

CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY--PLANT A TREE

Arbor Day was founded 100 years ago in Nebraska--on April 10, 1872--after much urging from Julius Sterling Morton, a journalist and member of the Nebraska Board of Agriculture. He got the Board to approve a plan to give prizes to those who planted the most trees in each county on that day. In a state that badly needed trees, the plan was immediately successful. For its early leadership in tree planting, Nebraska became known as "The Tree Planters' State".

Millions of living trees, planted on Arbor Days throughout the Nation, affirm the vitality of Morton's vision.

Today all of the 50 states, plus Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, recognize Arbor Day, though the dates are different to suit the best planting season.

For many years now, Arbor Day has seemed to be a thing of the past.

But lately, people have been showing much concern for the future of Spaceship Earth. Planting a tree is one small way of activating that concern. It is one of the most rewarding tasks a man, woman, or child can perform.

Trees help supply oxygen we need to breathe.

Trees help keep our air supply fresh by using up carbon dioxide that we exhale and that factories and engines emit.

Trees use their hairy leaf surfaces to trap and filter out ash, dust, and pollen particles carried in the air.

Trees provide food for birds and wild animals.

Trees lower air temperatures by using the sun's energy to evaporate water in the leaves.

Trees increase humidity in dry climates by releasing moisture as a by-product of food-making and evaporation.

Trees give us a constant supply of products--lumber for buildings and tools, cellulose for paper and fiber; as well as nuts, mulches, oils, gums, syrups, and fruits.

Trees slow down forceful winds.

Trees shade us from direct sunlight better than any sombrero. They are welcome in parking lots on hot, sunny days.

Trees camouflage harsh scenery, and unsightly city dumps, auto graveyards, and mine sites.

Trees offer a natural challenge to youth climbers.

Tree roots hold the soil and keep silt from washing into streams.

Trees salve the psyche with pleasing shapes and patterns, fragrant blossoms, and seasonal splashes of color.

The selection of trees to be planted is important. They should be in harmony with existing plans and laws and must be suitable for climate and soil conditions. The Forest Service, the state forester, Soil Conservation Service, Extension forester, county adviser, and local nurserymen are always glad to help with selection. They will also provide guidance in planting the trees, the choice of planting tools needed, and subsequent care of the trees.

Arbor Day, April 24 this year, makes us all tree-conscious at least once a year. Remember if prior generations had not planted trees, we would not have them to enjoy now. So plant a tree this year. Future Americans will appreciate you for it.

**James A. Fizzell, Senior Extension Adviser
Horticulture, University of Illinois**

Dear Ray,

I wrote to Lennie Berg resigning my position with the M.A.G.C.S.

Ben and I will be traveling and plan on spending some of the winter in Tucson, Arizona where we purchased a home. This winter was enjoyed in Florida, Arizona and on a two week Caribbean cruise visiting and touring the islands of Oranjestad, Aruba; LaGuaira, Venezuela; Bridgetown, Barbados; St. John's, Antigua; Philipsburg, St. Maarten; Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. We were to visit Ocho Rios, Jamaica but due to the unrest we bypassed that port. We had lovely weather and the S.S. "Veendam" has to be the most immaculate ship afloat. Everything was superb - food, the stewards, the programs, orchestras, the officers and above all the cleanliness of the rooms and workers.

Last year we took a trip around the world visiting New Zealand, Australia, New Guinea, Bougainville, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Bangkok, Thailand; Delhi, India; and Cairo, Egypt on to Frankfurt, Germany and home. I rode the elephant in India and the camel in Egypt. We were gone 38 days. If and when I finish with my writing of our trip I will send you a copy.

If all goes well in September we hope to be among those Field Museumers on a tour of Kenya and the Seychelles.

Dorothy H. Warren

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