

the system is viable by comparing each specific objective and the types of reports generated with that of the package. The software package that most closely matches your needs should be given the most serious consideration. It is doubtful whether any package will meet all your needs, however, the availability of modifications should be an important consideration. On the other hand, you may have to sacrifice some of your system requirements for the convenience of purchasing a pre-programmed software package.

### Conclusion

The role of the manager in the development of a computerized plant information system is to consider its overall feasibility and to determine the scope and function of the system in an operation environment. A preliminary needs assessment provides the ability to complete these two functions. After this assessment is completed, the manager should assess the technical and economic limitations of the system. In most cases, computer personnel or a consultant will be required to perform this function.

At some point during this process, the manager is faced with three separate options. The first

choice is to not proceed with system development since it is operationally, technically or economically impractical. The second choice is to "make" system software by utilizing the services of a programmer or systems analyst. With the preliminary needs assessment completed, the manager is able to communicate the system requirements precisely to the computer expert. The third choice is the "purchase" of a pre-programmed software package from a vendor that specializes in plant management systems. Usually this is the most economical and convenient solution as long as it meets the basic system requirements.

### Literature Cited

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## ABSTRACT

FLEMER, WILLIAM III. 1989. **Correcting pruning mistakes.** Ground Maintenance 24(6):10-12, 14, 16, 20-21.

Too many grounds managers and landscape maintenance firms inherit trees and shrubs that have been improperly pruned by their predecessors. Ideally, plantings should be designed so that remedial pruning can be kept at a minimum. Some problems with ill-tended landscape planting can be solved by corrective pruning and some cannot. Whether better pruning will be effective depends upon the kind of plant that is in bad condition. Deciduous trees and shrubs regenerate much more quickly than broadleaf evergreens and, in most cases, they look quite presentable after the first season's growth following a severe pruning. There are borderline cases when it is hard to decide whether a big, old tree should be cut back and shaped, or felled and replaced with a younger tree. There are no hard-and-fast rules. It depends on the condition of the tree. One of the most common shrub pruning mistakes is cutting them into globe or umbrella shapes with hedging shears. If long-time poor pruning has created ornamental shapes that are expensive to maintain, the best solution is to cut deciduous shrubs to the ground, leaving 4-in. stubs from which new canes can regenerate.