Englanders prevailed throughout the meeting to make it a success. A program as varied in scope as the members who registered and yet as comprehensive in subject coverage as a professional spray job sounded the bass drum of realism for every speaker.

Although the local papers carried little, if any, reports as to the magnitude of the meeting, it is of interest to note that most arborists went home knowing much more about the environment, pesticides, disease control, physical damage of shade trees and a host of other important subjects. More specifically, the subjects discussed will likely play a decisive role in shaping events of the future for the arborist — and the general public.

Probably the hottest subject — and best attended — on the program was the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act (FEPCA). Acting as interpreter between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the arborist was Hyland R. Johns Jr., Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Jenkintown, Pa. He cut through much of the bureaucratic language surrounding the new law and explained the act in common terms to the group.

Using two slide projectors and two screens, Johns reviewed the need for governing the use of environmental protection chemicals and the need for developing criteria to regulate the application of these products. He pointed out that about 70 percent of the population lives on about 3 percent of the land. Agricultural and forest land is being turned into parking lots, shopping center, housing and other uses at the rate of 1.2 million acres per year.

We've had control of the manufacture, registration and shipment of pesticides since 1947, said Johns. The new law expands this control to include users and applicators of these materials.

He pointed out that FEPCA is complex. When it was passed late last year (See WTT, Nov. 1972, p. 7), only certain parts became effective immediately. There was a specific timetable set up in EPA for the rest of the law. This is:

- Jan. 21, 1973 — Publication of Disposal and Storage Regulations. Proposed regulations were actually published May 23, 1973; final version to be published near the end of the year.
- Oct. 21, 1973 — Publish standards for application certification; Publish regulations for registration of establishments.
- Oct. 21, 1974 — Promulgation of regulations governing classifications and registration of all pesticides.
- Oct. 21, 1975 — Deadline for state compliance on certification of applicators.
NEWS AND OPINION
(from page 25)
said. "We haven't had good solid
data to show how it works."
It would seem that his conclu-
sions on high pressure injection
are not founded on a broad base
of data, but rather on limited re-
search as conducted with avail-
able research grants.
Dr. Wilson then named several
systems which have been experi-
mentally tried in the U.S. and
Canada. They are:

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Davey System: He pointed out
that it had a flow meter which is
good from the point that the
applicant doesn't have to
measure the amount of material
actually taken up by the tree.
The Stoneville, Miss. system. It
uses old freon bottles.

SIR Reservoir system.
The plant pathologist men-
tioned the Mauget injector as an-
other system and said that "this
is the only one that is labelled
and can be used." He said it
makes use of Benlate fungicide
as a wettable powder (the only
formulation available from the
manufacturer) which settles out.
He then showed a slide taken at
close range of the Mauget cup
which showed Benlate residue in
the bottom. He inferred that this
was a negative attribute to this
gravity flow system. However,
as most plant pathologists know,
only a very small amount of the
material (less than 3 parts per
million) is needed to control the
disease. Residue in the bottom
of the cup may be more a visual
problem than one of no chemical
uptake.

At the conclusion of his talk,
delegates asked many questions.
One was, what research has been
done on tree wounds caused by
high pressure injection. Wilson
said that there is a lot of callus
growth around the holes. There
have been some reports of burn-
ing around the point of injection,
said, particularly when Ben-
late was solubilized with lactic
acid. Wilson reasoned that the
fact that you are using a fungi-
cide should give some disease
control of other diseases that
would cause rot in the area near
the hole. This would probably be
true if Benlate had activity
against these diseases. Wilson
gave no answer about those dis-
ases not controlled by the sys-
temic fungicide.

Another question asked was
about the solubility of the be-
nomyl molecule. Eugene B. Him-
elick, ISTC executive director,
answered it saying that it was
10 ppm soluble. He was immedi-
ately corrected by Dr. T. C. Ry-
ker who pointed out that Ben-
late is soluble with lactic
acid. Wilson stated that re-
sponse of the government to
collect the information? Wilson
said that research was continuing
at various locations to find out
what could best be done to make
a definite recommendation.

Dr. T. C. Ryker, who recently
retired from the Du Pont Com-
pany, next discussed foliar ap-
lications of benomyl for DED
control. He said that the basis
for the label of Benlate benomyl
(foliar application) was due to
data submitted. This data came
from Wisconsin. "You get regis-
tration where you have data,"
his said. Dr. Ryker said that in
the tests with which he was
familiar, you reduce the number
of infections by at least half the
number that would be infected
were no treatment applied.
"We're still only thinking pre-
ventative," he said.

One arborist in the group then
discussed the legality of using
the pressure injection methods
mentioned by Dr. Wilson. The
answer shot back was that you
could be fined under the Federal
Environmental Pesticide Control
Act (FEPCA) up to $25,000.

There are a number of conclu-
sions which could be drawn from
this session. While Dr. Wilson
presented an interesting discus-
sion on high pressure injection,
no one can use this method be-
cause it is not registered by EPA.

In addition, research being
done on injection systems has no
central gathering point. Every-
one seems to be headed off on his
own to solve some individual
whim or preconceived notion
that his method is better than
the next.

The Du Pont Company, manu-
facturer of the chemical Benlate,
has not indicated sufficient interest in Benlate for DED control or in the process of solublizing the product. Few, if any, research dollars are being invested by the company to investigate the problem and find the answer to the many, many questions. Moreover, most firms appear to be totally in the dark about what they are doing. Many are operating first on a blind hunch that their method will work, and second on finding data to substantiate their claim. Perhaps the only firm to actively investigate the potential of Benlate for DED control has been the J. J. Mauget Company, Burbank, Calif. It has a vested interest in sales of the Mauget injection process and thus has invested many dollars to prove or substantiate what it says.

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