

Plantings Can Reduce Some Traffic Noises 50%, Missouri Study Shows

Landscape plantings can have a significant although limited effect on reduction of outdoor noise, believes Dr. F. O. Lanphear, research associate at Washington University and Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

"Proper selection and spacing of plants along with proper land grading could contribute significantly to the alleviation of noise along highways and other problem areas," he said.

Some plantings 25 to 50 feet wide reduce noise at the higher frequencies of 10 to 20 decibels more than half. Lower frequencies are less effectively reduced, he said.

Large pine and spruce plantings, 50 to 100 feet wide, are also capable of reducing some of the lower frequency noise, characteristic of traffic, as much as half.

Lowest frequencies, which are the most difficult to eliminate but fortunately the least annoying, are not affected by the plantings.

Effective evergreens for year around noise reduction are arborvitae, douglas fir, spruce and pine, all of which have foliage to the ground. Other evergreens, such as hemlock, holly, and juniper, are not as effective. Some good deciduous plants are thickets of sassafras and pawpaw, as well as mixed species. Size and density of the plantings is critical in noise control, with hedges and other narrow plantings relatively ineffective.

Tree Expert Cites Assets Of Liquid Plant Foods

"Easy shipping, easy application and rapid results are some of the reasons why liquid plant foods have progressed so far since the days of hydroponics in the hot house."

That's the opinion of Gordon H. Knowles, who heads Knowles Tree Service of San Leandro, Calif.

"Foliar feeding is so simple—and mist blower leaf feeding so fast—that arborists, amateur and professional alike, are turning to liquid plant food to solve tree-feeding problems.

Knowles cites one liquid plant food product, Heller-gro, as having the asset of being compatible with all common insect control sprays. "You simply apply both preparations

at the same time," he says.

Because it is compatible, Heller-gro may be safely used with arborist-aids Wilt-Pruf and Transplant-one.

Trees with a restricted root area can be fed with the liquid, using a hydrospear and supplementing this by foliar feeding.

Newly propagated trees get vital stimulation and secondary root development is encouraged by the makers of Heller-gro, claims Knowles.

Weak trees also respond to nourishing, easily absorbing a balance of active nutrients and supplemental elements. Transplanting is helped by injection into the rootball and through foliar application before removal from the original site, Knowles says.

(A free booklet about the uses of Heller-gro is available. Circle (711) on reply card.)

Kearney-National Buys West Point Products Corp.

West Point Products Corp., recently acquired by Kearney-National, Inc., New York, has moved its operations to Evansville, Ind.

All of West Point's operations will be integrated into the large 17-acre facilities of the Hahn-Eclipse Co., 1625 North Garvin St. Hahn-Eclipse Co. also is a division of Kearney National, Inc.

Tom Mascaro, president and founder of West Point, has been named vice-president of product and market research and development for the newly formed turfgrass group. His address will be at corporate headquarters, 250 Park Ave., New York.

West Point Staff members will be located at the Hahn plant. Walter P. Dickinson has been named director of sales, commercial products; Ted Williams, sales service manager; Ron Wilson, production, special products.

Marvin Heseman, long-time sales manager for Hahn-Eclipse, has been appointed vice-president of marketing for all products. Lloyd Hahn, former owner of Hahn-Eclipse, will remain president for the Evansville operation. Roger L. Keech, vice-president of Kearney-National, will head turfgrass group.

Products presently manufactured include aerifiers, verti-cuts, and specialized professional equipment, home lawn mowers, garden tractors, and specialized agricultural equipment.

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