

Nurserymen Promote Trees At California Exposition



Feature of Arbor Day at the California Exposition was the planting of a 10-foot ginkgo tree. Cal Expo was presented the tree by the Superior Chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association. Nancy Rivett, a University of California at Davis co-ed who is Sacramento's reigning Tree Queen, took part in the planting. Others present for the ceremony were, left to right: George Cioli, president, Sacramento Valley Chapter, California Landscape Contractors Association; Donald B. Marty, president, Superior Chapter, California Association of Nurserymen; and Louis Roth, Cal Expo Director of Design and Construction. The tree was planted at the base of the American River levee near the main north-south pedestrian walkway. The ginkgo was selected for its beauty and history.

Sex Attractant Found For Western Pine Beetle

Researchers have found an artificial sex attractant of the Western pine beetle. Now they hope to develop a way to use it.

The discovery was made by Dr. David L. Wood, University of California, and Dr. R. N. Silverstein, Stanford Research Institute.

The Western pine beetle is a big killer of mature ponderosa pine sawtimber in the West.

The tiny beetle (about 4 millimeters long) damages the tree by boring through the bark to the cambium layer which carries the tree's life-sustaining sap. It then builds tunnels, into which it lays eggs, and introduces fungi. The fungi develop, stop the flow of sap, and the egg dies.

Needed Chemical Deicers Damage Highway Vegetation

A relatively uncharted area of scientific research felt the probes of scientists and highway engineers from seven states at a University of Connecticut symposium on pollutants in the roadside environment.

The exchange of ideas centered around three major problems, as set forth by William C. Greene, formerly with the Connecticut highway department and now landscape architect with the Bureau of Public Roads in Washington, D. C.: highways must be kept free of ice and snow for safe driving; highway engineers must know the most effective chemical deicers to use and the minimum rates to apply; and scientists need to determine the long-term effects of applying chemical deicers on water supplies, soils, plants and agricultural production.

As the symposium ended, most agreed that more research was needed on the deicing problem and side effects of pollution.

Research in New Hampshire, Virginia and Florida suggests widely varying susceptibility of different plants. Sugar maple, white pines and hemlocks seem most severely affected. But oaks and Norway maples are more tolerant.

Of the grasses, slender wheat grass, Kentucky 31 fescue, reed canary grass and Troy Kentucky bluegrass are most tolerant. In addition, black locust, honey locust, Russian olive and ponderosa pine are among the less susceptible smaller trees. White birch, redbud, privet and honeysuckle are among the more tolerant shrubs.

Damage to roadside plants seems to be insignificant if plantings are kept 30 feet or more back from the road. Some engineers would appear to favor, in the interests of safety, removal of all trees closely bordering roads. But at odds with this view are the conservationists, who