

Shade Trees Symbols Of Freedom

International Shade Tree Conference Report



General chairman Daniel W. Warren, Jr. opens the 49th convention. More than 900 ISTC members and guests attended the Boston meeting.

"A Tree Party In Bean Town" turned out a record crowd as more than 900 delegates attended the 49th annual convention of the International Shade Tree Conference, Inc., in August.

This was the first time since 1960 that ISTC had met in Boston and the warm hospitality of the New Englanders prevailed throughout the meeting to make it a success. A program as varied in scope as the members who registered and yet as comprehensive in subject coverage as a professional spray job sounded the bass drum of realism for every speaker.

Although the local papers carried little, if any, reports as to the magnitude of the meeting, it is of interest to note that most arborists went home knowing much more about the environment, pesticides, disease control, physical damage of shade trees and a host of other important subjects. More specifically, the subjects discussed will likely play a decisive role in shaping events of the future for the arborist — and the general public.

Probably the hottest subject — and best attended — on the program was the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act

(FEPCA). Acting as interpreter between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the arborist was Hyland R. Johns Jr., Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Jenkintown, Pa. He cut through much of the bureaucratic language surrounding the new law and explained the act in common terms to the group.

Using two slide projectors and two screens, Johns reviewed the need for governing the use of environmental protection chemicals and the need for developing criteria to regulate the application of these products. He pointed out that about 70 percent of the population lives on about 3 percent of the land. Agricultural and forest land is being turned into parking lots, shopping center, housing and other uses at the rate of 1.2 million acres per year.

We've had control of the manufacture, registration and shipment of pesticides since 1947, said Johns. The new law expands this control to include users and applicators of these materials.

He pointed out that FEPCA is complex. When it was passed late last year (See WTT, Nov. 1972, p. 7), only certain parts became effective immediately. There was a specific timetable set up in EPA for

the rest of the law. This is:

- Jan. 21, 1973 — Publication of Disposal and Storage Regulations. Proposed regulations were actually published May 23, 1973; final version to be published near the end of the year.
- Oct. 21, 1973 — Publish standards for application certification; Publish regulations for registration of establishments.
- Oct. 21, 1974 — Promulgation of regulations governing classifications and registration of all pesticides.
- Oct. 21, 1975 — Deadline for state compliance on certification of applicators.
- Oct. 21, 1976 — Certification of applicators and registration/ (continued on next page)

News And Opinion...

By JAS

The afternoon session of the commercial and municipal arborists turned out to be rather lively. It opened with a speech on "Research Developments and EPA Regulations Affecting Dutch Elm Disease Control," by Dr. Charles L. Wilson of the Shade Tree Laboratory, a USDA funded institution in Delaware, Ohio.

Dr. Wilson drew his conclusions from research conducted by the Shade Tree Laboratory and studies at universities and labora-

tories. It is well-known that many tax dollars have been used to investigate pressure injection and Wilson has been a strong proponent of this method of injection over the low or no pressure injection.

He pointed out early in his speech that knowledge in the area of pressure injection is limited. Yet he said that this is where the action is today. "Up to now we have been letting the tree do the work of carrying ma-

terial," he said.

Ignoring the manufacturers of low or no pressure injectors, he affirmatively stated that high pressure "is the best way to get material into the tree. It beats the Mauget injector," he alledged.

Yet Wilson could offer no proof or solid conclusions for his beliefs. He stated that currently there is no labelling for pressure injection of benomyl into trees. "Everything is experimental," he

(continued on page 46)

NEWS AND OPINION

(from page 25)

said. "We haven't had good solid data to show how it works."

It would seem that his conclusions on high pressure injection are not founded on a broad base of data, but rather on limited research as conducted with available research grants.

Dr. Wilson then named several systems which have been experimentally tried in the U.S. and Canada. They are:

Davey System: He pointed out that it has a flow meter which is good from the point that the applicator doesn't have to measure the amount of material actually taken up by the tree.

The Stoneville, Miss. system. It uses old freon bottles.

SIReservoir system.

The plant pathologist mentioned the Mauget injector as another system and said that "this is the only one that is labelled and can be used." He said it makes use of Benlate fungicide as a wettable powder (the only formulation available from the manufacturer) which settles out. He then showed a slide taken at close range of the Mauget cup which showed Benlate residue in the bottom. He inferred that this was a negative attribute to this gravity flow system. However, as most plant pathologists know, only a very small amount of the material (less than 3 parts per million) is needed to control the disease. Residue in the bottom of the cup may be more a visual problem than one of no chemical uptake.

At the conclusion of his talk, delegates asked many questions. One was, what research has been done on tree wounds caused by high pressure injection. Wilson said that there is a lot of callus growth around the holes. There have been some reports of burning around the point of injection, he said, particularly when Benlate was solubilized with lactic acid. Wilson reasoned that the fact that you are using a fungicide should give some disease control of other diseases that would cause rot in the area near the hole. This would probably be true if Benlate had activity against these diseases. Wilson gave no answer about those diseases not controlled by the systemic fungicide.

Another question asked was about the solubility of the benomyl molecule. Eugene B. Himelick, ISTC executive director, answered it saying that it was 10 ppm soluble. He was immediately corrected by Dr. T. C. Ryker who pointed out that Benlate is soluble at one-to-two parts per million.

One delegate then asked for a show of hands of arborists in the room who had used Benlate and were satisfied with the results. Roughly 80 people raised their hands indicating satisfaction with the product.

Dr. Wilson was asked by an ISTC member whether anyone had compiled the results of research conducted by various institutions into a central file. Wilson stated that research will continue to be done at various locations. The gentleman then said that shouldn't it be the responsibility of the government to collect the information? Wilson said that research was continuing at various locations to find out what could best be done to make a definite recommendation.

