

Ohio Chapter-ISTC Proposes More

Ag Station Small Tree Evaluation

There is a need for more knowledge about small flowering and ornamental street trees, members of the Ohio Chapter of the International Shade Tree Conference resolved at their summer meeting, July 8, at the Kingwood Center, Mansfield.

Dr. L. C. Chadwick, horticulture professor of Ohio State University, Columbus, and secretary-treasurer of the Shade Tree Conference, presented the resolution and the reasons the Ohio Chapter proposed them.

It is widely known that large street trees, such as American elm and silver maple, commonly planted in the past, have proved susceptible to diseases, such as the destructive Dutch elm disease. Suggestions for substitute trees, the Chinese elm, for instance, have drawbacks also, from a power line maintenance standpoint. For these reasons, the Ohio ISTC feels that more species and varieties of small flowering and ornamental street trees need to be selected and evaluated for future city planting.

The Chapter has resolved to approach the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and ask for additional land on which to test, over a ten-year period or longer, selected trees for hardiness, disease resistance, and aesthetic advantages, such as color, shape, blossom, etc.

Seek Power Company Aid

Besides cooperation from the Experiment Station and the State University, the Conference Chapter hopes to enlist aid of state power companies and power company associations, because these groups have a prime interest in promoting smaller trees for streetside planting.

The vigorous Ohio Chapter has volunteered to perform the professional tasks of planting and maintaining trees in the evaluation plots, and hopes the Experiment Station will carry out the academic job of diagnosis and

evaluation. At present this monumental proposal is in the discussion stage.

A second forward-looking resolution that the Chapter will present to the Extension Service of the State University system is a proposal for increased extension attention to the urban and suburban desire for knowledge about ornamental horticulture, floriculture, and landscape design. Reasoning behind this proposal is the increased move to suburbia and the request for knowledge on the parts of both individual citizens and the arborist, nursery, and landscaping trades.

Tree Safety Committee Named

Other news from the summer meeting includes the announcement that a safety committee has been appointed, consisting of representatives of major tree service companies, in close cooperation with the National Arborist Association, to help cut down on industry accidents. This move came when the Ohio Division of Industrial Safety and Hygiene volunteered the services of an expert to the industry provided the industry first estab-

lished a sturdy base from which to launch a broad safety program.

This offered help is an upshot of the Ohio Safety Congress, which met earlier this year, and included, for the first time in its history, an emphasis on tree service safety.

After the business meeting, delegates toured the grounds of Mansfield's Kingwood Center, a civic-oriented cultural garden. Many new ideas were taken home from this and other tours.

Poly Film Stops Weeds

One particular development of the Center, which landscapers and nurserymen were interested in, was the use of black 1½-mil polyethylene plastic sheets as weed preventers in mixed annual flower beds. As Center director, Dr. R. C. Allen, explained the procedure, the plastic is laid over prepared flower beds and either a top dressing or broken, aged corncobs are spread over to obscure the plastic from view. Then gardeners punch holes in the plastic and insert the flowers into the soil. Very few weeds enter the flower beds, although quackgrass is able to penetrate the plastic (it will not penetrate a 6-mil sheet).

Total costs are approximately the same for herbicides and the plastic method, Dr. Allen dis-



A chlorotic silver maple twig was examined by Dr. Paul Tilford (left), Executive Secretary, National Arborist Association, and Dr. L. C. Chadwick, Secretary-Treasurer, International Shade Tree Conference, during the Ohio Chapter meeting. Delegates traditionally bring their most recent problems to these experts for counsel.

closed, but the extra advantage which the Center appreciates is that no concern for different tolerances of flowering annuals to herbicides is needed.

The group of 110 delegates

then toured via car caravan a local landscaping job, a nearby landscape nursery, and the plant of the F. E. Myers & Bro. Company, sprayer manufacturers, in Ashland, Ohio.

Penn State Finds New Turf

Disease, Called Fusarium Blight

A new turfgrass disease, called the "most troublesome in northeastern U. S.," has been isolated and identified by researchers at the Pennsylvania State University Department of Plant Pathology and reported by Dr. Houston B. Couch, Associate Professor, in the Spring-Summer 1964 edition of the Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin.

When the odd disease, now called Fusarium blight, was first found in 1959, Dr. Couch relates, it could not be controlled by any of the commonly used fungicides. Researchers looked for the disease the following year and found it prevalent in eastern

New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware, as well as Pennsylvania.

According to Dr. Couch, "affected turfgrass stands first show light-green areas that are either circular, crescent-shaped, or streaked. Initially, these discolored sections of grass range from 2 inches to 1 foot in diameter. Within a few days, they may enlarge to a total breadth of 2 feet or more.

"As the disease progresses, the color of the grass fades to a dull tan, and eventually to a light straw color. In the final stages, distinct streaks and uniformly blighted circular patches of grass will be scattered through-

out the lawn. Also, centers of green grass, apparently healthy plants, occur in circles of dead grass and have taken the name 'frog-eye.' The 'frog-eye' pattern is characteristic and a key field diagnostic feature."

This new disease shows one of the clearest relationships between disease susceptibility and fertility. Bluegrass, bentgrass, and red fescue grown under high nitrogen fertility or deficient calcium levels were far more susceptible than those grown under normal balanced nutrition, the report continues.

The pathogen is the fungus *Fusarium roseum*, the same organism which causes stalk rot of corn, and carnation stem rot. *Fusarium* can cause severe foliar blighting of turf in only 72 hours when temperatures are favorable. Bents and red fescues are commonly attacked at 75-95 degrees F. *Fusarium* found on Merion Kentucky bluegrass is most active at 85 degrees F. In its most aggressive phase, Dr. Couch describes, the pathogen



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