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Surfactants, Laborsaving Tools, Business Aids, Noted at Arborist's National Midwinter Meeting

By DR. PAUL E. TILFORD
National Arborist Association, Wooster, Ohio

A few thousandths of 1% of a wetting agent may reduce the repelling forces at the surface of a drop of water by as much as 60%, Robert A. Moore revealed during his discussion on wetter water at the recent midwinter meeting of the National Arborist Assn., at Tampa Fla.

Moore, of the Aquatrols Corp. of America, Camden, N. J., explained how to overcome some difficulties in watering trees and other plants. He pointed out that dry soil is slow to take up water and when the root ball of a newly planted tree is dry, water applied may run off to saturate the backfill and not penetrate the root ball.

Water treated with a wetting agent overcomes this tendency and will penetrate and wet the dry root ball. Moore reported many instances where watering the root ball of trees before planting and in regular maintenance after planting has proved beneficial. This practice has resulted in quicker starting and more rapid recovery by the tree after it is moved. Root damage and subsequent wilting is prevented by moisture that penetrates the root ball.

Fred Galle, director of horticulture, Callaway Gardens, explained many laborsaving tools used to develop and maintain the 2500-acre garden, recreational area, and golf course at Pine Mountain, Ga. Drills up to 24-inches in diameter, operated by power take-offs, are used in practically all tree and shrub planting. A large vacuum-type leaf collecting machine has been devised, and many other items of equipment have been modified or actually constructed in the shop at Callaway Gardens for a particular use.

Galle stressed the importance of good maintenance of all tools and equipment if they are to last and do properly the job for which they are intended.

Slides showing operation of a new tree mover were presented

by H. M. Van Wormer, Van Wormer Tree Service, Richmond, Va. The new tree mover for moving exceptionally large trees with a large root ball assures successful replanting because of the large amount of earth the machine scoops up with the tree. Relatively fewer roots are disturbed in the moving operation, and with proper backfilling and provision for proper drainage, a large tree will continue to grow at its new site.

Business management sessions included cost accounting, bookkeeping, office management, and the use of bookkeeping machines. George Goodall, Jr., Portland, Maine, Mrs. Jane Smith, Lansing, Mich., and John Duling, Muncie, Ind., conducted these sessions. The National Cash Register Co. demonstrated an accounting and bookkeeping machine for use by medium to large tree service companies.

Application of the Wage Hour Law to the tree-care industry was explained by Henry A. Huettner, regional director, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Atlanta, Ga. Recruiting men and good employment practices were discussed by Byron Harless, Industrial Psychologist, Tampa, Fla.

The next meeting of the National Arborist Assn. will be in conjunction with the International Shade Tree Conference at Cleveland, Ohio, August 28-Sept. 2, 1966.

Bean Has Rotomist Catalog

A new 8-page, 2-color, illustrated catalog describing use of four models of the Rotomist mist blower line, may be of interest to applicators who contemplate acquiring spraying or mistblowing equipment.

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