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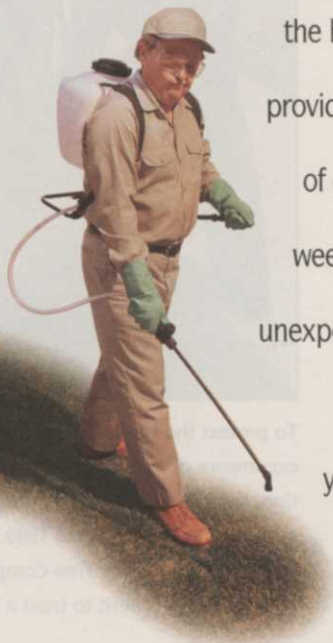
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Circle No. 126 on Reader Inquiry Card

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by Bayer Corporation Garden & Professional Care.

"We had used Merit before on elm leaf beetle and the results were very successful," said Mendoza. However, the city had never tested it on ash trees for aphids control.

Rather than use a soil application, which would take too long to get to the leaves, the city decided to try the Wedgle System[®], by ArborSystems Inc., which would inject the imidacloprid, the active ingredient in Merit, directly into the tree's trunk. This method would deliver the product through the tree within two to three days with proper irrigation.

"Now we had a method to get the material into the tree without affecting neighborhoods," said Mendoza.

At the same time, the city released 3 million ladybugs, a natural enemy of the aphid. Within weeks, the aphids were no longer a problem.

Crisis abated, for now

Once the immediate crisis was over, the city wasted little time putting a plan in motion to prevent a similar recurrence in the future. Merit was included in a preventive control plan for 1999. The plan also included a spring application of dormant oil and the release of a natural enemy of the aphid. After the previous year's aphid crisis, the city council needed little convincing that it was a smart investment.

"We didn't put any chemicals up into the air this year at all. Everything went directly into the ground where it was taken up directly by the trees roots," Garland said.

In January, 1999, Merit was soil-applied to all of the city's Modesto ash trees by either soil drench or soil injection, which allowed the trees to take up the pesticide be-

fore the aphids become active late in the spring.

In the spring, the city continued its low-risk approach by releasing three sets of lacewing eggs based on a degree-day cycle. Each release was 500,000 eggs. Lacewings are another natural enemy of the aphid and seemed more appropriate than ladybugs.

"(Ladybugs) will take off on you,' Garland said. "Lacewings can only walk, so they don't go far."

Releasing natural enemies to control pests can get expensive and is a method mostly used in greenhouses. However, Garland said that Santa Clara is willing to do whatever it takes to develop a more environmentally friendly approach. The city continues to monitor the situation and at the last check in late spring, "we are completely clean," said Mendoza.

Problem grew for 40 years

Modesto ash trees are the most popular street trees in Santa Clara. All of them were planted after World War II. Garland suspects that the people planning the streetscapes 40 years ago could not foresee the aphid dilemma of 1998.

"What we have now is a monoculture in certain areas of town, where the only tree for 20 square blocks is the Modesto ash. It's pretty, but aphid-wise, it's hell on earth," Garland said.

A monoculture exists when one species of tree dominates the landscape in an area. When that species is attacked by a pest or disease, the results can be devastating. As happened in Santa Clara, pests and disease can spread rapidly.

"Imagine the dent in our forestry if we just went out there and started taking them out," Garland said. "Some streets would go from being shady boulevards to deserts."

The city has been working for several years to eliminate this problem for future generations. As older trees are replaced and new trees planted, the city is mixing a variety of ashes: autumn purple ash, Rio Grande, evergreen ash and Arizona ash — sometimes planting as many as three or four species in one block.



To protect the Modesto ash trees from a re-occurrence of last summer's aphid infestation, the city of Santa Clara, CA, took preventive steps in the winter of 1999. Jeremy Pollard, of the Davey Tree Company, used soil injection of Merit to treat a Modesto ash.

Garland feels confident about the future of Santa Clara's Modesto ash trees due to the aphid-control program the city has put into place.

