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**TRIMEC®
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Insect and Disease — Not the Same!

I call to your attention a serious error in the December issue. On page 16, a paragraph states: "Diseases ranking after Dutch Elm Disease were cottony maple scale, maple decline, verticillium wilt, canker stain, oak leaf skeletonizer, fire blight, oak kernels, European elm scale and oak chlorosis." I do not argue the importance of these problems, but cottony maple scale, oak leaf skeletonizer and European elm scale are all serious insect problems! I do not know the term "oak kernels," and this may refer to some of the many common insect galls that are caused by insect attacks. I suggest some editing by experts is in order.—**HUGH E. THOMPSON**, associate professor, Kansas State University.

* * *

I am writing in regard to a very serious error in the article entitled "Municipal Arborists Survey Reveals More Funds for Tree Care" in the December issue. Cottony maple scale, oak leaf skeletonizer and European elm scale are insects and not diseases. Oak kernels, probably referring to oak kermes, is also an insect.—**J. C. CARTER**, head, Section of Botany and plant Pathology, Illinois Natural History Survey.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry about that. Two things happened. In re-typing, a couple of words were left out. The paragraph should have read: "Diseases (and insects) ranking after..." And our typesetter changed kermes to kernels. We shall enter appropriate marks in the editor's and typesetter's grade books!

Early Success for Minnesotans

We would like to thank you for the fine support we have been receiving from your publication. Since the article in your November issue on the formation of the Minnesota Landscape Maintenance Association, we have been getting mail from all over the country inquiring about our association and offering us assistance and support.

Our membership of 40 consists of almost all the major maintenance firms. Contrary to our expectations, it is the larger firms and not the smaller ones who are coming into the group. We had

felt it would be the smaller firms who would have the most to gain.

Our initial fee has been set at \$15 and the yearly dues, \$12. Group insurance is being investigated. We also have begun work on a booklet for public distribution consisting of lawn and gardens tips.—**GEORGE LILLI**, MLMA president, St. Paul, Minn.



No Faith in Beetle Attractant

I would like to comment on a Page 34 report in your November issue relative to the U.S. Forest Service scientists finding a substance that may be produced artificially to attract the elm bark beetles that spread Dutch Elm Disease. This sort of thing is far from being new, and even if they did find something that attracted the vector beetles, it is unlikely it would be effective enough to have much, if any, impact on the spread of Dutch elm disease.

As of this date, the use of DDT and other hard pesticides are known to have the ability of preventing the elm beetles from feeding on healthy trees, and in my opinion is the only hope we have of saving any of the American elm trees.—**WILLIAM D. BUCHANAN**, entomologist, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

Editorial Enjoyed

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoyed your excellent editorial in the November issue.—**PAUL M. VOYKIN**, superintendent, Briarwood Country Club, Deerfield, Ill.

Commends "Laser Attack"

I was glad to see our work "Laser Attack on Aquatic Weeds" so skillfully reported. From telephoned information, someone did a superb job of writing. The information is accurate and well stated.—**RICHARD COUCH**, chairman, biology department, Athens College, Athens, Ala.