

# Working Smarter

## Education and Training Opportunities in Urban Forestry

### Part Three - Technical College Courses

by Michael Wendt

Milwaukee Area Technical College

**T**he Wisconsin Technical College System is a valuable resource for education in many fields including tree care. Milwaukee Area Technical College offers a 2 year associate degree in Horticulture. Many professionals responsible for tree care take courses at MATC to gain knowledge or sharpen existing skills in work related courses.

Specific MATC courses of interest are:

- ☞ *Landscape Plants* - Students start with a basic course on tree and shrub identification. This is followed by the advanced tree course and advanced shrub course where cultural requirements and cultivars are emphasized.
- ☞ *Tree Maintenance* - Hands-on tree care including proper planting, pruning, fertilizing, repair and removal of trees are taught. Introduces climbing, rigging and equipment.

- ☞ *Landscape Maintenance* - Combination lecture and hands-on training in proper planting and care of the landscape. Special emphasis on maintenance as it relates to plant health care issues.
- ☞ *Tree Maintenance Practicum* - Students develop and practice rope and saddle climbing, pruning, rigging and removal skills. Prerequisite: Tree Maintenance.
- ☞ *Exterior Plant Pests* - Common problems, pests and diseases of exterior plants are highlighted. Look for Summer offerings.
- ☞ *Integrated Pest Management* - IPM is thoroughly covered from pesticides to predators. Common pests, diseases and problems are introduced. Plant health care is stressed.

Other technical colleges that may offer courses of interest are Gateway Technical College (Racine and Kenosha), Fox Valley Technical College, Blackhawk Technical College and Madison Area Technical College.

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### Tree Inventories *continued from page 10*

prepare budget requests, generate work orders, justify staff and equipment needs, develop planting plans, target public education programs, estimate the dollar value of the tree resource, or produce charts and graphs for public presentations.

Good inventories contain a wealth of information. They provide tree managers with facts necessary for intelligent decision making and effective planning. Regardless of community size or tree population, a needs-based inventory can be a vital tool for systematically improving and protecting the community tree resource.

### References and further reading:

Miller, R.W. 1996. *Urban Forestry: Planning and Managing Urban Greenspaces*, 2nd edition. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ. 502pp.

National Arbor Day Foundation. 1994. *How to Conduct a Street Tree Inventory*. Tree City USA Bulletin No.23.

Smiley, E.T. and F.A. Barker. 1988. *Options in Street Tree Inventories*. *Journal of Arboriculture* 14(2). 🌿

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## Fort McCoy Celebrates Arbor Day, 1996



Enthusiastic preschoolers from Fort McCoy's Child Development Center braved blustery Arbor Day weather to plant pine seedlings on the army base.

Photo by Cindy Casey