

penetration problem is related to the depositional crust at the bottom of the furrow.

It should be noted that the crust-breaking operation requires an average of approximately 0.45 kWh/acre of energy, whereas the savings in irrigation energy requirements owing to reduced losses in transporting the water from the source to the field are approximately 3.4 kWh/acre for the tomato crop in the Central Valley. It is not practical to have a separate crust-breaking operation prior to each irrigation event. However, the crust-breaking operation can easily be combined with other operations, such as field cultivations (normally two to three), sidedressing and/or post-emergence herbicide application.

Tomato yield data obtained in each of the subplots were based on two measurements of yield on a bed about 10 feet (3 m) long. These yields are quite high, ranging from 33 tons/acre to 41 tons/acre, with a mean of 37.5 tons/acre. We did not attempt to correlate the yield data with the crust-management technique (cultivated versus uncultivated), because we did not alter the irrigation practice to account for infiltration differences.

Conclusions

Based on the results of this study, we reached the following conclusions:

1. A device was successfully developed to break the depositional crust near the bottom of a furrow-irrigated tomato crop to enhance infiltration rate.

2. Breaking the crust on the sides of the bed near the bottom of the furrow with a torpedo-shaped crust breaker increased the infiltration significantly in a furrow-irrigated tomato crop in a Yolo loam soil. The average increase was 29.6%.

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Trees create shade, reduce noise and provide wildlife habitat, as well as make neighborhoods more attractive.

Community programs promote tree care

Robert Sommer

Trees provide shade, reduce noise and make cities more attractive, among other benefits, but their survival depends on long-term care from humans. A survey of residents in three California cities found that people who planted trees themselves were more satisfied with the outcome than residents whose trees were planted by a city employee or a developer. Residents who participated in an organized planting program were also more likely to receive information on tree maintenance. Overall, 90% of the program participants received maintenance information, compared with only 16% of the nonparticipants.

Reduced municipal budgets have had serious consequences for tree-planting and maintenance programs throughout California. Responsibility for trees

has shifted from city governments to nonprofit organizations. There are currently 55 local tree-planting organizations affiliated with California ReLeaf, a coordinating group with headquarters in San Francisco. Urban forestry in California relies on partnerships between the private sector, government and these local organizations.

Research has shown that trees make cities more attractive (improve visual aesthetics), raise property values, provide shade (which can lower energy consumption in summer), reduce noise and water runoff and provide wildlife habitat.

Evidence is also accumulating that tree planting can be an important tool in neighborhood and civic revitalization. In turn, the health and survival of city trees require neighborhood action. Forest trees can grow independent of human intervention, but city trees during their early years are almost completely dependent on humans for their

survival. It is not enough merely to select suitable varieties of trees and get them into the ground; they must be protected and cared for on a long-term basis. Urban forester Morgan Grove, who has been assisting community programs in Baltimore, remarks, "We don't know if we are organizing communities to plant trees or planting trees to organize communities." The approximately 1,500 trees planted in Baltimore's community program have an 80% survival rate, compared to a 50% rate for plantings by city crews.

Survey of residents' satisfaction

In 1993, the U.S. Forest Service funded a multifaceted study as part of a national initiative to plant more trees in urban areas and improve their survival rate. Other researchers are looking at water and soil issues and at the effects of trees on air quality and noise suppression. Our objective was to discern which attributes of street trees are valued most by city residents and to find ways to encourage proprietary attitudes so homeowners will maintain these trees properly.

Our research focused on urban tree-planting programs in California. We compared residents who had planted trees themselves, either as part of an organized program or independently, with residents in the same communities whose trees had been planted by the city or a developer. We compared satisfaction levels with the species planted, the way the planting was done, access to tree-maintenance information (which is considered essential for long-term tree health) and

the social benefits of being part of a neighborhood program.

To locate programs that emphasized community participation, we contacted state and local forestry personnel who identified several California cities where we could compare trees planted by voluntary organizations and those planted by outside agencies. We selected programs in cities where the organizations had a high level of involvement with their residents.

The first study was done in 1993 in three Fresno neighborhoods where tree planting had been coordinated by Tree Fresno, which started in 1985 as an independent, volunteer-based organization. The next two studies took place in 1994 and 1995 in Sacramento and Galt, where plantings had been coordinated by the Sacramento Tree Foundation (STF). Started in 1982 as an all-volunteer organization, the foundation expanded rapidly. In 1990 it began a major initiative sponsored by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District to plant 50,000 trees a year for 10 years.

In each location we obtained a list of addresses where trees had been planted under the sponsorship of a community program. Two researchers walked through the neighborhoods to ascertain that the planted trees still existed. These visits were also used to record the addresses of nearby houses with street trees of similar size and shape. We constructed a 20-item questionnaire to assess respondents' attitudes toward their trees and the neighborhood. The format was similar to

that of other tree surveys conducted by our research team. Questions were multiple choice, with space at the end for written comments.

