

Help for Iron-Sick Trees

Easy To Use Trunk Injection

TREE SYSTEMS T.M.
MEDICAPS

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it is a wax used to lubricate the rope, but this wax gives this tacky feeling and allows a man to hang on to the rope more easily. After the rope has been used a bit it gets a slightly fuzzy surface which makes it excellent to handle. A manila rope after the same amount of use develops little slivers of fiber which can get into a climber's hands.

WTT: Can you use synthetic ropes in the construction of saddles?

Liebenauger: This gets back to one of the accidents which I mentioned earlier in our discussion. You recall that a man fell from a tree because his manila rope broke at a knot. Actually this knot was located on the man's saddle where it had been continuously tied since the saddle was constructed. When the knot broke the saddle failed and the man fell. Saddles are made out of leather with a rope reinforcement. In our business we haven't sold a saddle or let our own men use one that had any manila rope in it for over three years. We insist on saddles with synthetic rope reinforcement. Nobody can afford to have an accident.

WTT: Does synthetic lend itself to leather better than manila?

Liebenauger: Not necessarily. We have found no difference between the two. The single factor against using synthetics is in braiding the eyes or the temples at the end of the rope. You can't braid synthetic ropes, quite as readily as you can manila. When you finish a braid, you must hold it together with a wire clip and fiberglass tape to keep it from unraveling.

Synthetic rope has a memory. It does not want to have to change in lay other than when it was made. This is the nature of most plastics — they revert back to the original form or twist. We have never had any trouble, however, with a failure where any eye was braided into a synthetic rope.

WTT: What is the maximum length of life of synthetic rope when used in normal day-to-day operations?

Liebenauger: We don't know how long they will last. Some of the early users of nylon ropes are still using these ropes. The big-

gest factor affecting the use of synthetic rope is cost. This rope is more expensive. (In the case of accidental cutting with a saw or axe, a climber quickly finds that synthetic rope cuts just as easily as manila.) Synthetic ropes cost between 2½ to 3 times as much as manila rope initially. But at the same time they have 2½ times as much initial strength which remains constant. And the life expectancy is indefinite. So actually it is a better investment.

WTT: We take it that you are an advocate for synthetic rope. Does this mean that more arborists should be considering this type of rope?

Liebenauger: More arborists are definitely moving to synthetics. The only resistance is change itself and the fact that some arborists are working on a limited budget and cannot afford the added initial investment. However, the added investment in a period of two years will more than pay for itself. At the end of two years, unless you have physically damaged synthetic rope, it will still be good. Anyone who has used a manila rope over a year is out of their mind. I wouldn't trust it longer than that.

WTT: You have given us a convincing argument for using synthetic rope. Thank you for your interest and your concern for safety in the tree care industry. □

Is Parker Sweeper Booklet "Lawn Grooming Made Easy"

Parker Sweeper Company has prepared an eight-page booklet entitled "Lawn Grooming Made Easy."

The booklet was written for Parker Sweeper by Dr. Robert W. Schery, director of the Lawn Institute.

The booklet contains information on new varieties of grasses and how to cope with common maintenance problems. Reviewed are such areas as fertilization, watering and pest control.

The booklet also gives instructions on how to best use mechanical aids in lawn care, particularly in controlling thatch.

"Lawn Grooming Made Easy" is available without charge by writing Parker Sweeper Company, P. O. Box 720, Springfield, Ohio 45501.

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