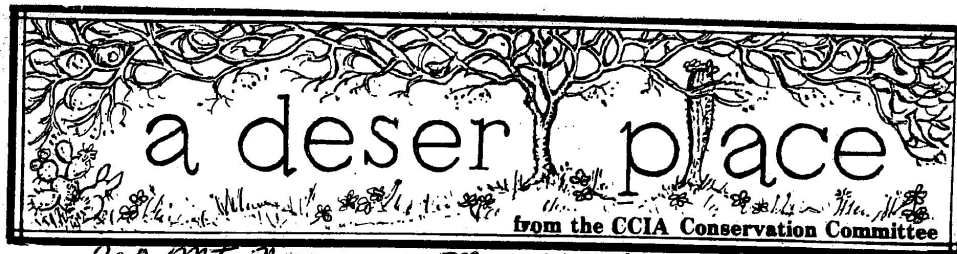


Trees' worth can't be measured



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We were happy to read in a recent *Arizona Republic* article about the system the employees of the Phoenix Parks, Recreation and Library Department use to have a constant supply of trees for use in parks and city streets. The article stated, "Trees provide shade, cleaner air and offer a beauty you can't find without them."

When we consider that 35 million tons of dust-

fall and suspended pollutant particles are added to the atmosphere each year, we should all be sad to see any tree destroyed. It takes many years for them to reach a good size. Two Ohio research scientists have developed evidence that trees may be a primary factor in preserving man's most vital resource — our atmosphere. The study showed green canopies reduced the amount of particulate

pollutants in the air. Trees do have a cleansing effect on the atmosphere. According to the American Association of Nurserymen, trees and other green-growing natural materials help to filter falling dust and other pollutants by capturing foreign particles in their leaves.

Following is a dollars and cents breakdown of the value of a tree taken from a newspaper in Portland, Ore. A tree allowed to grow for 50 years is worth over \$150,000. During this 50 years, it produces \$62,500 in air pollution control; \$37,500 in water recycling and humidity control; \$31,250 worth of oxygen and the same amount in soil benefits and wildlife shelter; and \$2,500 for food for wildlife in the form of protein taken from leaves and bark.

When viewed in these terms, a tree does indeed become valuable. Here is our lush Sonoran Desert we are fortunate to have some unique and lovely trees. Two varieties of palo verde, mesquite and ironwood are among those which grace our desert floor. So, please, before you remove the trees on your property think of them as a valuable resource, and keep in mind how long it would take to replace a mature tree. A lovely old desert tree will enhance the landscape and garden surrounding any home.

Note: Readers questions, comments and contributions are invited. Write: "A Desert Place," in care of *The Black Mountain News*, P.O. Box 1569, Cave Creek, Ariz., 85331 or leave at the news office.