

WT&T

OUTLOOK



There is something refreshing about starting a new year. It's like you were absolved of last year's foul ups and the load upon the conscience is lightened temporarily. In this case, we've been absolved of a whole decade!

I just wish bosses would hold off on budgets until the new year. Just think, when budgets were put together our bosses were feeling the load of ten years, not just one. Second best to a January budget would be a July to July fiscal year, since spring is always the strongest businesswise.

The Internal Revenue Service waits until January to send it's forms

out. Perhaps it benefits from the early year optimism of taxpayers. Taxes and raises should coincide at the least.

Think of suppliers trying to get orders this past fall. Now is when they should looking for purchase orders.

The same goes for Green Industry salesmen. They should have their promotion out quickly and start seeking new business now while spirits are high. Don't wait until April when the blow of taxes is fresh.

It feels good to enter a new decade. Recession doesn't bother me. At least not yet.

WT&T

LETTERS

Answer on topping could cause confusion

The answer provided by Dr. Funk on the question of topping trees could further confuse the already confused public and the agencies which serve them. Too often such recommendations are taken as blanket solutions to problems. There are always exceptions, in this case the 100 to 180 ft. Eucalyptus trees we contend with hanging over homes, power lines, etc. Often these trees will have a spread of 20 to 50 ft. between limbs, but authorities complicate matters with statements like "No spurs or climbing irons shall be used in the trees." Another one is, "All wounds over two in. in diameter shall be treated with tree wound dressing." There are exceptions which those of us who must do the work must contend with despite blanket statements by experts.

Howard Andersen
The Tree People
Pleasant Hill, Ca

Thank you for reminding us that rules are occasionally a hindrance. But, rules are intended to reduce

confusion and differentiate between professional and nonprofessional work. Specifications should allow for regional differences, such as your Eucalyptus trees. They should also be kept current to developments in research.

Small associations needed

At the end of some long travels, I had the pleasure of coming back to the office and finding a tear sheet from your November issue of Weeds, Trees and Turf waiting on my desk. The tear sheet, of course, was your Viewpoint.

As you can well imagine, we absolutely subscribe to your conclusion that the smaller associations have an extremely important reason for their existence in this industry of ours. I think I know enough about the personalities involved in all of these organizations that I can honestly say they simply would not exist if they were not necessary. I am sure you agree with me that we work with a hard-headed group of businessmen in this industry regardless of whether they are involved in whole-

sale growing, retailing, landscaping, mailorder, arborists, lawn care, maintenance, or whatever. Each of the organizations that has developed during the past 15 years and those few that existed prior to the middle 1960's serves an extremely valuable function. Each causes a group of able individuals to give of their time, assets, and energy to seriously consider the problems and opportunities of a single segment of our industry. Each group allows individuals to serve on committees and boards of directors and rise to the presidency of an organization representing a branch of this industry of ours.

In the case of those associations (Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Garden Centers of America, National Association of Plant Patent Owners, National Landscape Association, Horticultural Research Institute and the Endowment of the Horticultural Research Institute) which are administered by the staff of the American Association of Nurserymen, each can use its total assets toward the improvement of the segment it represents. Prior to the ex-

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istence of these various associations, I have to admit that our AAN activities were primarily aimed at the needs of the wholesale nursery grower. Now it is my privilege as Executive Vice President to meet at least twice each year for many hours with those who govern these associations. In addition, at least one of our staff members who is responsible for administration of the association involved also attends these meetings which are really brainstorming sessions designed to develop the needs and ways to fill them of each segment represented. Every staff member meets with the AAN Board of Directors because that association in the final analysis represents all of the segments which operate separately in the so-called "family" of associations administered by our staff. In this way the "parent" is continually aware of the problems and needs of other members of the "family" and, as in any family, when a special crisis develops with one member, each of the others draws

together using the assets of all to answer the need.

Over the years very fine organizations have been developed, representing other branches of this great industry. You mentioned the National Arborist Association, the Professional Grounds Management Society and even the brand new Professional Lawn Care Association of America in your Viewpoint article. These and others are doing a wonderful job of representing the needs of each segment of this environmental industry. It is our privilege through the Landscape Industry Advisory Committee to work closely with most of them, and we highly value the experience. Certainly we have learned that the American Association of Nurserymen does not have all of the answers nor is it capable of relating to all of the problems of this rapidly becoming vast industry. We have learned that, in addition to serving those organizations that are our direct responsibility, we can sometimes help a great

deal with areas of concern to others. We stand ready to do that and proud to be able.

We appreciate your suggestion that members of LIAC cooperate together in every way possible, and I am sure, speaking for all of us, we intend to do just that. Based on the obvious will of this industry, each of the managers of the various groups involved, I think, carries a mandate to do everything possible for the segment of this industry he represents, protecting its separateness, but dedicated to accomplishing our overall goals with the least possible investment of association dollars required from our members.

There is very great strength in our separateness, and there is very great sense in our togetherness. I think, along with the industry we represent, the management of each association is learning that lesson well.

Robert F. Lederer
Executive Vice President
American Association of
Nurserymen

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Oak spit spot causes

In the November issue Dr. Funk was asked a question about the cause of oak spit spot and he asked for suggestions from readers as to the cause of this disease.

I have observed this problem in newly transplanted scarlet oaks on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, IN. During the summer following the late fall planting of these 2-3 in. caliper trees, wet spots (sometimes foamy) began to appear at random places on the trunks. Almost always there was a small fissure or crack in the bark at the top, center of the wet spot. Using a sharp knife, I cut a small (1 in.) square of bark out of the trunk at the top of the wet area and almost always found a small white flat headed borer. After removing the square of bark and the borer, I covered the wound with a good wound dressing and to my knowledge the trees are alive and healthy today (7 years later).

James Ross, Technical Foreman
City of Reno Park Div.
Reno, Nevada