

Symposium explores urban forest vegetation

Most trees aren't cut out for city living.

The metropolitan environment is hostile to trees, and Nature has produced few species adapted to urban

conditions, said Dr. George H. Moeller, Program Coordinator for the Pinchot Institute of Environmental Forestry Research, in the Foreword of a recently published

Symposium Proceedings, "Better Trees for Metropolitan Landscapes."

The publication, 29 papers by 36 authors representing a variety of disciplines, is the result of a Symposium attended by more than 200 professional and technical people to provide up-to-date information about tree selection, cultural practices, evaluation and testing techniques, and tree-breeding methods for trees to be used in urban environments.

The information will be useful to shade tree commissions and municipal arborists in helping decide which trees to plant under different site conditions. The Northeastern Forest Experiment Station of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, published the Symposium proceedings.

Urban forest vegetation is important to man's environment. Besides being esthetically pleasing, it provides recreational sites, protects and maintains water supplies, filters waste water, provides habitat and sanctuary for wildlife, enhances property values, abates noise, cleans the air, and improves the climate.

Problems arise from the fact that conditions found in metropolitan environments are unique and that most trees now being used in urban areas do not have the ability to withstand the hostile conditions existing there.

Unnatural environmental stresses such as clay fill, soil compaction, and reflected heat from buildings and concrete cause considerable damage and lead to and compound insect and disease problems.

The solution? According to Moeller, it is essential to develop trees that are biologically and functionally adapted to metropolitan environments as well as being esthetically pleasing.

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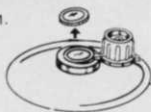
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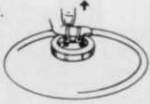
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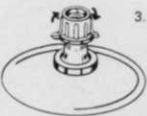
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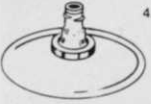


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