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## Tidewater And Metropolitan Shade Tree Conferences Discuss Benlate Fungicide

Mid-Atlantic commercial and municipal arborists, plus other interested shade tree people, participated in two conferences during November. The Tidewater Conference met at the Norfolk, Virginia, Botanical Gardens, while the Metropolitan Meeting was held in Arlington, Virginia.

At both meetings, Dr. R. J. Stipes, plant pathologist, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and Dr. T. C. Ryker, product development manager, E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. Inc., discussed the use of Benlate benomyl fungicide as an aid in the prevention and control of Dutch Elm Disease.

Dr. Stipes related his studies on soil injection of Benlate, which conclude that more field studies might point to an additional promising approach to systemic disease control.

Dr. Ryker discussed current labeling of Benlate for elms, together with the several trunk pressure injection procedures now under study. He emphasized that the only trunk injection method presently approved by the Environmental Protection Agency is the Mauguet-type cup injection system. This system was demonstrated by Walter E. Money, President, Guardian Tree Experts, Inc., Rockville, Maryland.

Since data on Dutch Elm Disease control can only be evaluated each Spring from the previous season's

work, Dr. Ryker reasons that it is unlikely that any other system will be available soon.

A question regarding small bark wounds resulting from trunk injections was posed to Dr. Alex Shigo, Chief Plant Pathologist, Forestry Experiment Station, Durham, New Hampshire. Dr. Shigo was speaking at the Metropolitan Conference on his extensive work in effects of wounding on trees.

"While I have not worked on that question specifically," he said, "it appears that they would be somewhat like the wounds on sugar maples for syrup production. Sugar maples continue to do well and overcome these wounds. I feel that since the Mauguet wounds are minute in comparison, there should be no problem."

Plant pathologists from the University of Wisconsin had previously reported in their "Benlate Seminar Booklet" that their extensive work with injection tubes on elms has resulted in no serious injury to date.

Persons interested in becoming dealers of Mauguet products in the Washington, D. C. area are asked to attend a dealer's meeting to be held at the Marriott Twin Bridges Motor Hotel on Jan. 17 (adjacent to Washington National Airport at U.S. Route 1 and I-95).



Program speakers included Walter E. Money, president, Guardian Tree Experts, (l) Dr. T. C. Ryker, product development manager, Du Pont Company, (center); and Dr. R. J. Stipes, plant pathologist, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, (r).



Walt Money shows how easy it is to insert the Mauguet cup into a tree trunk.



Injection equipment needed to combat Dutch Elm Disease.