



# PRO HORT

THE CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE  
University of Washington

Volume 4, Number 1

Winter 1986

## LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SEMINARS

... for those employed in the field of horticulture.

Jointly sponsored by:

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY,  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Also cooperating: Edmonds Community College  
South Seattle Community College

### Pruning Fruit Trees

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

Location: C.U.H.

Instructor: Rick Reisinger, Snohomish County Extension Agent, Washington State University Cooperative Extension.

Landscape professionals are often asked to prune home fruit trees. This program will cover training techniques for young trees, maintenance pruning, summer pruning versus dormant pruning, and the differences between ornamental pruning and fruit production pruning. Also learn about specialized training systems, such as the espalier, that can be especially useful in urban landscapes.

### Soil Management & Drainage Problems

Date: Thursday, February 6, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

Location: C.U.H.

#### "Puget Sound Area Soils"

-- Dr. Robert Zasoski, Soil Scientist, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington

#### "Landscape Drainage Problems"

-- Carl H. Kuhn, Irrigation Engineer

#### "Topsoils, Soil Amendments & Interface Problems"

-- Dr. James R. Clark, Environmental Horticulturist, Center for Urban Horticulture

### Bedding Plants

Date: Thursday, March 13, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

Location: C.U.H.

An update on the use of bedding plants in northwest landscapes.

#### "Recommended Bedding Plant Varieties -- New & Old"

-- Wally Gillogly, Vaughan Seed Co.

#### "Designing With Bedding Plants,"

-- Marianna Bell, Skagit Gardens.

#### "Year-round Color in Containers"

-- Peggy Campbell, Moibak's, Inc.

#### "Bedding Plant Maintenance"

-- Larry Stock, H.C. Smith Gardens

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

\$12.50 per seminar or \$30.00 for complete series if registering for all three seminars.

\*Special Group rates are now available for firms/institutions that send 2 or more employees to a seminar. The rates are:

2 - 5 employees -- \$10.00/person

6 or more employees -- \$9.00/person.

To qualify for group rates: 1) your firm's registration must be received at least one week prior to the seminar; 2) all registrants must be from the same firm/institution; and 3) a firm's total registration fee must be paid with one check or purchase order.

Save this information for details on date, time, and location. Receipts will not be returned by mail; they will be available at the door.

## REGISTRATION FORM

### LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SEMINARS

_____ Complete Series -- Pruning, Soil Mgt., & Bedding Plant Seminars	..... \$30.00
_____ Individual Seminars	
_____ Pruning Fruit Trees	..... \$12.50
_____ Soil Management	..... \$12.50
_____ Bedding Plants	..... \$12.50
	TOTAL \$ _____

Group Rates: Qualifying firms must send a list of employees being registered and one check to cover all registrants at least one week prior to seminar. Firms using purchase orders please call Jan Davis at 545-8033 for registration arrangements.

Make checks payable to the University of Washington; bank cards not accepted.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail payment and registration to:  
Urban Horticulture Program  
University of Washington, GF-15  
Seattle, WA 98195

For more information please call 545-8033.

## BOOKS

Right Plant, Right Place, Nicola Ferguson, 1984. Summit Books, \$14.95.

This reference will help you choose plants for specific situations. It organizes over 1,500 landscape plants (herbaceous and woody) into categories based upon growing conditions, purpose, and appearance. Examples of the categories include: plants suitable for damp and wet soils; plants tolerant of dry shade; shrubs and trees suitable for windswept seaside gardens; trees, shrubs and climbers tolerant of atmospheric pollution; hedging plants; and winter-flowering plants. Each of the 1,500 plants is illustrated at least once with a color photograph. Basic information on hardiness, flowering season, size, and cultural requirements is included also. This book will be extremely useful to landscape architects and designers, as well as the landscape gardener who must often select replacements for dead or debilitated plants.

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## OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

EDMONDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE HORTICULTURE COURSES -- WINTER 1986:

Weekday Courses -- Landscape Business Practices.

Evening & Weekend Courses -- Pruning, Grafting, Wholesale Nursery Operations, Foliage Plant Maintenance, Bidding & Maintenance Estimation. 771-1545.

SOUTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HORTICULTURE COURSES -- WINTER 1986:

Nursery Operations, Winter Plant I.D., Landscape Design, Pruning, Advanced Tree Pruning & Repair, Plant Diseases, Irrigation Systems Design Project, Interior Landscaping. 764-5336.

LAKE WASHINGTON VOC. TECH. INSTITUTE:

Offers training in nursery and greenhouse operations through its environmental horticulture program. For information call Don Marshall at 828-5621 or 828-3311.

### WOMEN IN HORTICULTURE

Tuesday, February 25, 1986. 6:00 to 9:00 PM at C.U.H. Co-sponsored by the Center for Urban Horticulture and the Association for Women in Landscaping.

A special opportunity to meet your colleagues and find out what they are doing. Special guest speaker: Jean Donahue on a "New look at Networking -- Utilizing Networking as Professional Horticulturists."

