

public at large and to the elected officials concerning tree problems, as well as the effect of the city environment along the main roads, 2) supported the associations that promote and protect the tree, 3) inventoried the historical trees, 4) encouraged the initiation of a research program whereby the big agricultural laboratories and the Forestry Commission collaborate, 5) established relations with foreign-constituted associations such as the Tree Council and ISA, and 6) proposed a legal status for the tree. We are now training a qualified and competent staff, are able to manage the plantations and to intervene on behalf of the tree according to its needs and to its environment, and we encourage and continue to plant trees.

Very interesting initiatives have been undertaken in two departments in eastern France. While inventorying the aged and degraded road plantations, a thorough study began, taking into account a plan of renewal and long-term management with

harvestable tree species, the profit from which should cover the maintenance and replacement expenses and still maintain a quality tree heritage for the whole of this territory. Quite obviously this represents a vast program.

I am here on my own behalf, in charge of no mission and invested with no power. Nevertheless, I know that there are many of us in France that wish a quick change in the situation in favor of the tree. We still need advice and need to be able to benefit from all experiences. I hope that we will be able to establish the links of a profitable collaboration, and that I will be able to take back to France your encouragement to all those people who are following this path. Possibly we shall have the privilege in the near future to receive you in our country.

*Foret de l'ile de France*  
13 Avenue de Villers  
91360 Villemoisson-sur-Orge  
FRANCE

---

## Abstract

SIEVERT, R. C., JR. 1985. **Shade tree commissions and ordinances: do they help or hinder?** *Arbor Age* 5(10):32-34.

Voluntary shade tree commissions have been set up in many cities and villages and have led to total tree management programs. Shade tree commissions are the most successful way for small towns of less than 25,000 people to manage their trees. Such agencies are established by ordinances and consist of both residents and municipal officials. Their powers and duties may cause them to be either advisory or authoritarian. Occasionally the advisory shade tree commissions become the authority because they are considered to be the resident tree experts. In addition to establishing the shade tree commission, many municipal tree ordinances deal with other aspects of tree care, preservation, and promotion. There are some specific ways in which utility foresters can work with shade tree commissions. For example, when street tree brochures are put together, the utility companies may want to help supply input on the contents—as well as assistance with the printing costs. Some communities have established small tree nurseries. Utility companies may be able to work with them by providing small, maturing trees for nursery use. Most shade tree commissions recognize the need to remove hazardous trees. Utility companies can cooperate in removals that help both parties.