

## Florida Nurserymen Tipped On Tree-Growth Retardants

Two tree-growth retardants have been used in Miami for the past four years and are now pronounced effective, Richard Hoeller, Florida Power and Light Co., told members of the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association at its annual October trade show in Daytona Beach. The show drew just under 1,000 visitors.

Hoeller "inherited" the responsibility of keeping electric lines free of tree tops in 1958; a job he figured was a breeze until his subsequent encounters with irate home owners.

Therefore, as an expedient, he launched a tree conservation plan which would limit the removal of ornamental trees, but would allow substitutions of low-growing palms whenever possible.

In the meantime, he watched the progress of several universities seeking a safe tree growth retardant.

The two materials which have been in use in Dade County for the past four years are Tre-Hold (AM-CHEM products) and MH30T (U. S. Rubber Co.). Tre-Hold, he explained, is painted on tree limb stubs after trimming or topping. Its purpose is to limit and retard growth. MH30T is mixed with water and sprayed on the tree after it has been topped and has re-sprouted four to six inches.

Spraying the top one-third of the tree retards overall growth. After nine to ten months, the tree is again sprayed to discourage further growth until line clearance finally necessitates retopping; then the program is resumed.

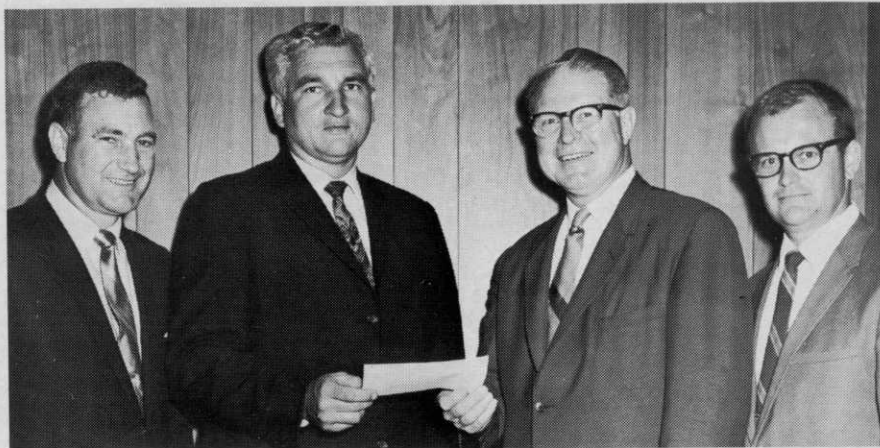
Hoeller said the treated trees are more compact than those not sprayed. Growth is retarded at an estimated 4:1 ratio.

An aerial lift and a two-man crew manning a 300-gallon tank is continuously on the move in the program.

Dr. Carl E. Whitcomb, Department of Ornamental Horticulture, University of Florida, speaking on trees for street plantings, said that fast-growing trees generally have more insect and disease problems, plug drains with dropping leaves and generally increase maintenance cost two to five times over slow growing species.

Wood density of fast growers is less than slow growing species, making them more susceptible to wind and storm damage, he added.

Other undesirable characteristics



Ohio Turfgrass Foundation has awarded a \$15,200 grant to Ohio State University for turfgrass research. The grant was announced at a recent OTF Board of Trustees meeting in Columbus. This is the third consecutive year the Foundation has donated \$10,000 or more. OTF President Richard B. Craig (second from left), Robert W. Miller (left), executive secretary, and Gene Probasco (right), treasurer, present the \$15,200 check to Austin E. Ritchie (second from right), assistant dean of OSU's College of Agriculture.

of the fast growers include: short-lived, weak-branching angles, height too great for location, and persistent suckering and sprouting for several years after removal of the original tree.

Dr. Whitcomb listed some of the more preferred slow growing trees as: live oak, white oak, Japanese evergreen oak, black olive, dogwood and southern magnolia.

A proper establishment period during the first four to six years is particularly important, he said, and recommended: 1. Good soil conditions. 2. Adequate nutrients. 3. Adequate water, supplemented by irrigation whenever needed. 4. Full sunlight. 5. Moderate soil temperature. 6. Little disturbance of the root system. 7. Weed control to prevent competition for water and nutrients.

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