"I think this is something we're going to be doing from here on in because it's pretty environmentally conscious," Garland said. **LM**

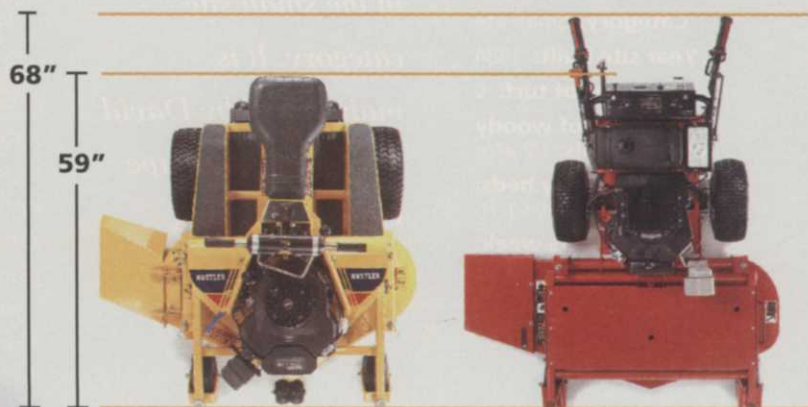
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Award-winning landscape

411 East Wisconsin Center

Property at a glance:

Location: Milwaukee, WI

Staff: Outside contractor —
David J. Frank Landscape
Contracting Inc.

Category: Small site

Year site built: 1984

Acres of turf: 0

**Acres of woody
ornamentals:** 1/2 acre

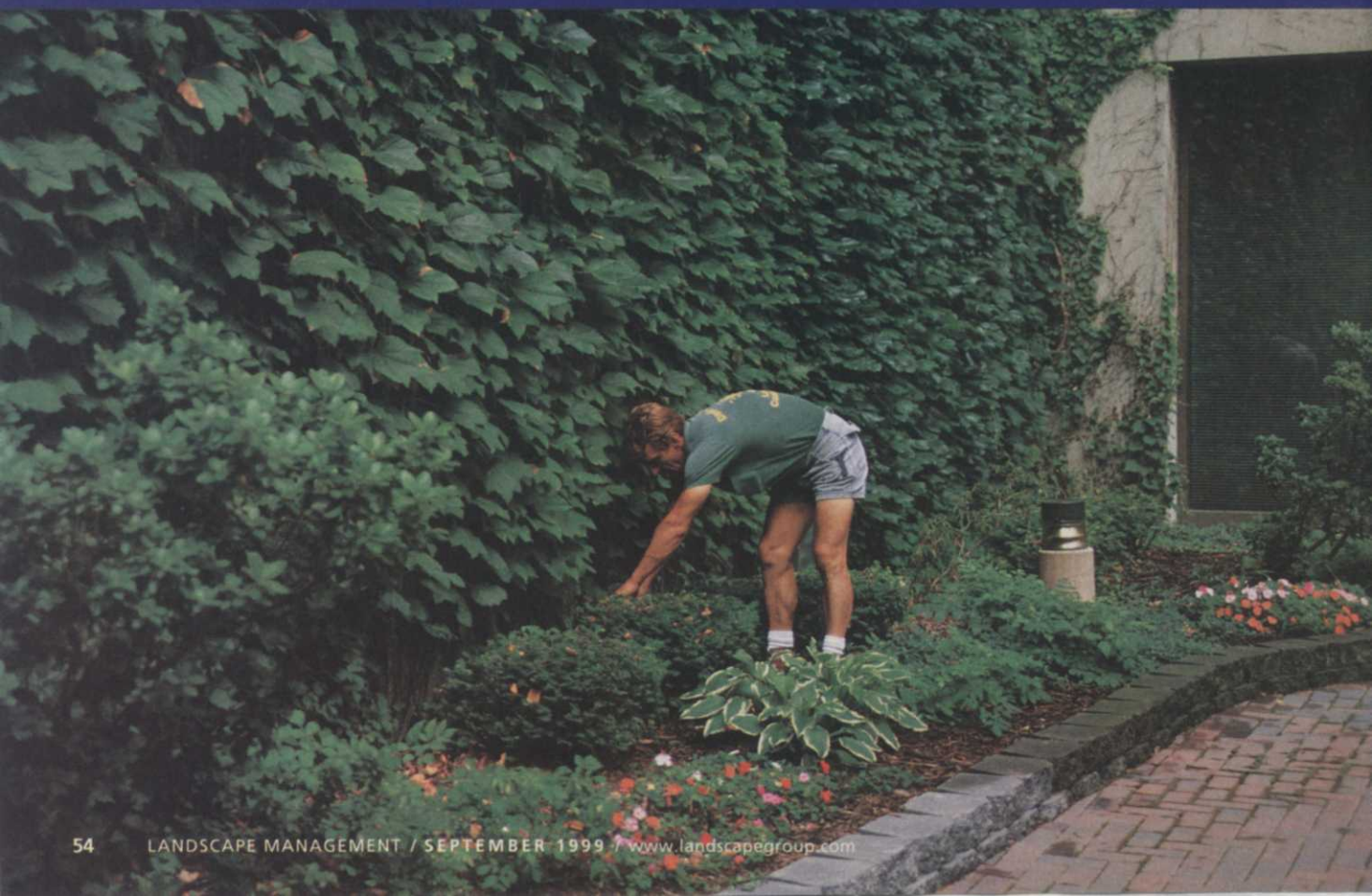
Acres of display beds:
1,700 sq. ft.

