

The census should determine the following:

- A. The severity of tree ills and those problems of immediate concern.
- B. The manpower and equipment necessary for an effective program.
- C. The money required.
- D. The suitability of tree species planted or to be planted.

### 2. Develop a Master Highway Tree Plan

This plan should integrate economic, aesthetic and ecological realities to form a practical program of landscape design. It should also develop immediate, intermediate and long range goals which are flexible enough to change if necessary.

### 3. Maintain Mulch Around Trees

A mulch around highway trees creates biological conditions which favor healthy growth.

All leaves, wood chips, grass clippings, and other suitable organic matter should be composted for use in the planting and maintenance of highway trees.

### 5. Establish a Program for Aerating and Adding Organic Matter to the Soil.

Highway trees should be fed each three or four years if maximum vigor is to be maintained. Where feasible, a combined operation of aerating and adding organic matter using a power-driven coring aerator is recommended.

Establish the following feeding priorities:

- A. Trees that have been weakened by insect or disease attack.
- B. Trees showing poor growth.

### 6. Establish a Three-Year Pruning Cycle.

A three-year pruning cycle should be the longest period allowed between prunings if highway trees are to endure the rigors of their environment. If this is a shorter period than usually allotted, it must be remembered that this will require less man hours and thus will be lower in cost.

### 7. Establish a Realistic Tree Removal Policy and Program.

The program should remove the following:

- A. Dead and/or dying trees.
- B. Unsightly trees which have no chance for future development.
- C. Trees that represent potential hazard due to growth habit, structural weakness or internal decay.
- D. Trees that have outgrown available space.

### 8. Water Trees During Period of Drought.

Priority should be given to trees planted within the past three years and water should be injected into the soil if possible.

### 9. Expand the Program for Controlling Insects and Disease.

Spray programs should not only be aimed at a specific pest or disease that threatens highway trees yearly, but should also be able to control sudden outbreaks of infestation. Since this might result in work loads beyond the capacity of exist-

ing crews, the following should be considered:

- A. Rent additional spray equipment for short periods.
- B. Contract some of the work with qualified tree expert companies.
- C. Evaluate new methods and techniques such as application by helicopter.

If we fail to follow through with these programs for the maintenance of our highway trees, we could eventually be left with highways resembling a concrete and asphalt wasteland.

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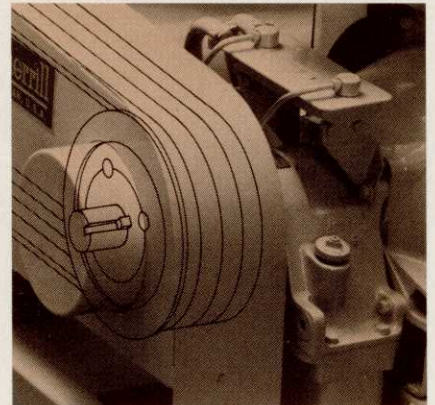


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