



Forest Facts

ARBOR DAY AND WEEK

February 2015

The first Arbor Day in the world took place in the small Spanish community of Villanueva de la Sierra in 1805. The first American Arbor Day was originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska, by J. Sterling Morton. On April 10, 1872, an estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska.

Today, Oregon's Arbor Week - as designated by the Oregon State legislature - is the first full week of April. As of April 2014, there are 54 Oregon cities recognized as Tree City USA (TCUSA) communities. Tree City U.S.A., sponsored by the Oregon Department of Forestry, is a program of the Arbor Day Foundation that recognizes cities with programs that plant, plan for, and care for trees.

"Trees are important to Oregon's quality of life, where we have some of the most productive forestland in the world, and some of the most livable cities around," says Paul Ries, manager of the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program. Trees and forests enhance quality of life by providing shade, economic benefits, fish and wildlife habitat,

clean, healthy streams, and by raising property values, adds Ries.

Some ways to celebrate

Thinking about how your family or city will mark the occasion? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Is there a public park or downtown area that needs cleaning up? Get a group together to pitch in and clear the area of litter. You might also plant trees, shrubs and flowers to beautify it even more.
- Is there a 5th-grader in your family? Encourage him or her to participate in the Arbor Day National Poster Contest on the Arbor Day website (www.arborday.org).
- Organize a "Big Tree" or "Oldest Tree" search in your city. Once the results are in, publish a booklet with a map listing the locations of the winners, or, try organizing a walking tour.
- City libraries might like to display books about trees and tree care. Story time for the younger children can focus on tree-related books, or help the kids make bookmarks with a tree-related theme.

Other ways to celebrate

If you're a city or county employee or community organizer, you might like to plan a more formal event. Typical activities include reading an Arbor Day Proclamation and inviting the public to join in a tree-planting activity; arranging for welcoming comments by elected officials or community leaders, and inviting scouts or veterans groups to present the flag.



Tree planting tips

Trees are frequently not given their best odds for long-term survival and growth because they are often planted too deeply. When planting a tree, never dig the hole deeper than necessary and plant the tree with the root collar at ground level or slightly (2") higher to allow for settling. Also remove all containers, wire,

plastic and string from the trunk and roots before planting.

Fertilizing at the time of planting is not necessary but the tree should be deeply watered after planting.

Common symptoms of newly planted trees that have been too deeply planted include yellow foliage, fall color that comes earlier than usual, and leaf drop.

Arbor Day around the world

Many countries around the world have an annual day set aside to recognize the importance of trees and to plant them. In Australia, children and adults alike plant trees for National Schools Tree Day in July. In India, an annual tree planting - first initiated in 1950 - takes place in July with a full week of activities and tree-planting events.

Other countries that celebrate trees in a special way every year include Niger, Israel, Portugal, the Philippines and the Netherlands.

To learn more about Arbor Week:

www.arborday.org//oregon/.

More information about trees:

www.treesaregood.com.