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Circle No. 112 on Reader Inquiry Card
Street Trees Need to Change As Cities Change

Trees that worked well when our commercial centers were first developed can no longer take the strain of today's cities. Horticulturist Doug Chapman offers six tips for selecting street trees.

Winter Damage Is Up Greatly, Weather Fools Plants

Normally temperate regions of the South were hit this winter with fluke cold spells. Horticulturist Michael Dirr describes why plants failed to adjust this winter.

Mower Wounds Add Up to Kill Valuable Urban Trees

Operators of trim mowers can kill valuable trees by careless small injuries to the base of trees. Drs. Shigo and Tattar show how bumps kill trees.

The Magazine of Landscape and Golf Course Management Since 1962

Computers, Specialization Aid Public Managers

Government landscape managers reap new benefits from computers and separation from public works and recreation departments.

Arlington: Prestigious Memorial to Heroes

The landscape of Arlington National Cemetery helps honor those worthy of burial there.

Report Card For Parks Spurs Involvement

The Oak Ridge, TN, Parks Department solicits comments from the public. The result is greater pride and productivity.

Ground Control Means Plants To NASA's Meyer

Houston's Johnson Space Center is 1,600 acres of turf and plants maintained to protect NASA's precise image.

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WEEDS TREES & TURF (ISSN 0043-1753) is published monthly by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publications. Corporate and Editorial offices: 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130. Advertising Offices: 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130, 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601 and 3091 Maple Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30305. Accounting, Advertising Production and Circulation offices: 1 East First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802. Subscription rates: $20 per year in the United States, $25 per year in Canada. All other countries: $50 per year. Single copies (pre-paid only) $2 in the U.S.; elsewhere $4.50. Add $3.00 for shipping and handling per order. Second class postage paid at Duluth, Minnesota 55806 and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1984 by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Microfilm copies of articles are available through University Microfilm International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

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Weather changes standards for cold hardiness in Texas

Tip of the Month—Ft. Worth, TX. Plant Pro Rich Pluenneke has reported plants currently rated to survive Texas winters are suffering severe damage this winter.

Some zone 7 and 8 plants are having trouble with the December low temperatures in the 20's. Ligustrum and oleander have been hit hard. "Losses were expected to reach 15 to 20 percent in December," Pluenneke said. "Recent checks indicate losses may go as high as 70 percent in Ft. Worth."

Turf has also been hit. Pluenneke said "Raleigh" St. Augustine appears winter-damaged in his area. "Raleigh" is a variety developed in North Carolina to withstand colder winter temperatures than other types of St. Augustine.

Although this winter may not be matched for years, Pluenneke thinks Texas landscape architects and contractors should take note of the losses and reevaluate the problem plants for their area.

Pinkus claims colleges care more about grants than students

Outgoing Associated Landscape Contractors of America President Dave Pinkus blasted colleges for caring more about grants than preparing students for the business world during a speech at ALCA's annual conference in Phoenix.

"Higher educational institutions are more interested in research grants and protection of tenured faculty than they are in producing marketable students," exclaimed Pinkus. "Our industry's number one problem is finding qualified people."

Pinkus outlined four areas where colleges fall short. Few schools require business courses for landscape contracting students, encourage students to gain industry exposure, have faculty with exposure to the landscape industry, and know individual needs of the landscape market or students.

"You could say colleges are cheating the students, fired Pinkus. ALCA is trying to help colleges to develop landscape contracting curricula by visiting them and explaining the needs of the market.

Changing technology creates shortfall in new talent

If your son or daughter is wondering what career to pursue, Dale E. Wolf thinks he or she should look into agricultural technology.

Wolf is group vice president, agricultural chemicals for Du Pont. "Technology is literally racing ahead in numerous fields today," Wolf points out. "We (agriculture) may be sidetracked simply because we cannot organize and train the necessary army of talented and highly trained scientists, technicians and managers. Too few American students recognize there are dozens of careers in agriculture which will place them on the leading edge of major scientific developments."
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Stauffer Chemical Company, Agricultural Chemical Division, Westport, Connecticut 06881.

Circle No. 149 on Reader Inquiry Card
A former lawn care company employee who balanced a murder defense on chemical intoxication was found guilty in a Massachusetts courtroom in February in the garroting, bludgeoning death of a 34-year-old woman.

David Garabedian, 23, in a precedent-setting defense, alleged the chemicals he used as an employee at Old Fox Lawn Care, induced temporary insanity and caused him to strangle and bludgeon to death Eileen Muldoon, a Middlesex (Mass.) County woman. Muldoon caught Garabedian urinating in her yard while he was working in a neighboring yard. In the ensuing argument, Garabedian allegedly strangled and bludgeoned the woman with rocks from a nearby wall.

It took 16 jurors seven hours to reach the guilty verdict.

Industry reaction to the verdict has been mixed. Most lawn care operators, however, feel the whole incident was over much too quickly to have formed any kind of lasting public sentiment.

"It was a situation that could have taken place in any industry or in any business," said Paul Bizon of Prograss, Hubbard, OR. "It's unfortunate he (Garabedian) hung it on the chemical industry."

John Kenney, owner of Turf Doctor in Framingham, MA, and president of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America said, "If you let your imagination go, you could easily imagine any former employee who ever got a hangnail suing you for damages."

The impact of the trial on the convicted man's former employer has been "minimal" according to Dr. J. Wilkinson of Old Fox.

"We have not heard from any of our customers in regard to the trial whatsoever."

However, some lawn care operators voiced concern that ramifications from the trial may come down the road, such as around the routine spraying time of insecticides.
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