

SHORTCUTS

TREE CARE

Arborists win battle with OSHA regulation

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has conceded to the National Arborist Association on a proposed "Electrical Safety-Related Work Practices" rule, according to the N.A.A.

The proposed regulation would have made it impossible for any person to enter a tree which was closer than 10 feet to an energized conductor unless that person was a Qualified Line Clearance Tree Trimmer doing work "directly associated" with the transmission and distribution of electricity.

"Basically, what we did was submit written testimony," says N.A.A. executive vice-president Robert Felix. "We made them recognize the fact that a qualified tree worker can work around electrical conductors. Their regulation had included utility tree workers only."

Also, the proposal would have made it possible for different members of a crew to be regulated by different OSHA rules on the same day, or whole crews being subject to one OSHA rule on one job and a different OSHA rule on another.

Under cross-examination by attorney Steven R. Semler, OSHA clarified the points of contention, conceding on the record to each of the concerns that had been presented in the NAA's testimony.

Testimony came from NAA members Gerald Duke, Walter Money and Erik Haupt.

CONFERENCES

Expo seminars are comprehensive

The third annual Landscape Exposition, to be held Oct. 22-24 at the Nashville (Tenn.) Convention Center offers attendees a comprehensive seminar program.

The Landscape Exposition seminars, taught by recognized industry authorities and educators, deal with topics from regulatory issues to management strategies to the most recent technical developments. Titles include:

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ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...Edgell Communications takes pride in its Cleveland, Ohio, landscape. When the summer drought hit, the grass turned brown in spots, despite irrigation. The situation had Ken Erman and Tom Sprague—like many other landscape managers this year—scratching their heads. However, in late July when rains finally came, the grass finally greened up. One employee, tongue in cheek, asked the pair how they magically brought the turf "back to life." Their answer? "Tricks of the trade," said Sprague. "We prayed a lot," noted Erman.

A DRY IDEA.....Elsewhere in Cleveland, companies were doing special promotions this summer. For instance, if you were the fifth caller to respond to a WGAR-AM radio contest, you won a much-needed yard watering courtesy of the Brunswick branch of ChemLawn. Twice a week the company applied 400 gallons of water on the parched lawns of three listeners as part of the station's "Hoser Patrol" promotion. "I chuckled a bit when they first mentioned the idea, but here we are doing it," said ChemLawn branch manager Jeff Vorndron, who was joined by a station disc jockey to conduct live broadcasts from each site.

JUMBO PLUGS...That's what you get with extra-large hollow coring tines, according to *Parks & Sports Grounds* magazine of London, England. The tines have been satisfactorily tested, the magazine says. The reasons for pulling larger plugs are to (1) allow more effective use of topdressings and (2) remove more thatch.

SAME PRODUCT, NEW NAME...Geomatrix Systems, formerly part of the BASF Fibers Division, has a new name—Akzo Industrial Systems Co.—since being purchased from BASF in May. The company manufactures Enkamat and Armater Geomatrix for erosion control and Enkadrain subsurface drainage matting. Questions regarding Akzo products can be directed to the company at P.O. Box 7249, Asheville, NC 28802; (704) 258-5050.

NO WAY OUT...is what prison officials at an Ohio minimum security prison in Mansfield wanted when they asked David Burroff what type of grass they should plant in and around the facility. Burroff, owner of Exterior Design, Inc., Fort Wayne, Ind., put in a mix of 60 percent Nugget Kentucky bluegrass, 20 percent white clover and 20 percent annual ryegrass. Since the grass outside is mowed only twice a year, officials wanted a turf that wouldn't grow too high and consequently offer an escaped prisoner a place to hide. "There's good logic in that thinking," said Burroff, "but I don't think they'll be able to get out anyway."