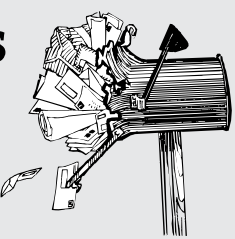


Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post
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Giant cedar tree in Multnomah Village cut down in July

Thought you might want a few photos of the removal of the Deodar Cedar (Himalayan Cedar) at 7316 SW 33rd Avenue. The tree was partially cut down on July 19, more on July 20, and then to the ground on July 21.

I counted 59 tree rings on one of the downed trunks—the tree had two major trunks. I believe that the diameter at breast height (a standard measure of

tree size) was about 69 to 71 inches. I thought the tree was older than that—but the house that was torn down was built in 1953 according to Portland Maps, so an age of about 59 years or a few more is consistent with the age of that now-demolished house.

If you need more details, don't hesitate to contact me or folks at the Multnomah Neighborhood Association.

Lesson for me: Portland's tree canopy—which is a distinctive characteristic of the city and of Multnomah Village—needs better protection.

These grand old trees are a wonderful feature of this place. My parents were in town for a visit this last week, and my dad kept remarking on the wonderful and huge trees.

We should not take these things for granted. Sure, they grow back, but these stately old trees provide shade and habitat and heck—they're just pleasant to enjoy and allow us to marvel at their majesty. I will miss this great tree. It was one of my favorites in this area.

Stewart Rounds
Multnomah

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Why do environmentalists consider Hawaii "ground zero" in the fight against genetically engineered crops?

— Michael Van, Poughkeepsie, New York

Most of us think of beaches, surfing and luaus when we think of Hawaii. But the constantly warm and moist climate actually provides some of the most productive land in the world with a never-ending growing season.

As a result, Hawaii has become a major player in commercial agriculture, and is frequently used to test new farming techniques.

Large agricultural companies moved

in on this productivity by using Hawaii for trials of new genetically engineered crops.

Monsanto and Dow Chemical both produce huge numbers of genetically modified seeds in Hawaii for distribution around the world. Some of Hawaii's more common GE crops include corn, sugarcane, and papaya, among others.

But not everyone appreciates how widespread GE crops are in Hawaii. Many local Hawaiians are upset that their homeland, otherwise a natural paradise, is used for such risky activities.

Most GE crops are designed to resist intensive chemical pesticides that kill most other plants. Around the state, vulnerable populations, including kids and the elderly, have suffered the effects of this type of chemical exposure resulting from the over-spraying of pesticides.

These issues aren't unique to Hawaii. People all over the world are increasingly wary of GE products, even as the chemical companies insist they are safe.

However, the information on long-
(Continued on Page 7)



(Photos by Stewart Rounds)

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