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Dead common mullein along right-of-way is a dramatic example of SPIKE's effectiveness on tough-to-control species.



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"Before" and "after" views of the same test plot clearly demonstrate SPIKE's ability to control brush and woody vegetation.

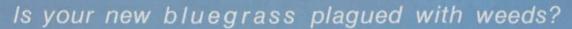


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CITY BEAUTIFICATION projects have enjoyed considerable popularity the past dozen years. And with bicentennial spirits now at a peak, most communities have initiated beautification projects, however small, in hopes of putting some "civic pride" back into an apathetic public.

The projects vary with the individual community but one of the more popular ones has been the planting of street trees in otherwise bleak surroundings. But those bleak areas are tree-less for obvious reasons. They're wall-to-wall concrete. No one has yet devised a tree-spade capable of planting through concrete, nor do most communities have a large enough budget to warrant major reconstruction of sidewalks.

So, with some of the more obvious and also ridiculous solutions ruled out, city beautification committees are still faced with the problem of how to plant trees in this sea of asphalt. One popular method has been the construction of large concrete planter boxes. The two-ton planters are filled with soil and a tree is planted within.

"Trees soon become root-bound in concrete planters, plus the boxes take up a lot of space on these al-



This once-bleak street area will be green and alive in years to come as these young trees grow and leaf out.

ready narrow sidewalks," said Emerich Sabo, pointing down the street at a seemingly endless row of utility poles, parking meters, mailboxes, and trash cans. Sabo is city forester for Cleveland Heights, Ohio; and has been for 10 years.

"We had to come up with an economical and practical method for planting trees in the commercial areas right through the concrete," he told WEEDS TREES & TURF. His first approach was to borrow the street department's trailer-mounted air compressor and jack-hammer. This made the job economical, but the large air compressor caused considerable traffic problems as they hauled it from planting site to planting site.

"We're planting these trees about 35 feet apart and the unit has to follow the man with the jack-hammer," Sabo said. "You can imagine the confusion our crew caused trying to find a parking space every 35 feet."

"I got in touch with one of the local construction equipment distributors, Gibson Equipment Company, and purchased this portable hydraulic power supply unit and jackhammer," the forester said indicating to a rather small looking unit

(continued

New look for a street



Two crew members prepare to chisel a hole through the sidewalk. The portable hydraulic unit is wheeled into position.



After the sidewalk has been scored and cut, the jackhammer is used to break-up the concrete.

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LOOK (from page 14)

two of his crew members had just placed on the sidewalk. "With this outfit, after the first hole is cut, one man of our three man crew can roll the unit ahead and start on the next hole while the other two men put the finishing touches on the newly planted tree."

And all the industry murmers about the handiness of hydraulics have been true for Sabo. After the hole is scored on the concrete surface, a gasoline-powered Stihl saw with a special bar and blade attachment is used to cut through the concrete. The hydraulic-powered pavement breaker breaks up the inside square section of cement and the pieces are shoveled out of the hole.

The power unit and pavement breaker are manufactured by Worthington. Sabo says another advantage of the hydraulic system is its quietness.

In a normal working day, the three-man crew can plant eight trees, according to Sabo. The planting season for Sabo and his crew ranges from fall to spring. "We shovel the snow off the planting site and plant trees right through the winter," he added.

Working out the mechanical part of planting the trees proved to be a simple task compared to what happened when Sabo began planting the trees. The local merchants didn't see the same virtues in the planting project that Sabo did. He resorted to hard-sell tactics.

"When they heard we are going to plant trees in front of their stores, most merchants thought the trees would cover-up their store fronts as they grew bigger and branched out," he said. His second job was to convince the merchants that the variety of trees he was planting would not conceal their stores from passing motorists.

Sabo selected two oval-shaped varieties for the project; the Little Leaf Linden and the Emerald Queen variety of Maple. Characteristically these varieties obtain a somewhat columnar shape enhancing the neighborhood and providing an unobstructed view of the store-front area.

The total tree planting project, when completed, will include some 300 trees. And at a cost of about \$75 per tree planted, that's a reasonable price to create a spirit of pride in the neighborhood and bring business back downtown.



Sabo (right) and one of his crew members position the new tree. The trees seem to do very well when planted in this manner, according to Sabo.

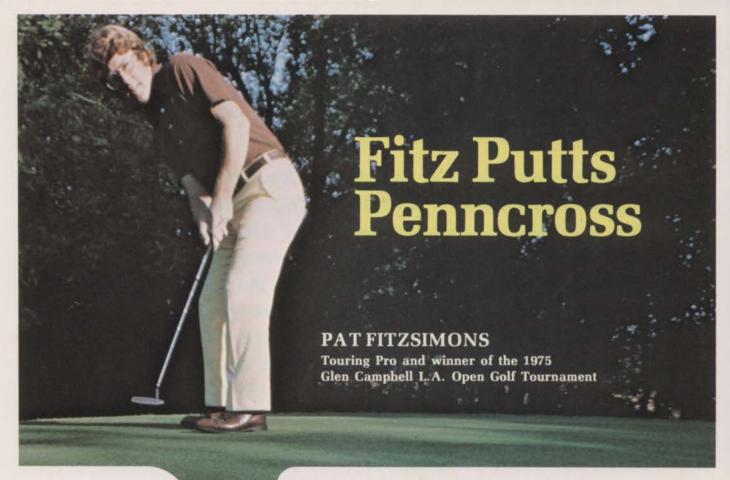


The finishing touches are put on one of the newly planted trees. Before Sabo's crew leaves a planting site, they remove all debris.

