

Minnesota Nurserymen's newsletter

Prepared by

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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- Agricultural Extension Service
- Horticulture Department

In Cooperation with

- Minnesota Nurserymen's Association
- Minnesota State Horticultural Society



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SUMMARY OF WAGE-HOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR GOVERNMENT LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the December 1967 newsletter of the American Association of Nurserymen. We felt that you might want to have this information in your files for future reference.

"Mr. B. Irving Manger, Office of the Solicitor, U. S. Department of Labor, has suggested that the following information again be printed in our Newsletter for the convenience of nurserymen:

"Landscape nurseries who are interested in government landscaping contracts should contact agencies involved and file the proper forms to place them on the list to receive regular bid notices.

"In the process of pre-qualifying to be placed on such bidders' lists, firms must satisfy the agencies that they have: necessary technical skill and experience, equipment and financial ability to perform the type of contract involved. In some cases, filing of a performance bond is necessary.

"Nurserymen who bid on landscaping jobs under federal government contracts face special government wage-hour requirements, broader and higher than those of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

"Two special laws apply to wage rates under government contracts. The Walsh-Healey Act, which covers the government's purchase of materials, specifically exempts 'nursery products.' (41 U. S. Code Section 43). But, the Davis-Bacon Act, which applies to labor on government construction projects, covers nurserymen's landscaping contracts along with all others if the prime contract is for more than \$2,000. (40 U S C Sections 276a - 276a-7).

"The Davis-Bacon Act requires payment to all 'laborers and mechanics' working on the contract of not less than the locally prevailing hourly rates and fringe benefits (if any) for each class of labor, as set by the Secretary

of Labor and incorporated in the prime contract. Each prime contract may have a different set of rates, depending on its date of award and the location of the work. Before bidding a nurseryman should obtain the rates from the prime contractor or from the contracting officer of the government agency which let the contract (not from the Labor Department). In turn, these rates should be spelled out in every subcontract. An official poster showing these rates (form SOL-155) must be posted at the work site.

"Often the contract will have no separate class for landscaping labor, but only a catch-all rate for 'common labor.' In this case, the nurseryman must pay the common labor rate, which may be a high union rate for construction labor, until he can get the contract changed. However, if he does not learn that the Davis-Bacon rates apply until he receives his subcontract or formal purchase order, and has priced his bid assuming he would pay lower wages, a lawyer should be consulted as to the nurseryman's legal duty to accept the contract.

"Getting a special rate for landscaping labor requires: (1) proof that a majority of the laborers employed on construction landscaping jobs in the city or county during the past 12 months have been landscaping laborers paid at a specified rate (lower than the construction common labor rate); or, (2) if there is no majority paid at the same rate, then the rate paid to the greatest number (at least 30 percent); or, (3) if less than 30 percent are paid at the same rate, then the average rate (29 Code of Federal Regulations Section 1.2). If there has been no such landscaping in the area within the past 12 months, then more distant areas or periods may be used. (29 CFR Section 1.6). All documentation should include names and addresses of the landscape contractors involved, location and dates of each job, and number of landscape workers at each rate. (29 CFR Section 1.3(b)(1)). It should be submitted on a separate, one-page form (SOL-167) for each job, signed by the landscape contractor who did the job.

"If the contract or invitation for bids is already in existence, the documentation should be submitted to the government's contracting officer in support of a request to establish a

special wage classification for landscaping labor. Since the contracting officer will seek the views of the laborer's union and prime contractor anyway, it is preferable to consult with these parties first to make an agreed submission, if possible. If the contracting officer rejects the request, it is possible to appeal to the Solicitor of the Labor Department and in turn, to a new Wage Appeals Board recently created in the Department of Labor. Meantime, however, the common labor rate must be paid.

"If the invitation for bids has not yet been issued, it is normally in the nurseryman's interest to submit the above information directly to the Labor Department Solicitor's Office in Washington as soon as it is learned that a particular federal construction job that includes landscaping may be nearing the contract stage. Indeed, wherever such jobs are frequent and construction landscaping labor is usually paid at a lower rate than other common labor, it is desirable to submit current wage information regularly. This will permit the Labor Department to include a special landscaping rate in its initial determination, with no necessity to pay higher rates while trying to establish a special rate later on. In any case, the information forms should be submitted to: Mr. B. Irving Manger, Associate Administrator, Division of Wage Determination, Office of the Solicitor, U. S. Department of Labor, 111 - 20th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

"Companion statutory provisions apply these requirements specifically to federal construction of housing, highways, hospitals, schools, airports and civil defense, college housing, water pollution, area redevelopment, and other projects. (See 29 CFR Section 1.1)."

WHY CONSIDER YOUR
LANDSCAPE PERMANENT

Editor's Note: You might want to clip this article and post it on your customer bulletin board. Rejuvenating an old overgrown planting is so difficult for most home gardeners that a fresh look would seem better for him and his nurseryman!

