

THE STORY OF ARBOR DAY

ArborDay.org

National Arbor Day :
Last Friday in April

Missouri Arbor Day :
First Friday in April



In 1854, a young man, Julius Sterling Morton and his new bride left Michigan and headed westward eventually settling in Nebraska City. Morton, a journalist by profession, saw in Nebraska a great potential for both agriculture and horticulture. The Mortons began a rigorous tree-planting program on their own land and started several orchards. Through his involvement with the State Horticulture Society and as editor of the Nebraska City paper, Morton strongly encouraged the planting of trees and orchards.

On January 4, 1872, Morton offered a resolution to the State Board of Agriculture to establish a tree-planting day. The proposal was accepted, and the first Arbor Day was celebrated on April 10, 1872. Over one million trees were planted across the state on that first Arbor Day.

There is no record that Arbor Day was celebrated in 1873, however, in 1874, the State Board of Agriculture passed a resolution making Arbor Day an annual holiday to be celebrated on the second Wednesday of April each year.

In 1885, the State Legislature designated that Arbor Day be celebrated on April 22 of each year, Morton's birthday. In 1988, the Unicameral changed the date again, and beginning in 1989, the celebration of Arbor Day occurs in Nebraska on the last Friday of April each year.

Throughout his career, both in politics and journalism, Morton continued his campaign for the planting of trees. His dedication proved fruitful, for today, every state in the United States celebrates Arbor Day, and his ideas have spread to 12 other countries.

TREE GUIDE

26th CHESTERFIELD EARTH DAY



Saturday
April 29, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Chesterfield Mall

Tree City USA—20 Years and Counting!



WILDLIFE SHRUBS

Arrowwood (15')

Can reach a diameter of 15'. Grows well in full sun to part shade. Better privacy than invasive honeysuckle.

Buttonbush (18')

Prefers moist ground. Interesting flowers attractive to bees and butterflies.

Carolina Buckthorn (25')

Grows well on all soil types and in shade. Shiny bright green leaves. Attractive fruit for wildlife.

Ninebark (10')

Good ornamental shrub has interesting curling bark. Root structure aids with erosion control.

Spicebush (12')

A spreading shrub with attractive red fruit on female plant. Grows in full sun to part shade.

Eastern Wahoo (25')

Shrub/small tree grows in or at woods edge. Attractive red fruits enjoyed by many species of birds.

TREES

Pawpaw (20')

Small tree with interesting maroon colored ground-facing and edible fruit.

Redbud (30')

An understory tree. Good windbreak. Attractive, edible flowers enjoyed by wildlife.

Flowering Dogwood (40')

Missouri state tree. This is an understory tree and should be planted in the shade.

Red Mulberry (50")

Common statewide. Prefers but is not limited to good soil. Many animals eat the fruit.

Black Cherry (60')

Grows well in moist or dry sites. Fine hardwood lumber. Red-to-black fruits ripen in August attracting wild life.



PLANTING TIPS

- ◆ Select the right tree for the right place.
- ◆ Plant your trees as soon as possible after receiving them.
- ◆ Always carry seedlings in a bucket half-full of water or in wet packing material.
- ◆ Don't allow seedling roots to dry out.
- ◆ Don't store trees with roots in water.
- ◆ Dig holes as deep as the root system or 1/2" deeper than the seedling grown at the nursery.
- ◆ Make sure the roots are spread out and are not bent or crowded.
- ◆ Fill hole and tamp with feet.

(Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation)



Free native Missouri trees are given away to celebrate Arbor Day, sustain Tree City USA, beautify our landscapes and improve the health of our habitat!