

Arbor Day In Mississippi (Second Friday In February)

Suggested Arbor Day Program Outline

Welcome to Celebrants (Program Sponsor)

Song (one) - "America"; "Trees"; "God Bless America".

Invocation

Scripture Reading (one) - Genesis 2:8; Revelations 9:4; Exodus 22:6; Joel 1:19-20,
Isaiah 5:24; Isaiah 44:14

What Is Arbor Day? - (Brief History and Comments)

Poem - "Why We keep Arbor Day"

Reading - "Man's Best Friend, the Tree"

Poem - "Trees"

Talk - "The Importance of Trees to Mississippi's Economy and Environment".

Dedicatory Statement

Planting of Tree- (Have hole dug prior to ceremony)

Benediction

Special Note

Assistance with your Arbor Day Program is available from your local service forester.
If his address is not known you may write for assistance to:

Mississippi Forestry Commission
301 N. Lamar St., Suite 300
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Or visit our website at:
www.mfc.state.ms.us

Arbor Day History

Tree planting festivals have been popular dating back to the earliest days of civilization. Sacred trees, planted roadsides and shaded school walks were common long before North America was discovered.

But Arbor Day is purely American in origin. It was first observed in the State of Nebraska in 1872.

At Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1882, they held their first Arbor Day and introduced two new elements into observance. First, the day was declared a school festival, and second the practice of planting a memorial tree was inaugurated. These new developments were largely responsible for the acceptance of Arbor Day over the rest of the United States.

Arbor Day In Mississippi (Second Friday In February)

It wasn't until 1926 in Mississippi that Arbor Day became an official day of observance. In section 5, Chapter 161 of the 1926 Mississippi Code, the State and County Boards of Education were directed to set aside a special day each year in the public schools.

. . . "on which day ornamental and shade trees, flowers, etc., are to be placed where practical on the grounds surrounding all public school houses." Later, the **second Friday in February** was firmly adopted as the day on which the state would annually observe Arbor Day.

WHY WE KEEP ARBOR DAY Primary Education (For seven children)

- First: Trees of the fragrant forest, with leaves of green unfurled
Through summer's heat, through winter's cold
What do you do for our world?
- Second: Our green leaves catch the raindrops that fall with soothing sound,
Then drop slowly, slowly down 'tis better for the ground.
- Third: When rushing down the hillside, a mighty freshet forms,
Our giant trunks and spreading roots defend our happy home.
- Fourth: From burning heat in summer, we offer cool retreat,
Protect the land in winter's storm from cold, and wind and sleet.
- Fifth: Our falling leaves in autumn, by breezes turned and tossed,
Will make a deep sponge carpet warm which saves the ground from frost.
- Sixth: We give you pulp for paper, our fuel gives you heat,
We furnish lumber for your homes, and nuts and fruits to eat.
- Seventh: With strong and graceful outline, with branches green and bare,
We fill the land all through the year with beauty everywhere.
- All: So, listen from the forest, each one a message sends,
To children, on this Arbor Day, "We trees are your best friends".

Arbor Day In Mississippi
(Second Friday In February)

TREES

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.
---Joyce Kilmer.

MAN'S BEST FRIEND - THE TREE

Lately man has shown increasing concern for the future of Mother Earth. He has expressed concern that his own existence may be threatened by breathing noxious air, listening to earsplitting noise, drinking foul water, and viewing graceless landscapes.

In the midst of the environmental uproar, the TREE stands by - like a faithful watchdog dispensing life-giving benefits, and lives on - like a silent lapdog - taken for granted, and yet one of man's best friends. Wise men have planted trees in backyards, on woodlands, and along city streets since colonial days. Now, as then, trees are returning an almost infinite number of benefits and services for man and Mother Earth.

To put a price on tag on a tree, like putting a price tag on a family pet, is virtually impossible. In fact, in benefits and services, the value of trees in densely populated areas far exceeds the price we pay for their establishment and maintenance and the income we may obtain if they are harvested for wood products. Yes, the tree is indeed one of man's best friends.

TREES help supply oxygen we need to breathe. Yearly each acre of young trees can produce enough oxygen to keep 18 people alive. . .

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 dilute gaseous pollutants in the air as they release oxygen. . .

TREES provide food for birds and wild animals. . .

TREES lower air temperatures by enlisting the sun's energy to evaporate water in the leaves. .

Arbor Day In Mississippi (Second Friday In February)

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 cut noise pollution by acting as barriers to sound. . .

TREES provide shelter for birds and wildlife and even for us when caught in a rain shower without an umbrella. . .

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. . .

TREE leaves break the onslaught of pelting raindrops on the soil surface and give the soil a chance to soak up as much water as possible. . .

TREE leaves, by decaying, replace minerals in the soil and enrich it to support later plant growth. . .

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

TREE roots help air get beneath the soil surface. . .

TREES salve the spirit with pleasing shapes and patterns, fragrant blossoms, and seasonal splashes of color. . .

TREES break the monotony of endless sidewalks and miles of highways. . .

TREES beautify our gardens and grace our backyards. . .

TREES soften the outline of the masonry, metal, and glass in our cities and towns. . .

And TREES provide for Mississippi's economic growth and stability.

