

## Reading...

By Dan McNamara, HHH Horticultural

Our book reviewer, Dan McNamara, with his wife Carol, run HHH Horticultural, one of the larger mail-order specialty firms.

### Tree Care

By John M. Haller. Indianapolis. 1977. 224 pp. Illus. 8½ x 11. Paper.

This is a book for the amateur arborist, though many a self-proclaimed professional, as well, will find a great deal of interest and information in these pages. There is no area of tree maintenance that Mr. Haller has not covered in this volume, and covered well for the audience he has chosen. The only possible exception might be the chapter on Grafting—which, though it appears early in the book, seems to be an add-on, tossed in by someone's demand at the last minute. This chapter is far from complete, it is very brief, and seems to serve no real purpose except to say, "See, we covered everything!"

Planting (including moving big trees), Bracing and Cabling, Fertilizing, Diseases, Insects, Spraying, Wound Repair, Environmental Damage, Removals, and an interesting discussion of Plant Structure and Physiology are all well done—easy, enjoyable to read, and sufficiently complete to be useful.

The chapter on Bracing and Cabling is exceptionally good, I thought, more useful and in line with current accepted practice than the treatment this subject gets in Bridgeman's *Tree Surgery*.

For the non-professional arborist, faced with problems of tree moving and establishment, the chapter on Planting will be most helpful. When professional help is not available—for financial or other reasons—there is enough information here to make the job both possible and practicable.

The chapters on Diseases, on Insects, and on Spraying are written with consideration of the total ecological picture—much more so than many books specifically directed to the professional. Though the point is never stated bluntly, there is an inherent plea for Integrated Pest

Management, rather than mere dependence on physiochemical controls. Not by any means as complete in treatment as Pirone's *Diseases and Pests of Ornamental Plants*, these chapters give an overall view of the problems involved and enough information to look elsewhere for the exact solution to the immediate difficulty.

The Questions and Answers section, which completes this book, covers matters frequently inquired into by the novice—some seemingly simple, others quite apparently complex—and injects a great deal of knowledge into a few pages.

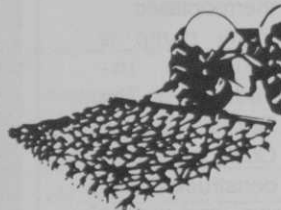
All in all, this book, written by a professional arborist of many years experience, who quite plainly has a deep feeling for the materials of his work, is a worthwhile addition to the literature and to almost everyone's library. Even the professional arborist will find it of use—especially in explaining some points to his clients and co-workers.

For the superintendent of a small golf course, faced with managing work in many fields without outside assistance, this inexpensive paperback can be a boon.



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