Dr. Arthur Costonas of Lowden, Inc. then discussed the antibiotic Nyastatin which Lowden has been developing for the control of DED. He said it offered interesting possibilities into the control of the disease, but hesitated to comment much further than that. It would seem that the audience was left somewhat in the dark about exactly what the product was and exactly how it controlled the disease.

Dr. T. C. Ryker, who recently retired from the Du Pont Company, next discussed foliar applications of benomyl for DED control. He said that the basis for the label of Benlate benomyl (foliar application) was due to data submitted. This data came from Wisconsin. "You get registration where you have data," he said. Dr. Ryker said that in the tests with which he was familiar, you reduce the number of infections by at least half the number that would be infected were no treatment applied. "We're still only thinking preventative," he said.

One arborist in the group then asked about the legality of using the pressure injection methods mentioned by Dr. Wilson. The answer shot back was that you could be fined under the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act (FEPCA) up to \$25,000.

There are a number of conclusions which could be drawn from this session. While Dr. Wilson presented an interesting discussion on high pressure injection, no one can use this method because it is not registered by EPA.

In addition, research being done on injection systems has no central gathering point. Everyone seems to be headed off on his own to solve some individual whim or preconceived notion that his method is better than the next.

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has not indicated sufficient interest in Benlate for DED control or in the process of solublizing the product. Few, if any, research dollars are being invested by the company to investigate the problem and find the answer to the many, many questions.

Moreover, most firms appear to be totally in the dark about what they are doing. Many are operating first on a blind hunch that their method will work, and second on finding data to substantiate their claim.

Perhaps the only firm to actively investigate the potential of Benlate for DED control has been the J. J. Mauget Company, Burbank Calif. It has a vested interest in sales of the Mauget injection process and thus has invested many dollars to prove or substantiate what it says.

Four Part Course Features Lawn And Grounds Care

A training course on all phases of lawn care and grounds maintenance will be offered in several major cities nationwide soon.

Course instructor is Donald J. Arenberg, Consulting Agronomists, Lincolnwood, Ill. He has been engaged in the contract application business and is currently a consultant to several firms in the Green Industry. His course of instruction is directed to successful management techniques as they apply to those directly concerned with the lawn care, contract application and grounds maintenance business.

According to Arenberg, the course is designed to teach the latest methods, techniques and concepts, along

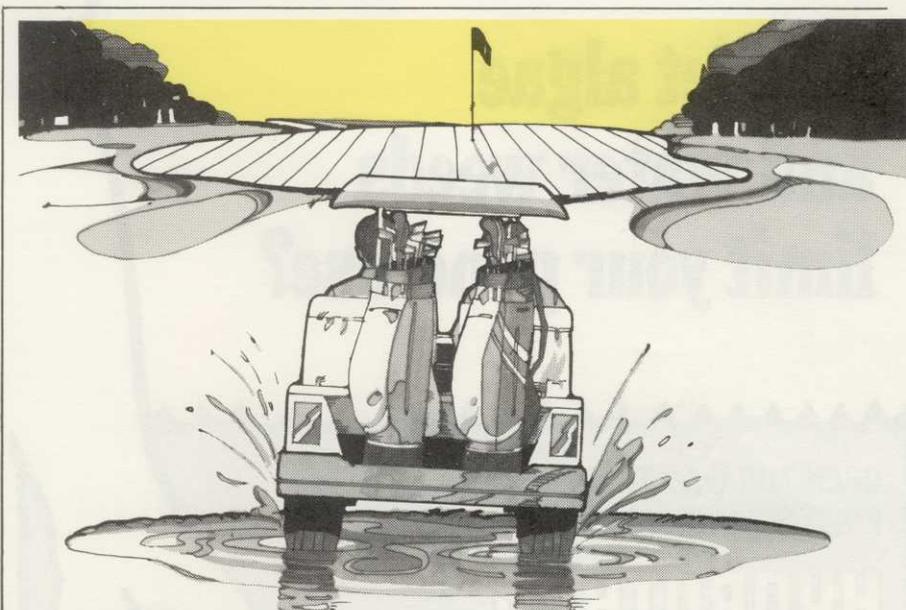
with the uniquely new and proven products and equipment to give professional results in the least amount of expense, effort and time.

Training is designed for anyone engaged as purchasing agents, superintendents, foreman and others working in the maintenance of grounds areas. The course is in four parts: lawn care; tree and ornamental care; weed control; and professional techniques that get results.

Course duration is three days. All material presented is on an "eye to eye" basis, said Arenberg. "There are no complex technical terms. And the participant does not need to

know chemistry, physics, botany, math or any other technical background. Training manuals will be given to the student along with special purpose diagnosing equipment and measuring devices. In addition, samples of products will be given to students."

Registration for the course is \$310. This includes manuals, equipment, lunches, coffee breaks, refreshments, and course instruction. Overnight accommodations are not included. Those registering early are permitted a \$60 discount. For more information and details, circle (720) on the reply card.



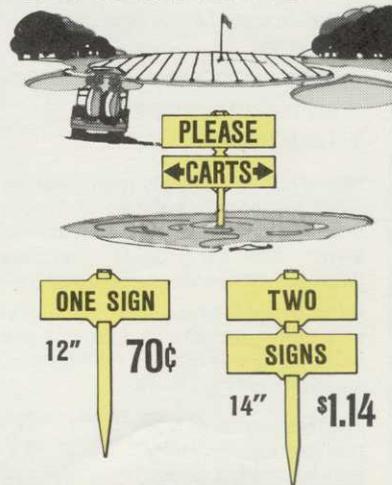
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