

Algae Closed Bob Cusack's Recreation Pond



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Robert G. Cusack of Ionia, Mich. uses his pond to raise trout (note the lad who has just speared his dinner) and for family fun.

Here's what he says:

"Last August I bought one gallon of CUTRINE. It took all the algae out of my pond. Our pond is on M-66, a half mile south of Ionia. Many people have seen how bad the algae was and what CUTRINE did for us."

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Trees Are Excellent Environmental Purifiers

Besides providing man with fiber and fruit, trees have a predominant role in regulating the quality of our environment, says a Michigan State University forester.

"Few people realize that trees play an important role in controlling wind, dust and odors," says Dr. James W. Hanover, associate professor of forestry.

Hanover claims that trees do an effective job of filtering dust particles and unpleasant odors out of the air. For example, an 80- to 100-year-old beech tree has about 1,600 square yards of total leaf surface which catches dust particles during much of the year. Evergreen species have a year-round air filtering capability.

"All tree species have natural odors of their own due to the fact that they release chemical by-products of metabolism, which evaporate into the air" says Hanover. "This results in a 'reodorization' of polluted air."

Trees also stabilize soil and retain water over a wide range of climatic, topographic and soil conditions. In many parts of the country these purposes are, or will become, the prime function of forests, according to Hanover.

"We all enjoy the shade of a tree when the weather is hot," he says, "and this testifies to the fact that trees lower air temperatures and lessen light intensity."

"Moisture released from trees by the transpiration process — up to 100 gallons per day by a single tree — not only humidifies the air and cools it by evaporation, but also removes impurities by acting as an air washer."

During the last 30 years the American level of unwanted noise has increased steadily at the rate of one decible a year. Appropriate tree and shrub barriers can reduce noise levels by 50% or more. Hanover predicts that in the future trees will play a significant role in the design of parks, playgrounds, schools, hospitals and parkways where noise is a problem.

Trees are useful in other ways, too. For example, research indicates that polluted air means poor health, as shown by significant increases in the incidence of respiratory diseases such as asthma, bronchitis, lung cancer and emphysema. Certain species of trees have great potential as sensitive

indicators of cumulative doses of air pollution that could have harmful effects on people.

In addition, trees take up and release enormous quantities of carbon dioxide and oxygen. This gas exchange complements the oxygen need of animals and provides the world atmosphere balance of 20% oxygen and 0.03% carbon dioxide, on which all life is geared to operate.

Hanover notes that U.S. foresters are vitally concerned with the fact that trees are being eliminated at the rate of about one million each year through paving, urban sprawl and other developmental efforts.

"Hopefully," he says, "public concern will reverse this trend and benefit both the trees and ourselves in the future."

Cost Figures Compiled By Landscape Contractors

Costs of doing business in the landscape contracting industry have been compiled by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America and are now available from the organization.

Based on 1969 data, the operating figures were prepared from unidentified figures submitted by ALCA members to the national accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst.

The 15-page cost study contains separate comparisons for corporations and for partnerships/proprietorships. Figures from 54 corporations and 24 partnerships and proprietorships with total reported sales in excess of \$30 million are included in the study.

Among the interesting percentages disclosed, operating profit before taxes for all reporting partnerships/proprietorships was 12.1% while for all corporations it was 5.6% of net sales. Total operating costs for all reporting corporations were 94.4% of net sales, while for the partnerships/proprietorships the figure was 87.9%.

To assist landscape contractors in analyzing variations which may show up between their own operational ratios and national averages for their sales volume classification, space has been provided for insertion of individual operating figures and percentages on an item-by-item comparison.

Copies of the Operating Cost Survey are available at \$5 per copy for non-members, and \$3 for members, from ALCA Headquarters, Suite 100, 2011 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006.