

## Check Moisture at Root Level

Condition of the soil surface is not a reliable indicator of the moisture content in the root zone of plants, says a bulletin just issued by the National Arborist Association. The surest way to determine whether or not young trees and shrubs need watering is to examine soil samples taken at depths ranging from 6 to 15 inches below the surface. For optimum plant health, according to the National Arborist Asso-

ciation, the soil at root growth levels should be moist, but not saturated.

If the soil is dry, water thoroughly at intervals of a week to 10 days; use a hose-attached soil lance for application directly in the root zone if the water supply is limited. In tree-planting pits dug in clay soil, often water is trapped and keeps the soil wet for plant growth. In such cases, a tile line draining from the bottom of the pit may be necessary.

## Trimming

**Capital Idea.** Paul E. Tilford has long been the tireless editor of *Arborist News*, quarterly news bulletin for the National Arborist Assn. of which he has been the driving force as well. We hasten to add, however, that Mrs. Tilford has been Paul's "Man Friday," taking care of secretarial details while her husband advances the science of arboriculture from their home in Wooster, Ohio. Recently we met the candidate who is going to provide Paul some long-needed help. He's Clarke Davis, recently administrative assistant to the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Assn. Clarke is to set up an NAA office in Washington, D. C. to be in close contact with legislative matters.

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**New Voice In Florida.** With recent passage of legislation in Florida that includes lawn spraymen in a law which previously only regulated structural pest control operators, the Florida State Board of Health expanded its four-man governing board to five. Heretofore only PCOs were industry commissioners; now a sprayman has been added. The new appointee is Larry Nipp, who runs American Power Spraying in Ft. Lauderdale. Larry is also acting president of the National Spraymen's Association. He and the other commissioners have been up to their ears taking care of the backlog of complaints that piled up recently during a period of inactivity, but with the enlarged board and a stepped-up schedule of hearings, they expect to limit meetings to about three a year, taking a total of nine days. Larry has always been an effective spokesman for vegetation contractors.

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**Out On A Limb.** Unexpected participants in the social hour entertainment at the recent ISTC Washington meeting was its president, Joe Dietrich of Greenwich, Conn., and our own staff biologist, Don Hendricks. Featured attraction was a seven-veil, minus six, belly dancer whose graceful Grecian gyrations were the object of undivided attention of all men delegates. (The women pretended to look the other way!) The "Lady of Greece" selected Joe and Don from the audience to do similar hip squirmings, arm wavings, and head bobbings while she covered them with her lacy silks. You might say it was all to no a-veil. The boys wood rather she would leaf them alone, being convinced she was embarking up the wrong tree. Our man wished this pseudo-Greek would urn her money at somebody else's expense. She did, Don. Southern tree-men picked up the tab.

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**What's In A Name?** We've just completed another WTT Reader Survey (our thanks to the more than 500 who who answered our questionnaire) and discovered you can't always tell what a company does by its name. Some tree firms do no tree work; lawn companies specialize in weed control; and a "cemetery" company does only turf work. Seems very few concentrate on only one phase of this business.



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