

## trimmings

**BASIC VALUE OF TREES** has now been increased by one dollar per square inch of trunk cross-section. That's the word from the International Shade Tree Conference, Inc. whose executive committee adopted the higher value in January. New figure is now \$10 per square inch of trunk cross-section.

**AN AQUATIC PLANT COUNCIL** has been created in the State of Florida. Representatives from various state agencies and institutions make up the council. The purpose is to offer advice on the issuance of permits for the importation, transportation and cultivation of

non-native aquatic plants into or within the waters of the state. The council will work closely with a with a newly established Aquatic Vegetation Laboratory. This lab will conduct biological impact investigations to determine the need of new aquatic plant species.

**OZONE INJURY** is becoming an increasingly important problem. It's affect on vegetation has severely curtailed plantings in many areas. Plants react differently to ozone and resistance within plants varies. Here's how you can tell if injury is due to ozone: Look for small dark spots on the upper surface of leaves between the leaf veins. Also look for small bleached areas between the veins on the upper leaf surface. In turfgrasses and evergreens, ozone injury creates a yellowish mottled appearance on the needles and

blades. Severe ozone damage results in dead tissue that extends from the upper to the lower leaf surfaces. Damage usually is found at the base of older leaves and at the tips of younger leaves.

**TURF SEED PRODUCTION** in Oregon for last year fell below 1971 production figures in several areas, according to Stephen C. Marks, economist at Oregon State University. Bluegrass seed production was down, but better than in 1970. Chewings and red fescue seed output dropped 12 percent and 18 percent respectively. Bentgrass seed was at 90 percent of the 1971 crop.

Marks says that ryegrass seed was down about 10 percent to 237,900,000 pounds. Average yield per acre was down to 1300 pounds. Acreage was up about five percent, however, with 183,000 acres harvested.

## The Silent Majority

With the interest in noise control growing louder and louder in the Congressional chambers on Capitol Hill we thought it interesting to silently probe into the situation. Because the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Federal Noise Control Act have made provisions for noise control, it is important that every citizen be aware of what's expected of him in bringing an honorable peace to the country.

Here's what we found going on at the recent meeting of the American Society for the Prevention of Noise.

What seems to be the greatest problem in making the United States a more quiet place, we asked Joe Softpaws, president of the society. "Shhhhhh. You're making too much noise," he whispered. "We have to find ways to get our message across to the American citizen that noise is bad. So far we've ruled out television because it's too noisy. Radio isn't bad, but with all that hard rock on the air these days, it's an almost hopeless case."

What about print media—news-papers, magazines, newsletters, we whispered.

"There's nothing wrong with newspapers," said Joe scratching his left ear, "but think of all the noise those printing presses make. Why it's enough to drive a man to drink."

Then communications is out because it's too noisy. Have you considered standing on a stump

like Abraham Lincoln did and deliver quiet oratory?

"Let's be reasonable," quipped Joe. "About the only way we can communicate under the present no noise laws is to show a good example by being quiet."

Then the silent majority is actually communicating by saying nothing, we said. Vice-president Agnew was wrong about the great mass of American voters. They are actually speaking their mind by not speaking at all.

"That's right, and we need even more of them to commit themselves to our effort. You see once we stop talking we start communicating," Joe said as he rolled a cigarette.

Let's get on to some of the other issues. We understand that arborists are now using beavers for tree pruning because chain saws make too much noise.

Joe nodded his head and pointed to an arborist in the crowd. "There's a man who used to own three chain saws and a chipper. Now he's using beavers. When one beaver wears out he retires it to his beaver farm and grabs another. He's not making much money in the tree business any more, but his beaver pelts are selling like hotcakes."

On the other side of the room stood a golf superintendent with a long beard. "See that man," he cried. "When he stopped mowing turfgrass he also quit shaving. Too much noise—on the course

and in the bathroom. Instead he's employed a local shepherd and a flock of sheep to keep the grass trimmed. Don't do a bad job, either. I played the course the other day. Only hit three woolies and one brown goat."

Is the objective of this august organization to eliminate all noise, we asked.

"If you'd just be quiet long enough for our executive director to make his presentation you'd know the answer to that question," Joe screeched.

Sure enough, executive director Tightlips Smith was standing on the platform before the delegates. Suddenly to our surprise we heard a sound coming from nowhere.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Tightlips said without moving his lips, "it gives me great pleasure to address you today. We have reached a new high in communications. It's called ventriloquism. You hear sound without seeing my lips moving. I think it is a revolutionary idea, one which should keep the FBI and the Federal government guessing who violates the Noise Control Law for some time."

Sadly we shook our head. If this is where we are heading, then let's get home to practice quickly. We want to be the first one who can snafu the government. After all wasn't it Teddy Roosevelt who said, "Walk quietly and carry a big stick."