

PROGRESS TOLD AT STATE RALLY ON CONTROL OF DUTCH ELM DISEASE

By Robert T. Van Tress

Chicago Park District Horticulturist and Daily News
Garden Editor

At a statewide conference on control of the Dutch elm disease in the Congress hotel Nov. 13, evidence was introduced that the dreaded elm tree killer is being controlled in many communities.

Daniel W. Warren Jr., superintendent of parks and forestry, Brookline, Mass., reported that the total loss of elm trees in 1956 was only 147 trees, a reduction of 48 over the total for 1955, based on 6,000 publicly owned trees and 15,000 trees on private grounds.

This reduction was in an area where many communities reported double and triple the losses of other years. By carrying out an effective sanitation and spraying system program they were able to hold the total loss of elm trees in Brookline to less than 6 per cent over a nine-year period.

An equally effective campaign was undertaken in Detroit, according to W. I. Meyers, superintendent of forestry and landscaping, with a reduction of 109 cases this year from a high of 1,919 losses in 1915 based on 400,000 elms.

The fungus which causes the disease is carried from infected elm trees or elm wood to healthy elm trees by tiny bark beetles. They breed under the bark of dead or diseased elm trees or dead elm wood. Here they pick up the spores of the Dutch elm disease fungus.

When the beetles emerge in the spring from the infected wood, they make their way to healthy trees to feed on the new twig growth. In the process of doing so they introduce the deadly spores of the disease.

The growing spores release toxic substances into the sap of the tree, substances which cause wilting of the leaves and death to the sapwood.

Once a tree is infected, it is doomed. Some die a few weeks after the infection occurs, others may live as long as two or three seasons.

All ornamental elms are susceptible although the Chinese and Siberian elm are more resistant to the disease.

Two strains of elms available in this area are said to be highly resistant to the disease — the Christine Buisman elm and the Augustine Ascending elm.

Control of the disease has been obtained only in areas where a twofold program of sanitation and spraying has been carried on. Breeding places or potential breeding places must be eliminated.

This means removal and destruction by burning or spraying of all diseased trees. Any dead elm branches or wood piles of elm should also be destroyed. The wood or diseased trees should be sprayed with a DDT solution before being removed.

Healthy elm trees should be protected by application of a DDT spray once or twice a year, the most effective being the dormant spray. Dormant spraying can commence any time after the leaves are down, and fall spraying is considered as effective as spring dormant spraying.

A thorough and complete coverage of all bark surfaces is absolutely essential. If spraying is done before the nesting season, danger to birds can be eliminated.

Information on how to organize a control program, methods of control, and other educational material can be obtained from the Illinois Natural History Survey, Natural Resources building, Urbana, Ill.

Bill Saielli became the new Superintendent of Indian Hill Country Club on November 15, succeeding Al Johnson who is now Superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club. This is Bill's first job as the boss and we want to wish him the best of luck.

Frank Dinelli says it won't be long now. Frank expects to be grandpa for the 11th time in the near future. Frank has 7 children and this is going to be 7 come 11. So you card players who claim Frank is a pretty good player had better be especially careful in the future if those numbers are as lucky as they are supposed to be.

We were sorry to hear that Stan Arendt was in the hospital. It seems to us that Stan would have been about the last to be on the sick list. However, from last reports, Stan was getting along in good shape and we sincerely hope he will soon be his old healthy self again.

It was reported at our last meeting that Mrs. Don Strand was confined to the hospital. We hope that Mrs. Strand recovered and is well again.

The Turf Maintenance Equipment Service Clinic sponsored by Frandsen Brothers and Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc., was held at Elmhurst Country Club on Tuesday, November 13. It was a shame that this date conflicted with the date of the conference on control of Dutch Elm Disease at the Congress Hotel in Chicago on the same date. It is reported that there was an enthusiastic turnout for the Clinic and that much valuable information obtained from it. We will be looking forward to another next year.

A number of Superintendents attended the Dutch Elm Disease Conference at the Congress Hotel on November 13. Some 435 interested people attended and were rewarded with a splendid program. Interesting, down to earth talks were given by top-notch speakers and certainly all who were there got a lot of information on combatting the dread disease.

Frank Dinelli expects to start construction of an acre and a half lake at Northmor in the near future to supplement his water supply.

FINE GOLF COURSE SUPPLIES

GREENS AIR SPECIAL AERIFIER

KAHN BROS. CO.

4425 S. HALSTED :-: CHICAGO

JOHN Mac GREGOR, Rep.



FRANDSEN BROS.

GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS

BAldwin 3-8841

Rt. 21 & 120

FOR YOUR TURF MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

Authorized Sales and Service

WORTHINGTON MOWERS & TRACTORS

JACOBSEN MOWERS

— LEAF MILLS

FERGUSON TRACTORS

— HUDSON SPRAYERS

PUMPS

— GENERATORS

— ENGINES