unethical conduct might also have his license revoked by the state.

In the medical profession every cure if predicated by correct diagnosis; — the same is true in arboriculture. Without substantial knowledge of botany, soils, plant pathology, entomology, chemistry, years of practical experience and training, it is difficult to conceive how anyone can correctly diagnose tree troubles and prescribe successful treatments. Certainly, an occupation demanding such diversified and profound knowledge as Arboriculture, administering to living trees, creations, so indispensible to the comfort, well being, if not continued existence of man, — of so great and immeasurable beauty, is a profession — second to none.

Some states are now licensing custom arborists. Since 1957, in the state of Illinois the applicants are licensed after submitting satisfactory credentials and passing a written ''exam'' covering tree identification, general tree maintenance, control of tree diseases and pests. In other states attempts are being made also to license the arborists. It will well serve the profession of arboriculture, the public and the environment, if all established arborists work for and promote universal state licensing of all custom arborists.

Repeatedly and much to the chagrin of the Illinois State Tree Expert Examining Board, it has been found that only about 20-25% of the examinees scored a passing grade of 70 in relatively easy tests. It was further found that only a few had reasonably good command of the American language and that some were not able to write. It can be concluded that a good many aspiring arborists will need much better schooling and will profit through the use of proper texts.

For the future arborists, the road to professional recognition is clear — two or three years acquiring the manual and mechanical skills, followed by a degree in arboriculture from the univeristy having the foresight of instituting such studies. Universal licensing of all custom arborists, and enforcement of the law.

JULY 27, 1983

July 27, 1983: — a black day for the Illinois licensed tree experts; — our trees, the homeowner, and the environment. On this day Governor Thompson of Illinois signed House Bill No. 1142, phasing out the Illinois Tree Expert Act of 1957. There will be no more state examinations covering tree identification, control of tree pests and diseases, and accepted arboricultural practices. No more licensing; anyone, from any state, can now pose as a tree expert and administer to the ''care of trees'', in our state of Illinois. The status of the custom tree service field has been shoved back some 40-50 years, to where it was when Kiplinger and The American Forestry Association prudently warned the public against tree ''quacks'' and ''gyps''.

Ironically, while the State of Illinois is ''deregulating'' other states are ''regulating'' the custom tree experts. Several universities are now also offering full curriculums in Arboriculture.

The Illinois Tree Expert Act defines a tree expert as ''any person who, for profit, diagnoses the condition of shade or ornamental trees and recommends or supervises the treatment of such trees or in any manner treats any such trees, by feeding or fertilizing, or by pruning, trimming, bracing, treating cavities or other methods, or protects or attempts to protect such trees from damage by insects or diseases by spraying or any other method.''

For some 26 years, disregarding rumored indifference and lax enforcement by the Department of Registration & Education, the licensed tree experts have afforded the home owner, the public and environmental officials, reasonable assurance that their tree care operations would be carried out according to accepted arboricultural practices. July 27, ult., however, is the date when some 545 Illinois tree experts had their licenses invalidated, equating them with those who for various reasons never were licensed through examination. Now, the transient from out of state or just about anybody can pose as a custom tree expert and administer to the care of trees. With the Illinois Tree Expert Act phased out, the ''Tree gyps'', ''Tree quacks'' and ''Fly-by-nights'' or worse will soon be back.

The phasing out of the Illinois Tree Expert Act is a gross disservice to the arboricultural profession, the homeowner, our trees and the environment.

Evanston, Illinois, October 26, 1983
Nels J. Johnson
Father of the Illinois Tree Expert Act

SCIENTISTS TO ''STARVE'' WEEDS

Every frustrated farmer and gardener knows that the only things which grow without fail are the weeds.

And how to get rid of them without endangering other aspects of nature is a problem that has bothered man ever since he began tilling the soil.

Now a Japanese team of scientists has announced a breakthrough in creating what potentially is a unprecedented ideal herbicide.

They have developed a spray which literally ''starves'' the weed to death by inhibiting its ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and nitrogen from the soil to produce life-sustaining glutamic acid.

Being essentially an amino acid, the herbicide easily circulates through any given weed, including its roots.

The product is the result of years of research by a team from the Agricultural Faculty to the governmental Utsunomiya University, led by Professor Tetsuo Takematsu, in collaboration with Meiji Seika, one of Japan's oldest confectionary makers now actively involved in advanced pharmaceutical products.

The herbicide, named ''bialaphos'', is yet to be produced and sold here. Meiji Seika is hoping to obtain government permission for commercial debut in April 1983.

Experiments so far have shown it is highly effective when sprayed on weed leaves and stalks without limitation to the type of plant.

However, it is not so good when sprayed onto the soil — in other words, against seeds. So timing is important to ensure the weeds are attacked before they drop their seeds.

The latest trials have shown that it begins to work against the weeds in two or three days.

But most important of all, no adverse toxic effect to the ecology has been detected, since it is essentially a natural product of the soil. Once it returns to the soil, it either separates into inert properties or is consumed by microorganisms.

Credit - The Japan Times & ''Divots''
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