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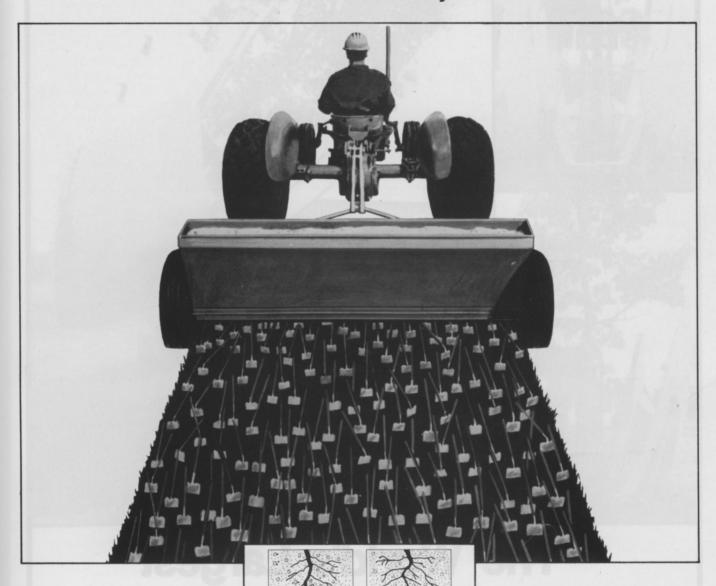
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Big John Tree Transplanter

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THE VINTAGE World War II bombers flew into the early morning darkness of northern Maine last spring to lead the attack in "The Battle of The Budworm." Loaded with insecticide instead of bombs, the planes were the tools Maine foresters used to combat the ravenous spruce budworm in the largest insecticide spray project the federal government and the State of Maine have ever mounted. This "heavy weapon" strategy is necessary, officials say, because the budworm infestation threatens to destroy nearly six million acres of northern Maine's valuable spruce and fir forest. Natural controls have not stopped the outbreak and the mushrooming worm populations are leading to even more dire predictions in the future.

The spruce budworm is a small brown moth which has been around northeastern forests for a long time - epidemics having been reported as far back as 1770. The most recent severe infestation, in 1910-1919, destroyed 27,000,000 cords of valuable spruce and fir timber. The pulp and lumber industry is Maine's most valued resource, contributing 39% of the state's economy, and the present budworm epidemic threatens to cripple it. This catastrophe would also pose problems for the many related industries dependent on this wood.

But losses of lumber are not the only consequences of budworm feeding. The recreational value of the Maine wilderness is also in jeopardy due to defoliation. Consider, too, the potential upset of the forest ecosystem: forests act as watersheds and, with a major reduction of trees, surface runoff can cause floods and erosion, further threatening the forest. Forest fires would become a more potential danger due to the number of standing defoliated and dead trees. Wildlife may also be endangered because it depends dearly on the forests for shelter, food and water.

The budworm does its damage by feeding on the buds and needles of spruce and fir trees, the fir being

John Chadwick, director of the Presque Isle, Maine, operation terms the present spruce budworm epidemic "massive."

Battle of the Budworm





One observer noted that this past July, moth flights were so severe that they literally had to be scraped off the roads with snow plows.

its preferred host. Early in May, the tiny larva emerges from its overwintering site called a "hibernaculum," a cocoon-like shelter on the branch of its host tree. Larval development is in six stages or "instars," each separated by a molt. The first or smallest instar occurs the previous fall and the larva overwinters in the second instar. After emerging in the spring, the larva tunnels into a spruce or fir needle and feeds by consuming the tissues within the needle. In severe epidemics such as the present one, hardly a bud or shoot can be found with no insect feeding on it. In the sixth and largest instar, the budworm larva eats more foliage than in all the previous stages put together.

In late June, the budworm pu-

pates and emerges two weeks later as a moth. These brown moths begin to lay eggs in July. Eggs are laid in masses of about twenty, and each moth can lay up to 200 eggs in its one year life cycle. Two weeks after ovaposition, the eggs hatch and the first instar larvae spin their hibernaculum to spend the winter and begin the cycle again.

One observer noted that this past July, moth flights were so severe that they literally had to be scraped off the road with snow plows. A cloud of the insects traced by the weather bureau radar measured 64 miles long by 16 miles wide.

Control problems are compounded by the fact that many new moths are brought down on winds from Canada where over 100 million acres of forest are infested and serve as reservoirs for reinfestation in the U.S.

"The budworm infestation is

massive," says John Chadwick, Director of the Presque Isle based spray operation, "and our control efforts are really a holding action. We can't hope to eradicate the budworm, but we are trying to keep those trees alive." Infested trees will die after two to three years of feeding and are salvageable for only a few more. Efforts are directed at controlling the moth in the fourth or fifth instar, or before the major amount of damage is done.

"We're talking about one to two hundred years for recycling these forests," Chadwick continues, "so we can't afford to let these trees die in the face of population pressures and use factors of the forest."

Spraying operations began in 1958 with the use of DDT on 320,-000 acres. This chemical was restricted in Maine in 1967 and foresters began searching for new less

(continued on page 46)

Above: A vintage World War II bomber makes a solo pass over the budworm infested forest lands of Maine.