

tion requires the expertise of a qualified professional plantsman. I believe this is particularly true regarding the factors of condition and location. It is a known fact that IRS, for example, will place more emphasis on accurate professional judgment and a well documented report than on a theoretical use of the Guide.

To aid the professional plantsman in placing realistic percentage values on condition and location factors, material in the Guide has been greatly expanded. Tables and other information are given to enable the appraiser to determine the age of the tree, life expectancy, and methods of calculating percentage values for various factors of tree condition. A list of diagnostic factors to consider in appraisals is included in the text.

Information on the location factor has also been greatly expanded, particularly in the area of functional or 'benefit' values of trees. Insurance and IRS casualty claims have been covered more adequately than in prior editions of the Guide.

As mentioned, there are differences of opinion on the best method of procedure in establishing values dependent upon certain factors or conditions. To mention a few:

1) Should the homeowner be reimbursed in full for replacement of a high rated tree if the one destroyed by a casualty is a low rating species?

2) The best method of determining the value of multi-trunked trees. The method advocated in the Guide has led to some confusion.

3) How best to establish values when species and condition factors, condition, and location fac-

tors overlap.

4) Should the functional or benefit factors of a tree be separated from the location factor and specified as a fifth factor?

5) Should some numerical system be designed to calculate values of trees over 40 inches in trunk diameter?

Certain errors occur in the publication. Three typographical errors have been noted to date. In Table 5, page 12, the basic value of a 10-inch diameter tree should be \$1,413 instead of \$1,143 as listed. The same correction should be made in Class I, 100%. On page 18, the reference number for Webster should be 15 and not 12. On page 35, Section 6a, the paragraph should read: "Personal casualty loss. A casualty or theft loss on property used solely for personal purposes is deductible only to the extent that the loss exceeds \$100.00 for each casualty or theft."

In conclusion, the Council would like to thank all persons who have contributed information for revision four of the Guide. It is also hoped that corrections noted, and suggestions for improvement of the Guide, will be forwarded to a member of the Council. It is the desire of all concerned that the Guide, or its subsequent revisions, will continue to be the basic guide for professional, consulting arborists, and horticulturists.

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## ABSTRACT

Bergman, Ernest L. 1978. **Nutrition and its role in plant production.** American Nurseryman 158(7): 8, 63, 66.

Plant nutrition is too often discussed without taking into consideration the limiting factors for plant production provided by nature, such as climate, soil and crop characteristics. Only after these have been properly evaluated can man improve plant production through nutrition. There are 17 elements recognized today as being essential for a plant. Moisture and soil temperature will definitely affect availability. The soil of every new seedbed or transplant plot should be tested before anything is put into it. Compost is excellent as organic matter, but it is extremely poor as a source of nutrients. In sandy soils, there is more movement of applied nutrients than in heavier clay soils. Soil pH, as such, has no direct effect on the plants; however, some of the elements become less available with a higher pH.