

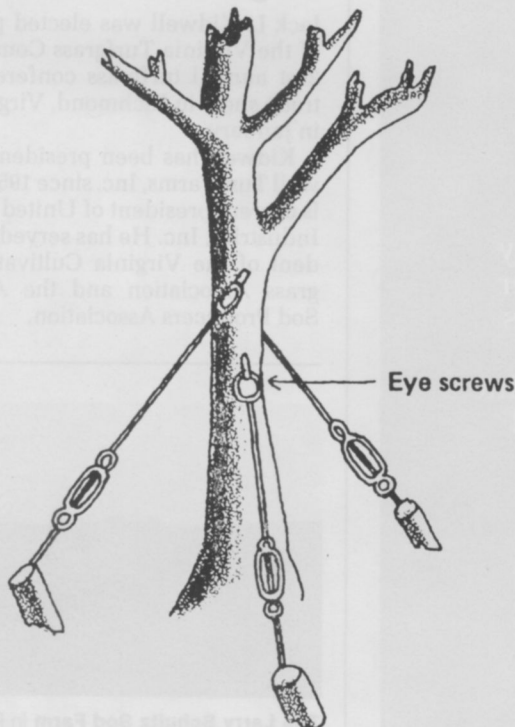
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

By Roger Funk, Ph.D., Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio

Q: Several 8-inch caliper trees are being installed in our park, and the contractor plans to guy the trees by using three lag (anchor) bolts screwed into the trunk approximately 1½ inches at various levels. Is this an accepted practice of guying, and will this harm the tree in any way? (New York)

A: Our policy is not to use guys unless absolutely necessary. Trees with freedom of movement respond with better root development in a shorter time period. Also, if a tree is located in a park or other public location, children swing on guys and loosen them; and mowing around the trees can be a problem. Guys may be necessary, however, in a windy location or where the soil is too loose to support the tree properly.

The use of lag bolts or eye hooks to anchor support wires is an established practice on trees larger than two inches in diameter. After the tree has established (usually one to two years) the lags should be cut flush with the trunk or removed and the hole filled to facilitate proper callusing. Although holes drilled into the trunk increase the potential for decay, this system of guying appears to cause less injury to large trees than a wire or cable attached to the tree by passing it around the trunk. Even when the wire is covered by a plastic or rubber hose, it places a constriction on the cambium and sapwood at the point of contact. Often the trunk appears swollen where the hose loops around it due to excessive growth from accumulated carbohydrates.



Q: How can I save my grass from dogs? And how can I bring back the brown spots that are already present? (Illinois)

A: Please refer to the December 1980 Vegetation Management column for the first part of your question.

Since turf injury is caused by excess soluble salts in the urine, any treatment effective on turf injured by fertilizer or deicing salts will also be effective on dog spots. Drenching the affected areas will help leach the salts below the root zone. If the turfgrass is still alive, new shoots will emerge from the crown area. If the turfgrass is dead and the spots are over 6 to 8 inches across, you should consider scarifying the soil and reseeding.

Q: This past season we had a disease problem identified as leaf blight in several pachysandra beds. How can we control this disease if it occurs this year? (Pennsylvania)

A: Although there are several leaf blights or leaf spots that attack pachysandra, the most serious is caused by *Volatella pachysandrae*. The leaves first develop brown blotches, followed by numerous stem cankers and blight of entire plants. Plants are more susceptible following winter injury or an insect infestation of scale insects.

Since the disease can spread rapidly from one plant to another, thin the stand periodically to prevent dense growth. Rogue and destroy severely diseased plants and avoid the use of heavy, damp mulch which encourages disease development. Inspect the underside of the leaves for scale and, if present, control with superior oil while the plants are dormant or with malathion in mid-May.

Fungicide applications to control the disease should begin when new growth starts in the spring. Spray thoroughly with ferbam or captan or mancozeb two or three times at 10-day intervals.

Q: If trees were dug in late fall and stockpiled, would the roots have time to harden off before freezing temperatures occurred? The trees were not mulched. (Ohio)

A: Roots normally are the most sensitive part of a tree to cold temperatures and they do not harden more than a few degrees. Trees stockpiled over winter in cool climates should be mulched.

Q: How much harm is done when trees bleed after spring pruning?

A: I am not aware of any evidence indicating that the loss of sap through pruning cuts will cause injury to trees. Maples and birches have been tapped for decades without apparent injury.

Send your questions or comments to: Vegetation Management c/o WEEDS TREES & TURF, 757 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Leave at least two months for Roger Funk's response in this column.