CHOOSING A TREE

Shade and Ornamental - Evergreen Trees

Southern Magnolia (State Tree)	Slash Pine
Holly	Shortleaf Pine
Live Oak	Spruce Pine
Yaupon	Redbay, Sweetbay
Red Cedar	Laurel Cherry
Longleaf Pine	

Shade and Ornamental - Deciduous Trees

White Oak	Hackberry
Red Oak	Cottonwood
Basswood	Sycamore
Red Maple	Redbud
Silver Maple	Flowering Dogwood
Yellow Poplar (Tulip tree)	American Elm

Arbor Day In Mississippi (Second Friday In February)

Plant These For Birds

Black Cherry
Red Mulberry
Parsley Haw
Black Gum
Service-berry
Camphor

Hawthorns
Chinese Toiletry
Elderberry
Plum
Persimmon

Plant These For Flowers

Dogwood
Redbud
Crepe Myrtle
Southern Magnolia
Golden Raintree

Parsley Haw
Royal Paulownia
Yellow Poplar
Jerusalem Thorn
Black Locust

Special Note

To be reasonably sure that the tree of your choice will grow well in your locality, ask a local nurseryman, your service forester or county agent.

PLANTING WOODS WILLING AND OTHER BALLED STOCK

If you go into the woods to get a tree to plant on Arbor Day, find a small one. Four to five feet is about right for hardwoods, two feet for evergreens. (Unless you do your tree-hunting on your own land, be sure to get the landowner's permission.)

When you've found the tree you want, dig around it, staying about two feet away from the tree stem. You'll want to keep as much of the root system intact as possible, so the rule is to go six or eight inches deeper than you think is absolutely necessary.

To keep the soil around the roots after the tree has been dug up, wrap the root ball in a square of moist burlap and pin it together with nails. Keep the root ball moist until planting time.

The planting hole should be both wider and deeper than the root ball. But the right depth to set the tree is the depth it grew in the woods, so you'll need to build up a little dirt mound at the bottom of the planting hole to elevate the tree to the right depth. After this is done, put the tree in the hole, then remove the burlap or cut away as much of it as you can without unduly shaking up the root ball. Then shovel in dirt until the hole is about half full, pack it down, and fill the hole with water. When this has soaked in, fill the hole to the top with dirt.

Arbor Day In Mississippi (Second Friday In February)

It's a good idea to build up a low ridge around the newly-planted tree to hold in water long enough for it to soak into the ground. After you're all finished, mulch the tree with leaves or pine straw. Stake trees over one inch in diameter for support until roots are well established (about 2 years).

With a little care, the woods willing you plant on Arbor Day will live and grow into the beautiful tree you visualized when you selected it!

PLANTING NURSERY GROWN TREE SEEDLINGS

- Nursery produced seedlings are grown under carefully controlled conditions of soil, moisture and competition.
- Evidence shows that trees grown in a nursery have a better balance of top, stem and root system, and hence a better chance for successful development after transplanting.
- Instructions for planting are usually included with the seedlings or saplings secured from a nursery.

(Planting Cautions)

- ❖ Do not plant trees or shrubs in a place where they will obscure motorists' vision or interfere with power lines.
- ❖ Do not plant too close to buildings (minimum 20 ft.), sidewalks, etc.
- ❖ Consider carefully before planting trees on school grounds that produce fruit which can be used as missiles by mischievous children. Also avoid trees with toxic or obnoxious-smelling fruit.
- ❖ Protect you Arbor Day tree from abuse by playing children, weed eaters, lawnmowers, etc.

IMPORTANCE OF TREES

Civic tree planting can have a far-reaching effect on community spirit as it promotes civic and social betterment. A clean, beautiful town is a source of pride to its residents and an invitation to visitors to return. Nothing so beautifies a town and lifts the spirits of its people as do trees.

The spirit of Arbor Day is unique in that it looks forward, never backward. It directs the minds and hearts of participants to higher goals - goals which can be attained only through personal involvement, sacrifice, planning and responsible action. It is a spirit which appeals to the young of heart and inspires them to work for the betterment of their community, state and nation.

Arbor Day In Mississippi (Second Friday In February)

The annual observance of Arbor Day can lead people to a greater appreciation of the beauty and civic value of our forests and related natural resources.

For a great many people of all ages, our forest resource is a major source of recreation. Bird watching, plant identification, hiking, and camping rank high in outdoor recreation preferences.

Forest watersheds prevent pollution of streams and lakes by keeping the soil from eroding away. Much of the rainfall, which would otherwise run off rapidly, soaks deep into the soil and eventually reaches underground reservoirs where it is held for future use.

Wildlife in well-managed forests are assured of adequate food and cover which aids in maintaining a suitable balance between plant and animal life.

Forests in Mississippi are also a source of jobs and taxes, which help our state to grow. More than 64,000 people are employed in our timber-based industries. Each dollar value in standing trees at harvest adds many more dollars to Mississippi's growing economy through harvesting, manufacturing, marketing, transportation and construction.



Mississippi Forestry Commission
301 North Lamar Street, Suite 300
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

www.mfc.state.ms.us

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunity and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, creed, national origin, or political affiliation