There is a fee and pre-registration is required. For the complete program call 543-8616 or 546-3016 after 5 PM.



## HORTICULTURE RESEARCH NOTES

By Dr. Barbara Smit-Spinks.

I will try to pass along research results from our research group at the Center for Urban Horticulture, published reports, and news from meetings. Often times, these data may still be preliminary and not directly applicable to landscape situations; hopefully, it will indicate what work is being done and suggest the answers of the future.

Root system structure. Susan Sjaastad-Hill, graduate student at C.U.H., has been conducting a study comparing the water uptake characteristics of black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) and tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) because of the extreme differences in the structure of their root systems. Black cottonwood has a fibrous root system composed of many, fine roots while tulip tree has a fleshy root system made up of fewer, coarse roots. Her study has quantified the differences in these root system types by measuring root length, surface area, number and spacing of laterals, volume and dry weight. At the same time, she has measured the root hydraulic conductivity, a measure of the ability of a root system to absorb and transport water to the plant shoot. This study has shown that under conditions where water is freely available, the fibrous root system of the cottonwood is better able to provide water to its leaves. Not only that, but since cottonwood has a far greater length of roots in a root system of comparable weight than a tulip tree, it should be better able to find and absorb water under conditions in which water is limiting or soils are poor conductors of water.

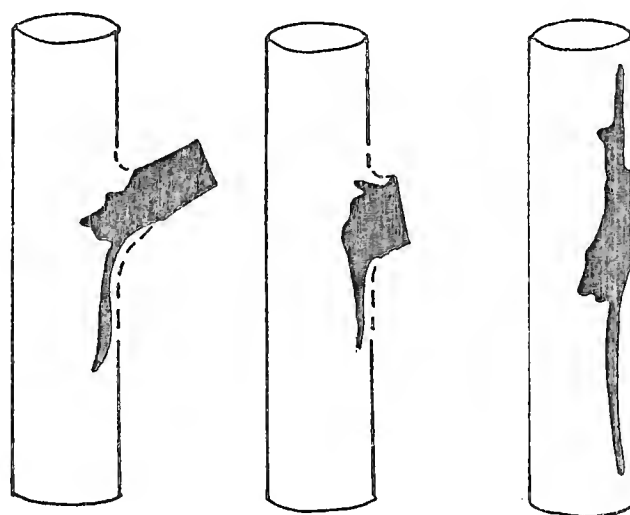
Although there is more work to be done, our early results suggest that fibrous root systems are more efficient for water uptake. Field studies can now be used to determine if root system type can be used to select plants for poor sites or to suggest the likelihood that a plant will do well on a particular site based on water availability and soil characteristics.

## MORE SUPPORT FOR COLLAR PRUNING

Research conducted on peach trees at the U.S.D.A. Appalachian Fruit Research Station in West Virginia seems to support the benefits of collar pruning over the traditional flush cut method. In this research three types of pruning cuts were evaluated -- stub, collar, and flush. Collar cuts resulted in the least dieback, *Cytospora* fungal infection, and internal discoloration (Fig. 1). Stub cuts showed the most dieback and internal discoloration. Flush cuts resulted in more *Cytospora* infection and gumming than either collar or stub cuts.

Figure 1

### INTERNAL DISCOLORATION



STUB

COLLAR

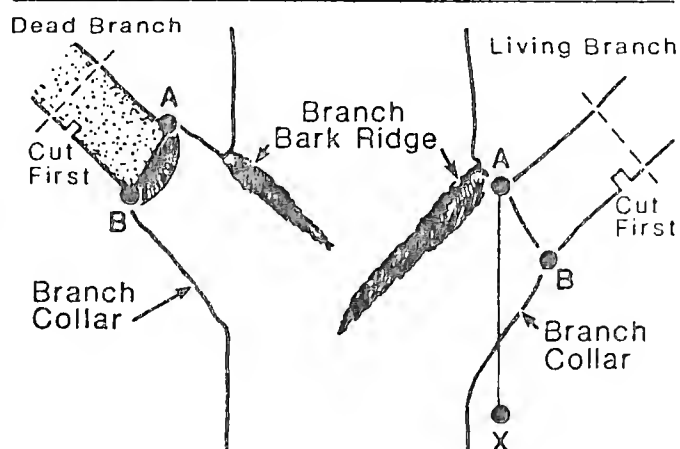
FLUSH

Collar pruning is the practice of making cuts just outside the branch collar and branch bark ridge (Fig. 2). This type of cut leaves a slight protrusion, but not a stub.

According to Dr. Alex Shigo, of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in New Hampshire, the tissues in the branch collar area are able to form a protective barrier which helps prevent microorganisms from entering. The practice of flush cutting removes these tissues. Flush cuts also leave a larger wound than collar cuts.

Figure 2

### Hardwoods



Reference: Wilson, Charles L. et al. 1984. Pruning Technique Affects Dieback and *Cytospora* Infection in Peach Trees. *HortScience* 19:251-253.

