

## Anti-transpirant helps prevent landscape losses

Landscape companies can't afford to lose plant materials. There's simply too much of an investment in them.

Brickman Industries Inc., one of the largest design/build landscape companies in the country, is taking precautions to prevent such waste.

Brickman protects its horticultural materials being transplanted by using an anti-transpirant.

"The anti-transpirant is actually a waxlike coating which protects leaves against excessive loss of moisture during periods of stress," says Daniel C. Skinner, support services manager at Brickman's Langhorne, Pa., office. "Plug up the stomata with the anti-transpirant and there is less water loss."

Wilt-Pruf anti-transpirant, which Brickman uses, dries to form a clear, flexible film on leaves and does not interfere with plant growth, according to the product's manufacturer. Respiration, osmosis, and photosynthesis are reduced just slightly.

Wilt-Pruf, a water-based pine oil emulsion, is an organic, biodegradable material that comes in containers ranging from 14 ounces (aerosol) to 55-gallon units. Brickman buys its 55-gallon drums through a local lawn and garden distributor.

### Tree-moving: a specialty

Brickman performs tree moving at all its regional offices, often handling trees six to 15 inches in diameter. The trees are dug by hand and the balls are then shaped and wrapped with burlap.



Daniel C. Skinner, support services manager at Brickman's Langhorne, Pa., regional office, says using anti-transpirants on trees to be moved is vital.

"We have a 99 percent success ratio in moving big trees," says Skinner, noting the biggest tree the company has moved weighed 80,000 lbs.

Applying an anti-transpirant reduces the shock when trees are dug, says Skinner. "We spray the tree with the anti-transpirant the day before

digging. We have been using Wilt-Pruf at a 1:5 ratio."

Brickman uses the same ratio on materials being held and on newly-established landscape materials.

Brickman's Langhorne office sometimes specifies that the trees or other materials they purchase be sprayed with an anti-transpirant the day prior to digging for delivery.

"We do that in our own nurseries," says Skinner. "Our own crews also prune out one-third of the foliage on big trees in addition to spraying with Wilt-Pruf ahead of digging."

At the Langhorne office, the nursery is filled to capacity each fall since Brickman crews plant year round. Planting in the winter is common in the East and any materials coming from Midwest nurseries must be brought in before freezing weather halts digging.

"We spray these trees every month. We do the same during the winter for the majority of the plantings we have made the prior season," says Skinner.

For more information on Wilt-Pruf, contact Wilt-Pruf Products Inc., P.O. Box 4280, Greenwich, CT 06830.



A Brickman crew member sprays an anti-transpirant on a new landscape planting to prevent desiccation.

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