Total man-hours/week:
5.75

*The 1998 Honor
Award winner of the
Professional Grounds
Management Society
in the small site
category. It is
maintained by David
J. Frank Landscape
Contracting Inc.,
Germantown, WI.*

The property is a 30-story, 654,000-sq.-ft. office building located in downtown Milwaukee, WI. The property not only houses some premier tenants, but also a health club, banking facilities, travel services and a variety of other shops and services. All this is accented by a courtyard landscape designed to create a warm and friendly environment.

The contractor's activities include mature tree care, spring and fall cleanups, rotational annual color of entry beds, renovation work, trimming and shaping of shrubs, perennial care, remulching of beds, fertilization of ornamental trees and shrubs. Integrated pest management strategies are incorporated to promote plant health with minimum impact on the surrounding environment. Recent changes in the landscape plan of the courtyard added a variety of perennials such as hostas, astilbe, daylilies and groundcovers to deliver year-round color.



management



▲ As the winters are long in Wisconsin, the landscaping feeds spring fever with a display of vibrant color to welcome guests to the 411 building.

◀ Weekly manicuring of shrubs keep this courtyard garden groomed and healthy.

▶ Limited budgets make it imperative that proper care is given to protect the clients' investment. Only skilled personnel are allowed to enjoy the caretaking of this Class A account.

▼ Specialty crews and equipment are required to keep this landscape looking the way it was originally designed.



Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Flower care
- ▶ Care of perennial beds
- ▶ Care of specialty trees/shrubs

Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ Renovated beds/courtyard
- ▶ Installed new street trees
- ▶ Plant enhancement project

On the job

- ▶ 3 full-time staff, 3 licensed pesticide operators



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Landscape
MANAGEMENT

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DIMENSION ^b	H	M	H	M	H	M	M	M
TEAM ^c	H	M	M	M	M	M	NR	NR
RONSTAR ^d	M	H	NR	M	M	NR	NR	NR
SURFLAN ^e	H	H	H	M	MH	M	H	H
Level of control	Medium		Medium-High		High	Not Registered		

^a™ Noveris ^b™ Buhm and Hess Co. ^c™ Dow AgroSciences ^d™ Rhone-Poulenc

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Renovate

those 'tired' commercial landscapes

Don't let an aging landscape reduce the visual impact of a property. Use these smart renovation strategies to get maximum bang for the buck

By KARMA L. GROTELUESCHEN
Landscape Designer

Nothing dates a property like old landscaping. Building styles have not changed significantly in the past few decades, so many of today's corporate buildings still have a modern look to them. Yet many of these corporate buildings date themselves with their aging landscapes. Even buildings with classical lines can look tired with old or overgrown landscaping.

Many corporate landscapes can benefit from a landscape renovation that replaces or expands plantings that are mature and are no longer accomplishing their intended purpose:

- ▶ Some plantings are in decline and should be completely replaced. These decisions are easy.
- ▶ Some plantings are perfectly healthy and are simply not contributing positively

to the landscape any more. Often, this is because the plants have grown larger than anticipated, so the planting has become a problem in some way.

▶ Sometimes styles have changed or better plants are available.

Out with the old

While it is difficult to remove and replace a perfectly healthy plant, it can be an important step in creating and maintaining a contemporary and high quality corporate image. Shade trees are an excellent example.

A properly chosen shade tree species grows in value as it matures, providing shade and offering a better scale to larger buildings. In the early years of a landscape, when the shade trees are small, they are often planted in long rows that give horizontal lines to the landscaping. These horizontal lines complement and balance the strong verticality of most multistory corporate buildings.

As the trees grow taller, they become vertical elements, so renovation is needed to bring horizontal lines back into the landscape. One way to do this is to join the individual mulch rings around the trees into one long bed, filling it with a linear planting of a short ornamental grass such as dwarf fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln'), prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) or with a low-growing shrub such as Gro-Low sumac (*Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-Low').

