HK GIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 19

CRADLE FOR A GREENER COUNTRYSIDE

* * * *

TUCKED AWAY IN A REMOTE CORNER IN SHEUNG SHUI IS A SMALL NURSERY WHICH IN EFFECT IS THE CRADLE FOR A GREENER HONG KONG COUNTRYSIDE.

FOR IT IS HERE IN THE FOREST NURSERY OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AT LIN TONG MEI THAT SOME 500,000 TREE SEEDLINGS ARE RAISED EVERY YEAR FOR PLANTING IN CATCHMENT AREAS AND FOREST PLANTATIONS.

BESIDES ADDING TO THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF HONG KONG, THE YOUNG SEEDLINGS ALSO PROVIDE A PRACTICAL MEANS OF PREVENTING SOIL EROSION.

THE SEEDLINGS IN THE NURSERY MAY BE DIVIDED INTO FORESTRY STOCK AND ORNAMENTAL STOCK. THE SPECIES USED IN FORESTRY WORK ARE MAINLY ACACIA, A LOCAL SPECIES= AND SLASH PINE AND BRISBANE BOX - TWO 'EXOTICS' ORIGINALLY IMPORTED FROM FLORIDA, U.S.A., AND FROM QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.

THE ORNAMENTAL STOCK INCLUDES A NUMBER OF SPECIES, SUCH AS FLAME OF THE FOREST, SPIDER TREE, TUNG OIL TREE AND BAUHINIA WHOSE FLOWER IS PART OF HONG KONG'S CITY EMBLEM.

ACCORDING TO MR. G.C. LAW, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE NURSERY, THE TIME FROM THE INITIAL SOWING OF THE SEED OR THE MAKING OF A CUTTING TO THE TIME THE TREE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO BE TRANSPLANTED ELSEWHERE, MAY VARY FROM EIGHT MONTHS IN THE CASE OF A SMALL SEEDLING TO MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN THE CASE OF A BIG SHADE TREE OF 10-12 FEET IN HEIGHT.

AFTER GERMINATION, OFTEN UNDER STRAW, THE YOUNG SEEDLINGS ARE SHADED, WATERED AND NURSED UNTIL THEY ARE ABOUT A MONTH OLD WHEN THEY ARE TRANSPLANTED INTO SMALL POLYTHENE BAGS FILLED WITH A MIXTURE OF SOIL, COMPOST AND FERTILIZER.

DURING THE NEXT SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS THE YOUNG TREE DEVELOPS IN ITS POLYTHENE BAG REACHING A HEIGHT OF ONE FOOT OR MORE. IT IS THEN BIG ENOUGH TO BE PLANTED OUT ON THE HILLSIDES.

MR. LAW SAID THE WEATHER POSED THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN THE NURSERY SINCE EXCESSIVE RAIN OR PROLONGED DROUGHT COULD DO A LOT OF HARM TO THE SEEDLINGS. HOWEVER, THIS PROBLEM COULD BE MINIMISED BY PROPER TENDING PROCEDURES.

OTHER PROBLEMS INCLUDE INSECT PESTS, DISEASES AND WEEDS. PESTS ARE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED WITH APPROPRIATE INSECTICIDES AND FUNGICIDES, WHILE CULTURAL TECHNIQUES INVOLVING A LAYER OF WEED-FREE SUBSOIL ON TOP OF THE SOIL IN THE POLYTHENE BAG AT PLANTING TIME ASSISTS IN WEED CONTROL CONSIDERABLY.

ACCORDING TO MR. LAW, THE NURSERY IS NOW MOVING TOWARDS BIGGER PRODUCTION OF BROAD-LEAVED TREES FOR AMENITY PLANTING IN THE BARBECUE AND PICNIC PLACES BEING PROVIDED BY AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION PROGRAMME. MORE ORNAMENTAL TREES WILL ALSO BE PLANTED TO BEAUTIFY MAJOR FORESTRY PLANTATION AREAS WHICH ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR WITH PEOPLE SEEKING A COOL SHADY DAY IN THE COUNTRY.

----O----

SALISBURY ROAD TO BE EXTENDED

* * * *

SALISBURY ROAD IN KOWLOON IS TO BE EXTENDED TO LINK UP WITH THE AUSTIN ROAD EXTENSION, NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, SO AS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE FUTURE EAST TSIM SHA TSUI DEVELOPMENT AREA AND THE PROPOSED TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE.

THE ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY ABOUT 1,000 METRES LONG. IT WILL RUN ALONG THE WATER-FRONT OF THE HUNG HOM RECLAMATION.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT IS THE PROVISION OF TWO PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS AT THE JUNCTION OF CHATHAM ROAD AND SALISBURY ROAD, WHICH WILL GIVE ACCESS TO THE CHATHAM ROAD PARK, THE MIDDLE ROAD PLAYGROUND AND THE EAST TSIM SHA TSUI DEVELOPMENT AREA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID THAT EXTENSIVE TURFING AND PLANTING WERE BEING CARRIED OUT ALONG SALISBURY ROAD AS PART OF THE OVER-ALL AMENITY PLANNING FOR THE AREA.

THE EXTENSION WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

----O----