

*CropHealth Advising & Research
Rural P.O. Box 28098, Kelowna, B.C.
Office phone (250) 717-1898 Website www.crophealth.com*

To:

Date:

Friday November 19, 2004

1 page from Mario Lanthier

ISA CONFERENCE - IDAHO

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture held its annual training conference in Coeur d'Alene from September 26 to 29. Three persons from the Okanagan attended (City of Kamloops, City of Kelowna, myself).

The location was the Coeur d'Alene Resort, a modern facility in a beautiful setting, but very expensive because of multiple hidden fees.

The following is a short summary of one interesting presentation.

What people really think about pruning, by Mike Kuhns, Utah State University

Results of a 2004 mail survey of residents in six cities located in Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado. The survey was mailed to 1,786 households, with 383 replies.

For the full PowerPoint presentation (the full survey is extensive and may be available), ask <mailto:mike.kuhns@usu.edu>.

1) *Question: Do you agree that tree topping decreases tree health?*

Persons who received a booklet explaining proper pruning: 50% agree.

Persons who did not receive a booklet: 30% agree. Thus, information counts.

2) *Question: If you have topped a tree, why did you do it?*

Based on 137 replies: for safety, to reduce shade, for appearance, for repair.

3) *Question: If you have topped a tree, who did it? Were you satisfied?*

Topping was done most frequently by the respondent or by a utility company.

Respondent was most satisfied with the topping when done by an arborist or a friend.

4) *Question: Which information sources do you use and trust?*

Sources of information most used are garden centers and university extension service.

Most trusted source of information on pruning is university extension or arborists.

5) *Question: How would you rate the importance of urban trees and their health?*

Scale of 1 (very low) up to 5 (very high), the mean of 378 answers was 4.1 (high).

Little difference between men and women, owners and renters, or age group.

6) *Question: How many tree-care workshops have you attended?*

Based on 356 answers, 287 persons never attended a workshop.