



Until next year

Tinsel torn and frayed, lonesome Christmas trees still dot county roads reminding passing motorists of turkey with all the trimmings, ribbons, packages begging to be opened, football playoffs and bowls, and of

course that bloated feeling that comes with eating and drinking just a little too much. But for now, it's the long wait until next holiday season. (Photo by Les Raebel)

Michigan forests could be significant fuel warehouse

Substituting wood for coal, oil and natural gas in electrical generating plants is not the answer to all of Michigan's energy problems—but wood could become a significant energy source, according to forestry expert Les M. James.

Michigan is particularly vulnerable to energy shortages because it depends on outside sources of energy, points out James, who is chairman of the Michigan State University forestry department. The state is poor in fossil fuels and produces only about four per cent of the energy it uses. We are relatively rich in forestland, however, and James feels these forests could make a significant contribution to meeting the state's energy needs.

"Michigan's forests are growing far more rapidly than they are being harvested," he observes. "This excess of annual timber growth, plus trees thinned from forest plantations, standing dead trees and the debris left over from logging operations, amounts to millions of tons of potential fuelwood."

"Trees could also be grown on forest plantations specifically for use as fuel, he suggests.

Other nonforest sources of wood for fuel might include industrial wood waste, urban residential demolitions and shade and roadside tree removals.

About a third of the unused residue of sawmills is sawdust that could go

directly into burners, James says.

Pound for pound, wood yields fewer BTUs than coal or oil, but it has the advantage of being widely available and renewable. In some parts of Michigan today, wood is already cost-competitive with fossil fuels, and as fossil fuels prices rise, wood may become even more economical.

Using wood for fuel does not have to mean the end of commercial timber production, forest recreation and woodland wildlife, James points out. Removing tree tops, branches and cull portions of central stems usually left in the woods after logging has removed the marketable timber, thinning young trees in even-age stands and removing standing dead trees would actually improve the forest habitat.

"Standing rough, rotten, cull, small and salvageable dead trees are probably the most abundant resource for wood fuel," James says. "The presence of these trees in Michigan forests greatly reduces the potential stocking of commercially desirable trees. Likewise, thinning out young trees in a forest plantation provides the trees that are left room to grow and reduces competition for water and nutrients. Periodic thinnings until a plantation stand reaches maturity could yield tons of fuelwood without reducing the ultimate yield in marketable timber."

It's not realistic to expect wood to substitute entirely for other fuels now being burned to generate electricity. It would take 66 million tons of wood and bark a year—about nine per cent of all the potential wood fuel standing in Michigan forests today—to produce the 69 billion kilowatts generated in Michigan in 1976.

Stolen tickets for Rich show are listed

Ninety-three stolen tickets to the Jan. 22 Buddy Rich concert won't be honored, according to Midge Ellis, spokesman for the Clarenceville Jazz Series.

The tickets were apparently stolen during the Dec. 5 Maynard Ferguson concert when the box office in Clarenceville High School was briefly left unlocked.

The stolen tickets were for even numbered seats in rows O, P, S, U, V, W and Y (except for O-2, 4 and 6 and P-2). They are a beige color. Persons who acquire one should notify Livonia police, Mrs. Ellis said.

New tickets in a different color will be printed and sold through the box office, she added.

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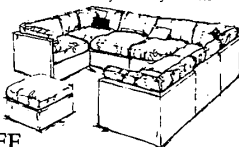
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