

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Editor's Note:** The following letter is addressed to Merle P. Meyer, Director of University of Minnesota's Remote Sensing Laboratory. William E. Wildman, co-author of the infrared photography article, is responding to Mr. Merle. Merle's letter appeared in the December issue of WEEDS TREES AND TURF.

Dear Dr. Meyer:

I'm sorry that you felt our article "Infrared Aerial Photography — Easier Than You Think" conveyed the impression that color infrared film is heat sensitive. Actually, we say exactly the opposite in the third paragraph: "Infrared color or black and white films do not record thermal infrared, but are sensitive to the 'near infrared' radiation which is reflected from objects. The near infrared reflectance is not a function of the temperature of the object."

Many inexperienced people assume that color infrared film shows temperature differences, and we were trying to correct this

widespread erroneous impression. In hindsight, rearrangement of the paragraph would make this more clear. But careful reading of the paragraph should still convey the idea that color infrared film is not heat sensitive.

I suspect that "previsual detection" is a matter of degree. In many cases, I find that a particular plant growth problem that is somewhat visible to the eye and detectable on color film, is detectable in greater contrast on color infrared film. In a few instances, the color infrared film has detected a much broader area of adversely affected plant growth that could be seen on the corresponding color film. A case in point is the color and color infrared pair showing black pine needle scale that was used on the cover of the October issue of WEEDS TREES AND TURF. At that particular position and scale of photography, we could detect many more diseased trees with infrared film than we could with color film. I think it is fair to

call this "previsual detection."

I understand from Mr. Neil Howarth of Missoula, Montana, that you have written some articles on 35 mm infrared aerial photography. I would appreciate receiving copies of these publications if they are available. **William E. Wildman, Extension Soils Specialist, University of California.**

Dear Sir:

I would like to compliment your magazine of the fine article in the May 1974 edition by Mr. Wallace A. Mitcheltree: "Getting Acceptable Job Performance From Your Employees".

Good job performance is what we are all after today with the economic status the way it is. But articles of this caliber are too far and in between.

Once again, let me compliment you and Mr. Micheltree for this article and please keep the good work up. Thank you. **Wesley Taylor, Superintendent, Oaklawn Cemetery Association.**

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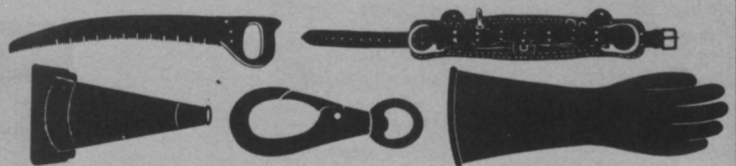
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