

tools, and equipment. A passing grade is 75 in each part. Each exam must be passed. A different exam is given each year. An applicant who fails may re-apply the next year. Any grievances would be submitted to the CAPD Board.

When an applicant applies he is sent a brochure explaining the program and a list of recommended study materials along with an application. It is explained to the candidate that CAPD members must attend at least one educational meeting on tree care per year.

We also have a brochure available to garden clubs, municipalities, and other interested groups and individuals which explains the certification program. Along with this brochure is sent a directory of the names and addresses of the Certified Arborists. This directory also includes a statement that CAPD is not responsible for the work of its members.

Our Good Points and Some Problems

We feel that we worked hard in developing our program. We tried to think of problems that may develop before we finalized the program. We believe the exams are difficult enough to be worthwhile. A candidate must study and review to prepare in order to pass the exams. We have about a 50% passing rate.

We believe the exams *must* be difficult enough to demand study or the program will not be worthwhile.

Problems. Because of the degree of difficulty of the exams I feel some potential certified arborists are hesitant to take the exams. They feel that they can't pass.

Publicity. We are trying to get articles into newspapers and other periodicals concerning our certification program. We feel it is important to make the public aware of what is available to them. We have also done some advertising in local papers as a group of Certified Arborists in our area. Overall, we feel we have a good program and we want more people to take advantage of it.

Policing. We feel that by making the exams difficult enough to be worthwhile and making sure of an applicant's credentials, the type person we are certifying is going to do quality work. If a case arises where we receive justifiable complaints against an individual, the Board of Directors has the power through the Constitution and By-Laws to take action.

In conclusion, I feel we have developed a good program. We would like more arborists to become certified and we want to publicize our program so that the public is more aware of it. Certification is a step in the right direction to improving the profession of arboriculture.

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ABSTRACT

VAN DE WERKEN, H. 1984. **Why use obsolete fertilizer practices.** Am. Nurseryman 159(7): 65-71.

Obsolete recommendations concerning tree fertilization are still found in current publications. They erroneously relate the amount of fertilizer to be applied to trunk diameter, when it should be based on the spread of the tree's root system. Also, the formulations that are recommended, such as 5-10-5, 4-12-4, or 6-12-12, are based on tests with agronomic field crops rather than shade trees. Despite three decades of scientifically designed tests by horticulturists and arborists, and extensive publication of their work, few practitioners pay attention to their findings. Many extension workers, garden writers, and book authors continue to perpetuate obsolete concepts.