

trimmings

LOOKING FOR A TREE JOB? Contact Edgar Emrich of Graceham, Md. He's planning to chip 15 to 20 acres of pines in his 60 acre pine grove. Seems that his pines have a great affinity for birds. Thousands of them. Millions of grackles, redwing blackbirds, starlings. They've been holding a fly-in, feather preening, coo festival in the pines since December. One big problem, however. Emrich didn't set up any facilities. The ground is now covered with droppings. In fact, it's like a student with many degrees—B.S., M.S. (more of the same), and PhD, (pilled higher and deeper). In late March, farmer Emrich took action. He organized a major bombardment to scare the birds away, in spite of the cries of birdlovers. Included in the arsenal were fireworks, propane cannon fire, amplified bird distress calls, and more. As many as 110 county, state and Federal officials, neighbors and citizen volunteers were on hand to help. After three invasions, Dr. Kenneth L. Crawford, state veterinarian and director of the bird-ridding project, reported a marked reduction. Emrich said that wasn't good enough. He's decided to put an end to the bird concert by chopping down the trees.

CANADIAN SCIENTISTS are dialing CFS 1020 in hopes of finding a way to treat Dutch Elm Disease (DED). CFS 1020 is a water-soluble derivative of benomyl fungicide. It is being injected into a tree's sap system through the roots. The technique was developed over the past three years by the Canadian Forestry Service of Environment Canada with the aid of the faculty of forestry at the University of Toronto. The treatment is supplementary to sanitation measures. What does it do? According to D. N. Roy, a biochemist and associate professor of forestry at the University of Toronto, the compound would provide resistance against DED. Three years of tests on trees have proved the theory to be 100 percent true. It's still too early to make any predictions on how long the resistance will be exhibited.

FINGER BLIGHT has hit the Green Industry. There is no known environmental protection chemical to control it. Nor is there any mechanical device that is 100 percent effective. It occurs in nearly every place of business. It affects employers and employees alike, although employees are the most susceptible. Likewise, those outside your employ have no immunity. Best known control to the disease—better known as pilfering or stealing—is outsmarting the victim. When on the job, keep your eyes open and your property within easy

reach. When off the job, keep equipment and supplies in secured storage areas. Until more severe penalties can be enacted by lawmakers, finger blight will continue on its carousing, contagious course.

VELOCIPEDES are back. And the Federal government is finding new ways to cope with them. The Federal Highway Administration recently announced expenditures of Federal-aid highway funds for the construction of bikeways and pedestrian walkways outside the normal highway right-of-way along Federal-aid highways. This means we could easily see cyclists peddling along bikeways adjacent to interstates. Just think of the fun John Doe and his family can have. Four bikes and a Big Wheel tooling down a bike path bound for Chicago. Just think of the extra business this may generate in keeping encroaching vegetation in check.

RULE OF REASON must interplay into our rationale in dealing with our environmental idealism and our attitude toward risk, charges Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz. "If we are to continue to reap the benefits of technology in a time when the limits of our resources become more clear each day, we must first come to grips with just how we shall proceed . . . Man cannot have all he wants to consume—and at the same time maintain a super-pure environment and a completely risk-free society.

BEWARE OF BLACK WALNUT trees. They're highly prized for the nuts and the timber, but scorned in another way. According to Harold Davidson of Michigan State University, the roots of the black walnut contain a phytotoxin, Juglone. This compound is not secreted into the soil. But when susceptible plants touch the roots, injury occurs. The range of the toxic zone is the spread of the root system, he says. The average range is 50 to 60 feet, although it can be as large as 80 feet. Highly susceptible plants include many evergreens, azaleas, rhododendrons, as well as some vegetables. Landscape arborists should advise clients that this tree is not desirable on small lots.

"I DON'T NEED some bunch of dogooder nuts telling me what's good to breathe," says Rep. Billy Williamson. "And I don't want a bunch of environmentalists and Communists telling me what's good for my life and family." In a UPI story from Austin, Tex., Williamson urged a constitutional convention committee to reject a proposal that would allow citizens to sue state agencies and public officials that do not properly administer state environmental laws. "I think we are all willing to have a little bit of crud in our lungs and a full stomach

nothing to eat," he said.

WEIRD ORDINANCES continue to draw wry smiles. Seattle, Wash. has one which calls for 90 days in jail for anyone who lets a thistle grow on his land, according to United Press International. Like the law in Delaware and other eastern states which prohibits Johnson-grass, one of the biggest offenders would be the state, itself. State owned land including highway rights-of-ways would likely receive the first ticket.

WHO'S HOGGING BEACH property? The Commander-In-Chief of the Federal government discovered in 1970 that he was. In February of that year, President Nixon was barefooting it along the beach near his San Clemente home when he discovered that nobody was watching. Why? All the land up and down the beach, for miles, was Federal land, part of Camp Pendleton and owned by the Navy. No access. No trespassing. Forbidden to enter. The creative juices started to flow and the result is the Legacy of Parks. Today, 400 properties, covering 61,476 acres and valued at over \$165 million, have been made available in all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation estimates that over 70 percent of these properties are located in or near urban areas.

LEARN FROM EACH OTHER is one way to make an industry grow. Arborist Robert A. Bartlett passes along these tips for you to try with your customers. Remind them that repairs or replacements to trees damaged by unusual icing conditions can be included in income tax returns and insurance claims. Best evidence of the extent of damage is before and after photos. If before photos are not available, Bartlett says to photograph the best possible view of the damage. It is a good idea to exercise the camera before the leaves appear.

SLEEPING AT THE WHEEL accounted for the most common cause of accidents involving motor vehicles, says the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety. Sixty-nine percent of all accidents were classed into this group. Next biggest class of accidents was due to driving while under the influence of alcohol. Other factors included heart attacks, blackouts, and drug usage.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS, but the Texas Highway Department engineers plan to use plastic grass in shaded sections of a newly constructed, double-decked segment of the Interstate 35 freeway through Austin. They say there isn't sufficient sun for the real thing to grow. The fake green stuff will break the monotony of dull concrete, they say.