

# Tips on Parkway Trees Included on Varied Program For Calif. Nursery, Landscape Tree, and Turf Meet

By RICHARD D. VAN BRACKLE, Extension Information Specialist, University of California, Riverside

In selecting trees for parkway plantings, it is wise to consider tree selection, the size of the parkway, soil conditions, root structure, ultimate size, shape, freedom from pests, and habit of growth.

This is the advice of Robert N. Berlin, Parks and Recreation Superintendent for the City of South Pasadena. He spoke before nearly 1,000 delegates to the annual Nursery, Landscape Tree, and Turf Conference at the University Theatre, University of California, Riverside, Feb. 3-5.

Other topics on the diverse program included an updating on dichondra for turf areas, and observations on roadside maintenance.

In his talk on trees and sidewalk damage during the landscape tree portion of the 3-day program, Berlin said, "Many of us in the profession inherited a problem where trees were planted some 40 to 80 years ago. These trees were planted in parkways which were inadequate. Good examples of such trees are the Carob and Camphor trees which were planted in 3-foot parkways.

"Today, the crown of the tree is pushing up the sidewalk and breaking the curbs and gutters along the streets. The roots of such trees are reaching out

many, many feet, raising even greater amounts of sidewalk, and in some cases, raising the pavement in the street."

Berlin described a new machine, similar to stump removers, which can go along the sidewalk edge and cut tree surface roots to a depth of 15 inches. He said the roots are cut on both sides of the sidewalk and upon removal of the walk, the roots are removed with little or no effort. With the machine, he said, it will be possible to do preventive maintenance which should cut down sidewalk damage from tree growths.

## Dichondra Gaining Favor

Dichondra, a popular ground cover in California today, may even deserve greater popularity, according to Victor B. Younger, associate professor and turfgrass specialist at UCLA.

"We might expect that improvement such as introducing disease tolerance or reducing the seriousness of the common early summer decline will greatly increase dichondra's appeal and usefulness," Younger said.

Varieties of dichondra are being studied at UCLA, Younger revealed, as a possible road to improvement. "It is hoped and anticipated that disease tolerance, salinity tolerance, in-

creased cold and heat resistance, and better growth habits will be found during these studies."

## Roadside Maintenance Not Easy

It takes more than a gardener to maintain roadside plantings to achieve the required effect, California highway roadside expert John Smith told the assembly. Smith is Landscape Supervisor for the California Division of Highways, Los Angeles.

Smith said that the design of the road, size and shape of areas, plus the factor of autos traveling at terrific speeds close to the areas and the constant winds, all contribute to the maintenance problem, making it difficult to achieve what is expected by the architect who designs the roads, and by home gardeners.

Smith said that 14 years ago one landscape man maintained approximately 3 acres of highway landscaping; today, one man is maintaining an average of 10 acres.

"Maintenance of freeway landscaping is an expanding business and could be astronomical in cost if allowed to be a 'backyard' process," Smith said.

Chairman William B. Davis, Extension Ornamental Horticulturist for the University of California, said nearly 1,000 persons attended the conference, and that they included landscape nurserymen; commercial vegetation maintenance firms; superintendents of parks, cemeteries, and golf courses; and researchers from state agencies. The event was sponsored by the University of California Agricultural Extension Service and the Department of Landscape Horticulture, in cooperation with the California Association of Nurserymen, International Shade Tree Conference (Western Chapter), Street Tree Seminar, and the Southern California Turfgrass Council.

## Error in January Issue Regarding Geigy Prometryne 80W

There was an error in the report of the Oregon Weed Conference on page 27 of our January '65 issue. In discussing Geigy Prometryne 80W for weed control in bluegrass grown for seed, it was mistakenly stated that the product was "recently registered in Oregon only for preplant weed control," and that "The company then prescribes tillage for proper herbicide penetration into the soil."

Actually, label instructions read as follows in regard to these two points: "Make applications after burning and 7-10 days after sufficient rainfall to germinate weeds or the first post-harvest irrigation. Application should be made before weeds are 1½ inches high. Additional important information: Grass should have a good burn and field should be worked with a tillage implement to scatter unburned crop residues prior to application to permit better herbicide penetration."