

Everything in life is patterned after a plan of some type... whether the plan is the result of THINKING or of AIMLESSNESS, yet it is a pattern that develops and guides an individual's earthly destiny. A right plan, carried out, is the best guarantee to security.

Dutch Elm Disease Threatens Area With Financial Losses

By GIL HERMAN

Dutch elm disease, the fungus infection that spells death to American elms, poses a two-fold threat to Birmingham and surrounding areas.

First, because of the high concentration of elm population locally, and the deadly nature of the disease, the area is threatened with the loss of many of its finest shade trees.

Half of Birmingham's trees are elms. In some parts of the city the concentration of elms is 75 per cent.

All of these trees are being threatened with death by Dutch elm disease.

If the disease is not controlled, streets will be denuded.

THE SECOND phase of this



City to Conduct Dead Wood Pick-up In Dutch Elm Fight

City Forester William Debold and William Love of the Michigan state department of agriculture cooperated in presenting a movie film on Dutch elm disease at the Monday noon luncheon of the Birmingham Rotary club.

Debold told Rotarians one way to check the disease is to destroy all dead elm wood in the area.

Dead elm wood provides the incubators in which the elm bark beetle is hatched. It is this beetle that spreads the fungus infection of Dutch elm disease from dead and unhealthy wood to healthy trees.

He said the city will cooperate with citizens by conducting a city-wide pickup of dead elm wood on Monday, April 12.

Citizens having collections of elm wood are asked to move such wood to the edges of curbs. If they will do so, city trucks will pick up the wood and dispose of it.

only 30 cents per tree, Scanlon said.

In the city of Birmingham alone there are 16,000 elm trees. If they all were to die, and the cost of removing them averaged \$34 per tree, the ultimate cost would be tremendous—\$544,000!

Obviously a control program in an effort to save the trees and the beauty they lend to the city streets is worthwhile.

BUT ONCE Dutch elm disease has entered a community, it means expense. Birmingham has spent \$7,000 this year in its control program.

Included in this expenditure is the purchase of a new type spraying machine which produces a mist spray used to envelop branches of trees with DDT solutions to kill elm bark beetles, the insects responsible for the spread of the disease.

With this machine the city forestry department of Birmingham already has begun its spraying program.

William Lebold, city forester, said this week that it is the plan of his department to have all elm trees on public land sprayed with DDT by the time the spring hatch of the fungus carrying beetles takes place.

LEBOLD also is urging private citizens to take steps to spray trees on their property. The city sprayer will cover elms that are as close to the sidewalk as five feet, but there isn't enough time or equipment for the city sprayers to care for all trees on private property.

There are several private companies that are equipped to spray for Dutch elm disease, and if interested citizens will call me, I'll be glad to make recommendation as to how they can get their private trees sprayed, said Lebold.

He urged that citizens act to spray their trees now.

"This is the most important time of the year for spraying to control these elm bark beetles," Lebold said. "It is the spring hatch of beetles that is mostly responsible for the spread of the disease."

HE CALLED ON Subdivision groups also to join in the fight, stating that he would cooperate to the fullest in any effort to control the disease.

That the disease can be controlled is brought out by the experience of the town of Greenwich, Conn.

Joseph A. Dietrich, superintendent of parks and trees in Greenwich, states that in 1946, when rigorous control was first applied to his city's Dutch elm disease problem, 186 diseased trees were found among an approximate 6,000 elm tree population.

Success of the program is shown by the following report of losses to Dutch elm disease in subsequent years:

In 1947, 114 trees were lost; 1948, 51 trees; 1949, 46 trees; 1950, 53 trees; 1951, 28 trees; 1952, 24 trees; and in 1953 another 24 trees were lost.

DIETRICH added that, with scientists studying new methods of control with promising results, the disease may be eventually eradicated.

Lebold pointed out that control



BIRMINGHAM'S NEW "MIST TYPE" TREE SPRAYING MACHINE
Paul Breniser directs DDT fog on elm tree on Webster street. (Eccentric Photo)

measures are especially vital in Birmingham and surrounding areas.

"This area is blessed by a large amount of young elm trees. Their owners and their owners' children can expect to enjoy these trees for 50 to 100 years. But to do so, the disease must be controlled," said Lebold.

"Another thing that should stimulate owners of these trees to take steps to protect them is the value they lend to property. Trees increase the value of real estate by a great deal," Lebold stressed.

AVERAGE COST of spraying a private tree ranges from \$3 to \$7. Cost of removing a tree ranges from \$30 to \$200 depending on the size of the tree.

"In view of this, it is apparent that it is both economical and worthwhile to have trees sprayed," Lebold said.

Seek Team Backing
Local sponsors are being sought for a Birmingham softball team to play in the Pontiac Class B recreation league this summer. League officials explain that it costs \$27 to uniform and equip each player in the league. Interested persons are asked to contact Rog Reynolds at the Neighborhood Hardware, 1228 So. Woodward.

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J. ALLEN HARWOOD, 1932
Melton, has been appointed manager of the newly formed Sales Administration Department of the Tractor and Implement Division Ford Motor Company, according to O. L. Wigton, general sales manager. Since joining Ford in August, 1953, Harwood has served as assistant manager, Parts Sales Department. From 1947 to 1953, he was associated with Dearborn Motors, former national marketing organization for the Ford tractor and Dearborn farm equipment, as assistant parts sales manager and as advertising budget supervisor.

PLAY IT SAFE

Rubbish Fire Needs Extra Alertness

If you have a vacant lot next door or at the rear of your house that has grown up with high weeds, every precaution should be taken when burning papers, rubbish, etc., adjacent to it.

With the coming of spring, the danger from grass fires increases. Grass and high weeds should be cut and raked up as much as possible, getting them away from garages, outbuildings and shrubbery. With a slight breeze a grass fire can travel far and do much damage in less time than it takes to call the fire department.

If you have grass or rubbish to burn you should first come to the fire department and apply for a burning permit.

THE MAN on duty will tell you if you are in an area where burning is permissible and if the wind conditions are right to burn. If so, a permit will be issued to you free of charge.

Don't burn up your own or your neighbor's garage or shrubbery. "PLAY IT SAFE!" Check with the fire department for a permit and approval, then survey the area to determine that should the fire get out of control, would it cause any damage.

A garden hose and broom would be of great assistance in controlling a grass fire until the fire department arrives. Have a charged hose handy with the water shut off at the nozzle, prior to starting the fire. Then, if necessary, you can quickly bring it into play.

Remember, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Prepared as a public service by members of the BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPT.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

MRS. CHARLES BLUNT, 2580 Broadway: "After reading about the awful power of the hydrogen bomb, it makes one wonder why men strive so hard to produce an instrument which will destroy in a matter of seconds what taken centuries to build. Be that as it may, I am firmly convinced that we should borrow an idea from England and begin to plan what we will do should an H-bomb attack be made on our country. The British successfully worked out an evacuation program for their large cities, stressing the safety of the children who are most important. I feel that we in the United States should give a great deal of serious thought to a like approach and prepare ourselves for any eventuality."

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