

# JOB TALK

by Richard Williston, director, safety and education,  
National Arborist Association, Inc.

## Pruning: A practical approach



whatever your  
turf problem  
Lebanon Turf  
Products have  
the answer.



To control any turf problem, you must have the right product.

Lebanon Chemical is the leader in solving these problems with dependable, tested, and time-proven products. Greenskeeper and Country Club combination homogenous fertilizer and control formulas, along with Lebanon

Pro SCU products are exactly right for your needs. How do we know? Through extensive university and end-user test results. Lebanon also carries a complete line of granular control products — not just a few. Formulations for crabgrass, broadleaf weeds, fungus and insect control and prevention are all available.



Lebanon Chemical is experienced in working with superintendents, turf managers and lawn care applicators successfully, economically and efficiently.

Lebanon — we're working from the ground up to bring you better turf. Let Lebanon work with you.

Dacthal® - SDS Biotech  
Daconil® - SDS Biotech  
Betasan® - Stauffer  
Balan® - Elanco  
Treflan® - Elanco  
Tupersan® - DuPont  
Ronstar® - Rhone-Poulenc

**Phone:**  
**East** 800-233-0628  
**Pennsylvania** 717-273-1687  
**Midwest** 800-637-2101  
**Illinois** 217-446-0983

**LEBANON CHEMICAL CORPORATION**

P.O. Box 180, Lebanon, PA 17042  
P.O. Box 647, Danville, IL 61832



Circle No. 126 on Reader Inquiry Card

While arborists are well aware of the advantages of pruning deciduous trees at certain times of the year, they must also remember how the needs of clients and certain locations affect their pruning schedules.

Many times the arborist is the last in line when it comes to deciding when to prune. The customer comes first. You'll prune on Mondays if that's the only day of the week that a golf course is closed. Six months of rainy Mondays will put you further behind schedule, and if an insect problem pops up, expect to sit back and wait until that crisis is resolved.

Commercial arborists don't have the luxury of choosing pruning times based solely on what's best for the tree. While the researchers and horticulturists who publish pruning guides can restrict their attention to the tree's needs, you have to consider your clients' desire to have the job done on time as well.

The vigor of the tree to be pruned and the type of pruning to be performed may more critical in your timing decision than just the season.

Removing only dead limbs from a vigorous tree means you can prune at almost any time, while drastic work on an ancient and well-placed specimen will require more planning.

Don't neglect to consider the impact of pruning frequency when looking at your schedule, either. If a tree is pruned often, it probably doesn't make too much difference when the job is performed. Since only small cuts are made and little canopy removed at any one time, different pruning times would have no long-term effects on overall tree health. But timing becomes critical when you're removing several limbs from a previously-unpruned specimen.

Finally, remember that quality of workmanship is more important to the tree's health than picking the proper time. Pruning at an advantageous moment makes little difference if your cuts contribute to long-term tree damage.

Since the real world demands that you prune year-round, the old saying, "the time to prune when the saw is sharp" makes more sense than ever.