

Small Homeowner Contracts May Grow to Be Big Business For Arborists, Felix Tells 15th Annual N.Y. Tree Group

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"Homeowners may become acquainted with arborist services from observation and their needs can be a source of present and often future business as young families move up the economic ladder," according to Robert Felix, Harder Tree Service, Hempstead, L.I., N.Y.

Felix addressed his remarks to the 15th annual meeting of New York State Arborists at Statler Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, Jan. 17-19.

Arborists gathered for the annual New York meeting heard a varied program which embraced fertilization, brush control, marketing, and equipment demonstrations.

Professional tree work, Felix pointed out, began on the estates of Long Island; while few of these large holdings remain, the small 2- or 3-acre homesite offers arborists on the Island, and throughout the nation, a growing and lucrative market for professional tree care.

Use of MH-30T, the growth regulator from U. S. Rubber, was discussed by Paul R. Bohne, research physiologist for the manufacturer, who said proper spring application of the compound will retard, prevent, or suppress shoot growth on many woody ornamentals.

Since ornamental plantings may not be able to utilize fertilizers applied in the spring when they need nutrients most for rapid growth, observations on fall feeding of woody ornamentals was a welcome addition to the 15th annual NYA program.

Professor H. B. Tukey, of the New York State College of Agriculture, said plant roots grow during the dormant season and, unless frozen, absorb nutrients. Further investigation has shown these nutrients are moved to the tops of dormant plants, Tukey said. However, the researchers found soil temperatures may be



Changing of the Guard. George H. Callaway, Llenroc Tree Experts, Argyle, (left) presented a maple gavel to president-elect Arthur C. Sandstrom, Lewis Tree Expert Co., Jordan, while secretary-treasurer Dr. John A. Weidhaas of N.Y. State College of Agriculture looked on.

so low in spring the roots cannot absorb the spring-applied fertilizer before spring growth begins. Fertilizers applied in the fall after the plants were fully dormant were utilized by the plant for spring growth, Professor Tukey indicated.

Fall application of nutrients offers several advantages over spring application, Tukey concluded. However, since there is some belief late summer applications increase tender shoot growth that may be winter killed, he warns that fertilizer should not be applied until plants are fully dormant in the fall.

How should arborists dispose of waste wood which results from Dutch elm sanitation or regular trimming? According to Fred Donovan of Donovan Tree Service in Mechanicsville, burning of wood presents local problems of smoke and fire, but permits to establish brush and wood disposal can be obtained. Public objection to garbage dumps is understandable because of disease, smoke, and rat problems, Donovan maintains.

Alternate possibilities include formation of a forest products

company that might run any of several operations including woodchips or woodchip-chicken manure compost, or such art-fancier items as driftwood or gnarled branches for patio or garden.

The use of woodchips in roadside construction specifications can be a good conservation measure providing the forest products company with a good market, Donovan concluded.

Dr. A. A. Johnson, Director of Extension, spoke at the final luncheon and emphasized the fact the suburban sprawl will require roads and sewage on what is now poor land for agriculture, Johnson said. Information on soils, drainage, and water is limited to present agricultural data.

Arborists engaged in tree removal and tree planting are aware of the value of such information from bidding and planting landscape jobs in new communities or the expansion of small communities. For this reason, Johnson expects arborist services will become increasingly important in the future economy of New York State and the nation.