



**Featured speakers,** Mitchell Wrich (left), and Professor F. L. Steve O'Rourke (right), pause at the arboretum during the shade tree course to talk with C. Gus Hard, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota, host for the meet.

## Minnesota Shade Tree Course Stresses Planning Before Planting

"Nurserymen, arborists, city planners, and park managers should coordinate their efforts more than they do now if we are to realize the goal of unified horticultural programs," Professor F. L. Steve O'Rourke told an audience of 220 at the University of Minnesota's Fifth Annual Shade Tree Maintenance Short Course, held at the University Arboretum, Sept. 20.

Speaking on various aspects of tree programs, particularly in cities and parks, O'Rourke maintained that dialogue between planners and nurserymen is too often lacking. "Planners often do not give nurserymen sufficient lead time to provide desired trees." He advocated long range planning and contract arrangements that would allow nurserymen time to acquire stocks of clones for street and park planting. O'Rourke, horticulturist from Iowa State University, Ames, and Mitchell Wrich, of Chemagro Corp., Kansas City, Mo., were featured speakers on the shade tree program.

### Arborist's Image

"In many places, the image of the arborist and nurseryman has been hurt by unscrupulous or unqualified persons," O'Rourke said. Calling upon arborists to establish standards for superior workmanship and a code of ethics for the profession, he advised

them to base prices on cost studies and make sure they have sufficient profit margins on both material and labor.

Arborists should work not only to improve their public image, but to create more public interest in tree planting programs, the Iowa horticulturist noted. Personal contact, establishment of arboretums in parks, even labeling trees in public areas, are ways to stimulate interest.

Planners and others involved in tree programs should remember, he continued, that houses have changed radically in the past 50 years; trees once suitable are hopelessly out of scale with modern surroundings. Size and shape of a mature tree, need for pruning, disease resistance, and proved adaptability are factors to be considered before making the final selection of species to plant.

Although advocating the planting of clones of the same variety and size along a particular street, O'Rourke counseled against using the same species throughout a neighborhood. "Use of different species on alternate streets helps to insure that disease will not wipe out the tree population of an entire area."

### Systemics Long on Protection

Systemic insecticides, applied on the plant or through the soil, are particularly good protection

against sucking insects such as aphids, Mitchell Wrich related in his discussion of new developments in systemic and low-volume, high-concentrate pesticide applications. The greatest value of systemics, Wrich said, is that one application in spring will often provide season-long protection thus freeing arborists for other tasks during the busy summer season.

Low-volume aerial applications of highly concentrated pesticides can be very effective in amounts as small as 2 ozs. per acre, Wrich told the gathering. This type of application has significant potential for control of pests such as tent caterpillars in large acreage plots and forest areas.

Sponsors of this short course are the Department of Horticultural Science and the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

### Pennlawn Superior in North, Beard Tells Mich. Turf Day

Pennlawn fescue has shown superior drought and low temperature tolerance, as well as overall quality under northern conditions, Dr. James Beard, Michigan State University turfgrass researcher, told more than 200 turf specialists at the Northern Michigan Turfgrass Field Day in Traverse City, Sept. 13.

Continuing his evaluation, Beard, who was in charge of the program, noted that Chewings, though outstanding for the first two years of trials, has since deteriorated. Common creeping and Rainier have proved very susceptible to low temperature, the turf expert commented.

Opening with a tour of turf plots, established in Traverse City because its cool climate and sandy soil is representative of turf growing conditions in many northern resort areas, the day-long program also included equipment demonstrations and discussions of turf research.

The detrimental effect of ryegrass on bluegrass-red fescue turfs is much greater in northern Michigan than in sandy loam soils at East Lansing, site of Michigan State University, Beard