

however, probably showing a great respect for the environment.

Road salt is also a problem in Scandinavia, especially in the southern parts, with the rapidly changing weather patterns. Many trees suffer when melting water mixed with salt gets into the rootsystem. In Denmark, street trees are protected during the winter with shelters made of reed.

The future. Most important for the future is that we give our trees a secure place in our society. Today trees are squeezed in between all other activities and interests. We have to give the trees both space above and below ground in order to optimize their development. We have to make the right choice of tree for the site in which it will grow. Trees should be of the correct provenance and with the genetic capability to form strong boundaries against decay. These have the best chance to survive. Today most of our young trees are imported and of an inappropriate provenance. In the future we also must make higher demands

concerning tree quality. Trees of low quality cause problems later on. Costs should not be the prime consideration when choosing a tree. Planting must be done with great care. We must not just prepare the hole and then forget the surroundings into which the roots will grow. Most importantly, after a tree is established, the crown must be pruned correctly and checked constantly. When pruning is carried out early in a tree's life, small operations will have a great effect on its future size, form and health, with the advantage of a small pruning cut and rapid closure of the wound.

What we need is more knowledge and the will to put this knowledge into practice. I am hopeful that the establishment of the ISA chapter in Scandinavia will contribute to the spread of sound information and a better attitude towards tree care in the future.

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Abstract

RAY, BOB. 1987. **Save trees before construction damage hits.** *Am. Nurseryman* 165(4): 88-90.

New roadways, drainage areas and utilities are a part of modern urban development. However, many property buyers assume that the builder or developer has taken care so that the trees won't die. They realize their mistake when it's too late and the trees are already declining. When I tell owners that their trees are dying from soil compaction, earth fill and gas caused by decaying vegetation left on the original grade, the disappointment they feel is often devastating. Many times clients purchased their property primarily because of the existing trees. I have seen several customers sell their homes as a result of tree loss. It is my opinion that construction damage kills more trees annually than all insects and diseases combined. I am convinced that this type of tree loss can be prevented. Had I been called before construction began, my advice could have prevented the problem altogether.