You figure on fairly regular replacement of the furnishings of your home, yet few people hold the same view of the area outside. Shrubs will become too big and leggy. Hedges outgrow their useful size, particularly if improperly pruned. Vines and flowers can become monotonous. A plantsman from Denmark recently told me that people in his country are continually changing both the plants and the land use patterns around their homes. This replacement is as much a part of their living costs as we, in this country, budget our new indoor accessories. Think how nice it would be to rearrange the landscape as we rearrange the furni-

ture for new effects and better utilization of our properties. With this attitude we would be willing to try a wider range of plant materials giving us new and different effects just as we would change the drapes. - - - Reprinted from March 1968 "Timely Tips for Home and Campus Planting," Southern Illinois University.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Part I

Plants recommended for Minnesota landscapes were the subject of a hard working meeting of the Minnesota Nurserymen's Plant Research Committee. Don Nordine, Rod Bailey, and Vince Bailey from Bailey Nurseries; Ed Reed and Vernon Lorentzen from Park Nurseries; and Charles Hawkins, Rose Hill Nursery met with Leon Snyder, Harold Pellett, Robert Mullin, Mervin Eisel, and Jane McKinnon of the University to discuss plant materials in general and make lists of recommended plants for Minnesota landscaping.

Information gained at this meeting has already been used in radio and newspaper releases and in meetings over the state in the Horticultural Science Department's garden series meetings.

Shade trees recommended by this committee are listed below. Minnesota nurserymen will of course select trees from such a list, recognizing the various cultural and site requirements for different varieties.

Lists of other plant materials will be printed in subsequent newsletters.

- Acer platanoides Common Norway Maple
- Acer platanoides 'Cleveland'
- Acer platanoides 'Columnare'
- Acer platanoides 'Crimson King'
- Acer platanoides 'Emerald Queen'
- Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri'
- Acer rubrum Red Maple
- Acer saccharinum Silver Maple
- Acer saccharinum 'Bee - Bee'
- Acer saccharinum 'Weiri'
- Acer saccharum Sugar Maple
- Aesculus glabra Ohio Buckeye
- Aesculus hippocastanum Horsechestnut
- Betula nigra River Birch
- Betula papyrifera Paper Birch
- Betula pendula European White Birch
- Betula pendula 'Laciniata' Cutleaf Weeping Birch

<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica subintegerrima</i>	Green Ash
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Marshall Seedless'	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Summit'	
<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i>	Blue Ash
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (Males) =	Ginkgo
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> 'Imperial'	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> 'Majestic'	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> 'Shademaster'	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> 'Skyline'	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> 'Sunburst'	
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur Corktree
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Eastern Red Oak
<i>Salix alba tristis</i>	Niobe Weeping Willow
<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Peachleaf Willow
<i>Salix</i>	Wisconsin Willow
<i>Sorbus americana</i>	American Mountainash
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European Mountainash
<i>Sorbus thuringiaca</i>	Oakleaf Mountainash
<i>Tillia americana</i>	American Linden
<i>Tillia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden
<i>Tillia</i> 'Greenspire'	Greenspire Linden
<i>Tillia</i> 'Redmond'	Redmond Linden
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm

NEW HANDBOOK --
ORIGINS OF AMERICAN HORTICULTURE

Few home gardeners have any knowledge of the history of common plants growing around their homes today. Where did these plants come from; who discovered them and when? How were they intertwined with the early development of this country?

To bring together answers to these and many more questions, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden commissioned members of its staff and 12 consulting botanists to make a 3-year search of the records. Their findings, presented in a popular style, are the subject of a handbook just published by the Botanic Garden entitled "Origins of American Horticulture."

Whereas commercial horticulture as a business did not flourish in this country before the 19th century, early settlers played a vital part in bringing in new plants from other parts of the world. Spaniards who founded St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565 are suspected of introducing the peach, a native of China, to North America. Fruit trees and herbs had high

priority among plants brought by early colonial settlers in the North. The apple, pear, plum, lilac, boxwood, European snowball, and English yew were known to be growing in New England in 1638, just 18 years after the Pilgrims landed. In Williamsburg, Virginia, even before 1752, the horse-chestnut, European birch, cedar-of-lebanon, English beech, English holly, Scotch pine, European mountain-ash and European linden were thriving.

John Bartram of Philadelphia began his botanic garden in 1728. Bartram was noted as a collector of native plants which he shipped to England. His most famous discovery was the *Franklinia* which he found growing along the Altamaha River in Georgia in 1765. Strange as it may seem, this plant has not been seen in the wild since 1803. All plants in cultivation today originated from Bartram's stock. Bartram, furthermore, was this country's first nurseryman, dealing in exotic as well as native plants. In his catalog of 1792, for example, he listed such imported plants as Norway maple, sweet mockorange, flowering peach, Persian lilac, Oriental arborvitae, and European cranberry-bush.

The span in history from Bartram's time through the middle of the 19th century is covered in 30 separate articles in the handbook. Detailed accounts tell the location, history, and exploits of several dozen nurserymen, seedsmen, and plant explorers of this period. The earliest of these were located in the East. William Prince, of Flushing, Long Island, New York, was the foremost importer of his time, listing the smoke-tree, goldenrain-tree, and rose-of-sharon in his 1790 catalog.

