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ISTC Report

(from page 28)

Dr. Benjamin B. Stout, of the department of horticulture and forestry, Rutgers State University, New Brunswick, N. J. Dr. Stout exploded two common myths which people believe about trees. First is the dumbbell concept of shape. Most people, he said, conceive of the tree as having comparable sized crown and root systems which are about the same shape. These form the bells, and the trunk forms the handle. Beyond the seedling stage, there is little evidence to support this, he said. The second myth is that every tree has a taproot. Such is not the case, according to Dr. Stout. In his studies at Harvard Black Rock Forest, Cornwall, N. Y., he found that rooting systems vary greatly between species and within the species itself. The root system largely depends on the site where the tree is growing.

Generally, Dr. Stout said, the lateral spread of the root system is greater than the spread of the tree crown. Crown spread is usually less than tree height, which is less than root length. Further, the direction of root spread is not predictable. It may be evenly distributed around the trunk but is more likely to spread toward the more favorable moisture supply.

Grafting of roots between trees depends largely on density of roots within a species, nearness to base of the tree, and depth of soil. For example, Dr. Stout reported on 2 white oaks growing only 4 feet apart. More than 20 root grafts were counted. But 5 feet beyond the base of these trees no grafts were found. Roots from nearby trees of other species did not graft with the white oaks even though their roots grew through the white oak systems.

Of 25 trees in one study, Dr. Stout found that the lateral spread of the root systems averaged $4\frac{1}{2}$ times the crown spread. He believes that rooting habits, both depth and lateral, are related to species and site. Generally, he said, rooting depth

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proved to be quite shallow, usually 4 feet or less with roots concentrated in the upper one foot or so of soil. Because of this relationship and balance. Dr. Stout speculated that shade trees planted along streets frequently sit for years before making any significant growth. Both crowns and root systems have been severely pruned and are presumably in balance. But the large vascular system probably requires almost all the energy captured in photosynthesis for maintenance. Little is left tor growth. Thus, Dr. Stout suggested that a tree needs to be balanced in 3 parts, rather than 2, the 3 being transpirational surface, vascular system, and the root system extent.

At the combination conference of ISTC members and National Arborist Association members, staged Aug. 27-Sept. 1, more than 795 persons registered. This figure included exhibitors and guests in addition to members of the two organizations.

ISTC members of the Board of Governors elected Freeman L. Parr, Parr and Hanson, Inc., Hicksville, N. Y. as president to succeed outgoing President Richard J. Campana, University of Maine, Orono, Me. Parr who last year was vice-president and normally would have moved into the president-elect position was elected president by virtue of the resignation of the 1966 president elect, C. Elmer Lee, Southern California Edison Co., Los Angeles, Calif. Keith L. Davey, president of Keith L. Davey Tree Surgery Co., Limited, San Francisco, Calif. was named president elect. Richard E. Abbott, Ohio