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## ABSTRACTS

MERRILL, GORY. 1982. **Reflections of an urban forester**. Am. Forests 88(10): 30-34.

Throughout my growing up with trees, I always looked toward the wildlands for forests. I never perceived the urban forest within which the trees of my life were growing. In the early years, "forestry" in the city was equated with mere street-tree maintenance, oriented to the present. Experience has since taught us that maintenance alone will be forever ineffectual without coordination and planning for future plantings.

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"What's wrong with this plant?" More than 50% of the problems are attributable to factors other than insects or mites. Poor cultural practices, various physiological disorders, and improper planting sites are often responsible. The mere presence of insects or mites on the sample does not mean that they are the cause of the problem. Applying pesticides is not the solution to every pest problem. By the time many people notice a problem and bring in a sample, it is often too late to do anything about it. Plants exhibit various types of symptoms when insects and mites feed. Often these symptoms persist on the plant long after the pest is gone. Knowing which pest causes which symptoms helps to determine what the problem is, even if the pest is not present on the sample used for diagnosis. Symptoms of pest damage can be grouped into five broad categories. They are (1) missing plant parts, (2) discoloration, (3) distortion, (4) dead plant parts or dieback, and (5) accumulations of substances that pests leave behind, such as spittle, excrement, honeydew, or cottony material.