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LETTERS

To the editor:

The October 1988 *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* contained an article, “Davey’s research examines safety question,” which in my opinion doesn’t paint a very clear picture of the problems with broadleaf weed control herbicides.

It is very important that good application techniques are stressed and encouraged. First, these herbicides are foliar-absorbed by most plants and it is important to keep them off desirable plants. Second, dicamba is root-absorbed and must be kept out of the root zone of desirable plants. In the container plant study, no mention was made of damage to grape.

We know that April is not the best time to apply broadleaf herbicides. April is when new buds are developing on many ornamentals and trees, and these herbicides distort growth in these buds (the most sensitive stage). The damage is usually seen three weeks after application. We don’t want to cause damage even though recovery does come in a few weeks or months.

This article leads less well-trained applicators to become sloppy when we should be encouraging superior applications with few problems.

Spray drift is a problem with broadleaf herbicides used in lawns. Volatility with present formulations is only a problem at extreme temperatures of about 95° to 100° and with ester formulations in particular.

I don’t think that articles with relaxed emphasis on good application techniques for these herbicides are good publication practice. In short, I would not have published this article.

Wayne Bingham
Professor, Weed Science
Blacksburg, Va.

In no way did the magazine mean to imply that anything less than safe application practices should be used. The Davey Company is in its second hundred years of service to the tree market and has an extensive training program for both its lawn and tree applicators. Applicator training should be standard practice for any lawn or tree care company, for both practical and legal purposes. We at *LM* apologize for any misconceptions arising from the article.—ED.

To the editor:

As a long-time extension weed management specialist, I must com-

pliment you on your *Pocket Guide* (October 1988). It is great! Just what our increasingly technical managers need.

As University of California budgets are diminished due to urban managers who think we should throw all our public resources at ppb (parts per billion) research, there is a good niche for you to provide what we used to provide—and do it better!

Privitization ain’t so bad!

Harold M. Kempen
Farm Advisor
Bakersfield, Calif.

We are pleased with the success of our first *Pocket Guide*, and have begun to plan for others in 1989. Extra copies of the original *Pocket Guide* are available for just \$5 each. To order, call Doug Dezso at (800) 225-4569.—ED.

To the editor:

The letter in the September issue by Robert E. Paryka was right on target. While I own and operate a tree service company, I have a degree in horticulture and I am a registered landscape architect. Over the years, I have seen literally hundreds of designed landscape, many of them award-winning, that required almost total renovation after five to 10 years as a result of poor plant selection.

The problem appears to be centered in the schools that offer degrees in landscape architecture. The strange fact is that many of these schools offer degrees in a plant science. A situation where an individual designs a landscape and specifies the plant material, both quantity and quality, specifies the bed construction and the installation of plants with no knowledge of plants other than the names is mind boggling.

Perhaps the saddest part of this story is that some of the worst offenders are some of the largest design companies. Many of their award-winning designs could not stand inspection beyond the first two years. Areas that are planted with 25 to 30 trees where five or six would be crowded at maturity is nothing more than a rip-off of the client.

Therefore, I think if a publication such as yours did follow up stories with photographs as suggested by Mr. Paryka, you might have quite an impact on the landscape design profession.

Ralph G. Martin
Tree Injections of Texas
Hurst, Texas.