The survey was mailed to residents. Because the envelopes were addressed without peoples' names, we added a personal touch to the letters. The resident's address and the researcher's return address were handwritten in blue ink. The cover letter was personally signed by a researcher, who included a handwritten note at the bottom indicating the resident's tree species and location in the yard. Three weeks after the initial mailing, a follow-up letter containing another copy of the questionnaire and a return envelope was sent to all nonresponding households. Return rate exceeded 50%, and there was no indication of nonrespondent bias. On the basis of their responses, residents were classified as to whether they had been part of a community planting program, then further classified as to whether or not they had planted the trees themselves. The survey queried their satisfaction with various aspects of tree planting, including staking the tree, location in the yard, and satisfaction with the species planted. Other questions concerned satisfaction with the tree species and location, whether or not the homeowner wanted the tree removed or replaced, the degree of neighbor contact during planting and access to maintenance information.

Benefits of community programs

Among the groups, there were significant differences in satisfaction with the way the tree had been staked or supported when it was planted, the location selected for the tree, the way the tree was being maintained, the impact of the tree on the yard and the neighborhood, the desire to have the tree replaced, the wish that a different species had been planted originally and overall satisfaction with the tree (table 1). On all of these items, residents whose trees were planted by a developer or by the city were less satisfied with the outcome than were residents whose trees were planted as part of a community program or who

TABLE 1. Satisfaction with tree as related to program participation and tree planting

Item	Program participants		Not in program		Significant differences between columns*
	Planted tree (n=117)	Did not plant tree (n=41)	Planted tree (n=42)	Did not plant tree (n=107)	
 Mean Level of Satisfaction†				
Staking of tree	4.25	4.17	3.88	3.46	1, 2 > 4
Location of tree	4.14	4.22	4.34	3.72	1, 2, 3 > 4
Quality of maintenance	4.17	4.05	4.17	3.71	1, 3 > 4
Improvement to yard	4.57	4.41	4.82	3.84	1, 3 > 4
Improvement to neighborhood	4.47	4.00	4.71	4.08	1, 3 > 4; 3 > 2
Overall opinion of tree	4.14	3.88	4.29	3.37	1, 2, 3 > 4
Desire to have tree removed	4.10	3.98	4.50	3.30	1, 2, 3 > 4
Desire for a different species	3.55	3.20	3.83	2.62	1, 3 > 4

*All differences significant at the 0.001 level.

†5 = highest; 1 = lowest.

selected and planted the tree themselves.

Because people associated with a community program were more likely to have planted trees themselves, a statistical technique (partial correlation) was used to separate the effects of program membership from planting the tree oneself. This showed that planting the tree oneself was a more important contributor to resident satisfaction with the tree than was program membership.

Membership in an organized program made an enormous difference in whether or not the respondent received information on tree maintenance.

Overall, 90% of the program participants received maintenance information, compared with only 16% of the nonparticipants. This is important because an evaluation of a 1986 planting by the Sacramento Tree Foundation indicated that attendance at an initial tree-planting demonstration increases tree survival. Almost two-thirds (63%) of the program participants said they would contact the program if the tree became sick, compared with only 13% of the nonprogram people. The other information sources listed, such as nurseries, a garden guide, a friend or a neighbor, were mentioned in almost equal proportion by program participants and nonparticipants. Participation in an organized program did not diminish the use of other resources but provided an important additional option.

The most evident social benefits of community planting programs were in neighbor assistance and friendships. There was more neighbor assistance among program participants than among nonparticipants, which led participants to become better acquainted with their neighbors. Interviews con-



ducted at planting sessions revealed instances of neighbors meeting for the first time. However, the community-building aspects of tree planting extend beyond putting trees in the ground. The decision to plant trees reflects a commitment to the future. There is a saying that a garden expresses a commitment for a season, while a tree expresses a commitment for a lifetime.

Voluntary organizations are shifting their emphasis from planting to maintenance. As an example, the Sacramento Tree Foundation has created a separate organization to inspect elm trees for signs of Dutch elm disease. Trained volunteers visit designated blocks and report back to the city, which is responsible for removing infected trees. Volunteers receive technical information on tree health and disease and also learn how to work with city agencies to maintain the health of a valuable local resource. This type of partnership is typical of the new urban forestry.

In conclusion, this study shows that involvement in planting trees, either done independently or as part of a

Tree planting in San Francisco's Sunset District was coordinated by Friends of the Urban Forest. Trees were brought to a central location for distribution to the neighborhoods.

community program, increases satisfaction with the tree. Relative to planting trees independently, membership in a community program brings additional advantages in terms of neighbor assistance and access to technical information, both of which have been found to enhance tree survival.

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Further reading

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