



ARBOR DAY 2007

INFORMATION SHEET

Background

Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and tree care. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in the state of Nebraska in 1872, in response to a state proclamation urging settlers and homesteaders in that prairie state to plant trees that would provide shade, shelter, fruit, fuel, and beauty for residents of the largely treeless plains. On that first Arbor Day, more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska's communities and on its farms.

The Arbor Day idea was promoted by J. Sterling Morton, editor of the *Nebraska City News*, who later helped the idea spread to neighboring states and eventually to all of the United States and many other nations.

Today, Arbor Day celebrations are held in communities all over America, with the date determined by the best tree planting times in each area. Celebrations are held as early as January and February in some southern states, and as late as May in more northern locations. National Arbor Day is observed on the last Friday in April.

Background excerpt taken from the National Arbor Day Foundation's Arbor Day website

The National Arbor Day Foundation address <http://www.arborday.org/>

For lots of ideas about how to observe and celebrate Arbor Day in your community, write for their free "Celebrate Arbor Day!" booklet. Send your name and address and the words "Celebrate Arbor Day! Booklet" to:

The National Arbor Day Foundation
100 Arbor Avenue
Nebraska City, NE 68410 Phone: 402-474-5655 M-F 8-5 CST

Website addresses

For more information about the history of Arbor Day and how to celebrate Arbor Day in your community, see the following websites available from the National Arbor Day Foundation:

What is Arbor Day? <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/history.html>

How to celebrate Arbor Day <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/celebrate.html>

Year 2007 Arbor Day dates for Arkansas and surrounding states

Arkansas	Third Monday in March; Monday, March 19, 2007 State Tree: Pine
Texas	Last Friday in April; Friday, April 27, 2007 State Tree: Pecan
Oklahoma	Last full week in March; March 25-31, 2007 State Tree: Eastern Redbud
Missouri	First Friday in April; Friday, April 6, 2007 State Tree: Flowering Dogwood
Tennessee	First Friday in March; Friday, March 2, 2007 State Tree: Yellow Poplar
Mississippi	Second Friday in February; Friday, Feb. 9, 2007 State Tree: Southern Magnolia
Louisiana	Third Friday in January; Friday, Jan. 19, 2007 State Tree: Baldcypress
National Arbor Day	Friday, April 27, 2007 (Last Friday in April) 135th anniversary of the first Arbor Day in 1872
Earth Day	Saturday, April 22, 2007 (Always on April 22nd) 37th anniversary of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970