Plant explorers from abroad were quick to discover plant treasures in this country. One article, entitled "Plant Exploration in the Eastern United States," traces collecting trips here, beginning with that of John Tradescant in 1632. Mark Catesby, botanizing in the mid-Atlantic region from 1712 to 1725, sent back scores of plants to England, including tupelos, rosebay, and honey locust. Other sections of the country are similarly treated, including the deep South and the West, where Lewis and Clark made their historic expedition.

The broad scope of this handbook can be judged from a random selection of titles of articles including: "Trees Popular in the 19th Century;" "Early Plant Introductions From China and Japan;" "Long Island's Famous Nursery;" "Plant Explorer, David Fairchild;" and "The Great Mulberry Mania."

Not only is the handbook good reading, but it also is a rich source of reference material. There are chronological listings of early tradesmen, introductory dates of plants, and bibliographies. The 90-page book also contains over 90 halftone and line illustrations of plants, old prints, and historic catalogs. It has a paper cover and is printed on quality book paper. Copies are available by mail for \$1.25 from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, New York 11225.

SHADE TREE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Over 500 persons attended Horticultural Science Week Short Courses at the St. Paul Campus during the week of March 18th. We have had several requests for a list of the books and publications displayed during the Shade Tree Maintenance Short Course. Some of these publications already have been reviewed in the Minnesota Nurserymen's Newsletter.

Tree Preservation Bulletin Series:
United States Department of the Interior

"Transplanting Trees and Other Woody Plants" - No. 1

"Safety for Tree Workers" - No. 2

"Shade Tree Pruning" - No. 4

"General Spraying and Other Practices"
- No. 6

"Rope Knots and Climbing" - No. 7

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

Illinois Natural History Survey Division,
Urbana, Illinois.

"Fertilizing and Watering Trees," Circular 52, single copy free.

"Illinois Trees: Their Diseases," Circular 46, single copy free.

"Illinois Trees and Shrubs, Their Insect Enemies" - single copy free.

"Systemic Insecticide Control of Some Pests of Trees and Shrubs - A Preliminary Report," Bio Notes #48, single copy free.

"Protecting Trees Against Damage from Construction Work," Agriculture Info. Bulletin #285. USDA, Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 - 15¢

"Pruning Shade Trees and Repairing their Injuries," Home and Garden Bulletin #83, USDA, Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 - 10¢

"Maple Diseases and Their Control," Home and Garden Bulletin #81. USDA, Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 - 5¢

"An Introduction to Forest Pathology," French, Kelman, Cowling. Available at St. Paul Campus Bookstore - Paperback, spiral bound. \$1.75

"The Complete Modern Tree Expert's Manual," Richard R. Fenska, Dodd Mead & Co., New York, 1959. 345 pages. Illustrated.

"Knowing Your Trees," Collingwood and Brush. American Forestry Association, 919 Seventeenth St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006. 345 pages. Profusely illustrated, each species photographed. \$7.50

NOTES FROM THE HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Calls come to the department every day from both nurserymen and private clients for landscape designers. We now have 20 young men in the curriculum, with the 2-year technical program just getting organized. Won't you help recruit some interested students for the good of the industry?

The Ramsey and Hennepin County agents and the University 4-H and extension staffs started approximately 400 children in Ramsey and Hennepin Counties on a summer garden science project the weekend of April 5. This effort was supported in a major way by the Minnesota Gladiolus Society, which contributed 1,200 first quality bulbs and the talents of several of their members, who assisted in instructing the children. Northrup King, W. R. Grace Company, and R. L. Gould and Company contributed materials to allow children to plant seeds and cuttings and prepare beds for gladiolus. The Como Park Greenhouse and the State Fairground Greenhouse contributed surplus coleus plants for cutting material. The aim of the project is to interest youngsters, particularly those in city neighborhoods, in growing things and to start them in an exciting hobby.

Minnesota nurserymen serving the Faribault area have a remarkable opportunity! Probably because of their good work in the past, over 140 persons attended four consecutive 2-hour garden science programs during February. These classes were conducted by extension horticulturists from the St. Paul Campus in cooperation with the county agent and the technical vocational school. Similar classes have been held during February, March, and April at Worthington, Dodge Center, and Braham, with individual programs on home landscaping given in many other towns.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Landscape Arboretum, Miscellaneous Report 81, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota, 1968. This is the 1967 arboretum report. Besides the usual progress report, it contains six interesting articles which will be helpful in answering questions. The articles are: "Woodland Wildflowers in the

Arboretum," by Leon C. Snyder, "Consider Hostas," by Mervin Eisel, "The Arboretum Seed Exchange Program," by Albert G. Johnson, "Hybrid Musk Roses in Minnesota," by Patricia Wysocky, "Prairie Restoration at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum," by Smithberg and Johnson, and "Ornamental Grass Collection in the Arboretum," by Margaret Smithberg. This report is distributed to arboretum members. Other interested persons may request a copy from the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

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