Short shrub lifespan

Most shrub species need to be replaced every 10 to 15 years because, unlike trees



These overgrown junipers obstruct visibility and are dangerous. Lower shrubs would be safer and would be just as attractive in this location.

that appreciate in value, shrubs have a relatively short span of usefulness. They may need replacement or removal because they are in declining health. For example, if sun-loving shrubs are planted under a tree, its growth can create shade that stresses the shrubs, which then begin to decline. A simple mulched bed may suffice once the shrubs are removed, but if you need a replacement, the plants must be a shade-tolerant species (don't forget to consider the impact of removing and replanting in the tree's root system).

A group of plants may be in decline because some of the plants have died. In a hedgerow or continuous border, gaps usually cannot be filled with new plants in a way that will ever match satisfactorily. And a design meant to read as a continuous flowing line will be compromised seriously by mismatched fill-ins.

If you have grouped plantings or rows, the plant may no longer be commonly used. Finding a matching plant to fill the gaps can be difficult. For example, honeysuckles were once common, but are now known to seed themselves into natural areas to become environmental pests. It would be irresponsible to plant more of these shrubs, even if we could find them.

Screen for safety

When a shrub row or grouping is at the perimeter of the property, it usually divides it from another property by defining the boundaries, or is used to screen an undesirable view. Often, the shrubs selected are large and end up growing too wide with age.

If the shrub row is within a property, such as in a parking lot or near walkways, they should be kept below eye-level so that pedestrians can see over them and feel safe.

Shrubs near traffic can block sight lines, creating an inconvenience or hazard to drivers or pedestrians trying to cross traffic.

Update with dwarf plants

Who hasn't seen shrubs that have been repeatedly sheared into unattractive balls to maintain their size? They seriously date a property. Sometimes, shrubs can be renovated by drastic hand pruning, but often



Overgrown shrubs obscure the multiple trunks of these crabapples. A band of Happy Returns daylilies winding in gentle curves within this bed would be a nice, low replacement and would add texture and seasonal color.

the labor involved is as costly as replacement (and the pruning can result in a period where the shrub looks worse before it looks better, which many commercial property owners will not allow). Here are some ideas for various landscape elements:

► To rehabilitate areas where shrubs no longer perform as intended or cause a perceived or actual danger, remove all existing shrubs and replace them with appropriately sized species. In recent years, more dwarf cultivars have been selected and developed, so a renovation can be even more successful than the original planting, as the new shrubs naturally remain lower without shearing.

► For perimeter edging or screening, new compact versions of traditional species are available, such as compact burning bush (*Euonymus alatus* 'Compactus'), Isanti compact redbud dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Isanti') and compact highbush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* 'Compactus' or *V. trilobum* 'Compactum', 'Bailey' or 'Hahs'). These stay around 5 to 6 feet tall. Dwarf lilacs such as dwarf Korean lilac (*Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin') and Miss Kim lilac

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Replacement plants suitable for use in Zone 5

Screening: Plants under 7 ft. tall

New compact shrub cultivars

- Compact burning bush (*Euonymus alatus* 'Compactus')
- Compact highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum* 'Compactum' and *V. opulus* 'Compactus')
- Compact redbud dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Isanti')
- Mohican viburnum (*Viburnum lantana* 'Mohican')
- Miss Kim lilac (*Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim')
- Dwarf Korean lilac (*Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin')

Tall ornamental grasses

- Porcupine grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Strictus')
- Variegated maiden grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Variegatus')
- Maiden grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gracillimus')

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(*Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim'), mature between 4 feet and 6 feet tall and stay more uniformly dense near the ground than old lilacs with their 'bare feet.'

* For areas where people need to see over the shrubs, several smaller species that stay around 4 feet tall are available, such as black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) and Peking cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster acutifolia*). Several smaller cultivars also work: Sprite winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* 'Sprite' fruiting females with *I. verticillata* 'Jim Dandy' pollinating male planted at a ratio of 5:1) and Kelsey dwarf redbud dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Kelsey') will grow to around 3 feet tall, while Gro-Low sumac (*Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-Low') and dwarf alpine currant (*Ribes alpinum* 'Green Mound') will stay at around 2 feet tall.

Myths about evergreens

Nothing dates a landscape like foundation plantings, especially those of evergreen



Because these shrubs hide interesting window sill detailing, they should be removed and replaced with shorter shrubs or ornamental grasses.

shrubs. That concept was devised to hide the foundation on a building raised above grade to allow for a basement. Few commercial buildings are built with a foundation that needs hiding. In fact, many buildings are of an attractive enough architecture that a foundation planting

hides some aspect of the architecture that is meant to be seen.

In the landscape's early years, the shrubs along the foundation may have been low enough to create a horizontal line near the ground, which may have complimented

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