

significant plants for food. The Institute of Urban Horticulture will study and develop plants which can withstand pollution and other environment threats such as disease and insects. Horticulturists, plant pathologists, landscape architects and urban planners will play a part in this institute.

The Garden hopes to use its various facilities located in the New York City area to develop the information for application in problems of today and tomorrow.

LANDSCAPING

Nurserymen advise on energy savings

The proper use of landscape materials—including trees, shrubs, ground cover, grass, earth, fences, walls, and surface materials such as paving, brick, and gravel—can help you modify the air temperature, solar radiation, wind, and humidity that affect a home, says James Hayward, horticulturist and executive secretary of the Illinois State Nurserymen's Association.

For example, the shaded area under a tree is from 15 to 25 degrees lower than the surrounding unshaded area, which means that a home in the shaded area will be cooler in the summer.

A row of evergreens planted as a windbreak can reduce wind velocity up to 20 percent, providing a zone of protection 15 to 20 times the height of the plants, and thus protect the home against heat loss from the wind in winter.

The following guidelines prepared by William Nelson Jr., extension landscape architect at the University of Illinois, can be used in planning the energy-efficient landscape:

1. The west wall of the home will benefit most from shading against the summer sun. If there is space for only one tree, place it up to 25 feet from the house where it will shade the west wall from 3 to 5 p.m., when the sun's heating effect is greatest. If there is room for a second tree, put it where it will shade the south end of the west wall from 1 to 2 p.m., as close as 15 feet from the house.

2. Shade is generally not necessary on the east wall, unless there are large glass areas that catch the morning sun. If shade is needed, a tree can be planted to shade the south end of the east wall at the 11 a.m. sun angle.

3. Because the summer sun is at its highest at mid-day, the shadow it casts

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Supreme Court Upholds Surface Mine Act

The decade-old battle over federal strip mining regulation took yet another complex twist in June. On June 15, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the constitutionality of the four-year-old Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

The Act, enacted after a nine year battle in Congress, called for the Federal Government to enforce the law in the "interim" phase, with the states eventually enforcing the law in the "permanent" phase, once they had developed acceptable programs.

Mine owners, mining industry groups and the Virginia and Indiana governments challenged Congress' right to impose stringent environmental regulations on unwilling states and property owners. Lower Federal courts in Virginia and Indiana found the act unconstitutional, but the Supreme Court held that the 10th Amendment does not bar Congressional regulation of strip mining.

The Court's decision was particularly distressing for James Watt, the Secretary of the Interior. Under Watt's predecessor, the Interior Department had appealed the lower courts' ruling, while Watt had filed a brief on the coal mining operators' behalf. Before the decision was announced, Watt told the National Coal Association that the Office of Surface Mining had to be reorganized because it contained "every abuse of government." He added: "what a shame, what a shame. I promise you it will be changed."

The Interior Department had no comment on the government's unwelcome legal victory.

Federal Plant Care In-House Only

In 1979, Senator James Sasser, Tennessee, upon learning that the General Services Administration (GSA) was contracting for professional services to care for the plants in the Federal Government offices, championed a bill that would eliminate this practice and save the taxpayer's money — \$251,000 in 1977, \$181,000 in 1978 and \$157,000 in 1979.

Now GSA has its own four member gardening staff watering, spraying and feeding 3,688 tropical plants in 32 different agencies in the Washington, D.C. area. They work from 2 A.M. until mid-morning and are paid \$13.24 an hour. A fifth person will be needed next year.

The cost for 1980 was about \$243,600 or about \$60,000 a year more than the professional plant care services charged. GSA estimates that contracting would save about 20 cents per plant per month.

It appears that the Sasser plant bill has added to the national debt. This does not consider the cost of two separate General Accounting Office (Congress' watchdog) reports on plant conditions in the Federal offices.

Where were most of the tropical plants? In 1977, they were in the Department of Interior, Department of Energy, the Veterans Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture.

Cathey to Direct National Arboretum

Henry Marc Cathey was recently named director of the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Dr. Cathey started with the USDA in Beltsville, Maryland, in 1956 where he did research on the interrelations of light, temperature and chemicals in the growth, flowering and production of florist and nursery plants. Since 1972 he has been chief of the Florist and Nursery Crop Laboratory at Beltsville.

The National Arboretum, established in 1927 and one of the world's great arboretums, is a research and educational institution with an active and acclaimed staff of horticultural scientists. Among the outstanding attractions are the new National Herb Garden, the National Bonsai collection, the Gotelli collection of dwarf and slow-growing conifers, azaleas, crabapples, dogwoods and magnolias, and the community youth gardens.