

Arbor Day (THE TREE PLANTING HOLIDAY) is proof that one good idea can make a real difference. Here's how it all began. As pioneers moved westward, one family in 1854 moved into the Nebraska Territory from Detroit, Michigan. That family was the 23-year-old J. Sterling Morton and his bride Caroline who were avid nature lovers. They moved to a 160-acre claim near Nebraska City. Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. Through the Nebraska City News, he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an equally enthusiastic audience.

It was the lack of trees in Nebraska that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s. At that time Nebraska lacked tree cover. Many pioneers missed the forests and lush vegetation of the east and quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers. The settlers in the new territory were sorely in need of trees for building homes, fences and farm buildings. They needed trees for fuel and for windbreaks. Trees were a valuable source of lumber and soil preservation for the Prairie state. As newspaper editor, Morton often wrote about the value and wisdom of tree planting and which trees were best suited to the plains. He encouraged the pioneers to plant trees on their homesteads.

Nearly twenty years later on January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture. J Sterling Morton proposed that a special day be set aside dedicated to tree planting and increasing the awareness of trees. "Wednesday, the tenth day of April, 1872, be and the same is hereby especially set apart and consecrated for the planting of trees in the State of Nebraska and the State Board of Agriculture hereby name it Arbor Day; and to urge upon the people of the State the vital importance of tree planting " Part of Morton's resolution stated

*To exist as a nation,
to prosper as a state,
and to live as a people,
we must have trees.*

— Theodore Roosevelt



State of Illinois
Department of Natural Resources

*Celebrate
Arbor
Day!*

Arbor Day

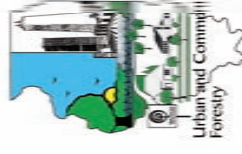
that \$100 would be awarded to the county which properly planted the largest number of trees, and a farm library with \$25 would be awarded to the individual who did the same. Nebraska's first tree planting event - Arbor Day was an amazing success with more than one million trees planted.

A second Arbor Day took place in 1884. Arbor Day was officially proclaimed by the young state's Governor Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874, and the day itself was observed April 10, 1874. In 1885, Nebraska made ARBOR DAY an annual legal holiday in 1885, using April 22nd to coincide with Morton's birthday. Morton felt that Nebraska's landscape and economy would benefit from the wide-scale planting of trees. He set an example himself planting orchards, shade trees and wind breaks on his own farm and he urged his neighbors to follow suit.



Julius Sterling Morton (1832-1902), started out as a Nebraska journalist. From 1858 to 1861 he was Secretary of the Territory of Nebraska and for a few months was Acting Governor. He helped organize the Nebraska State Horticultural Society in 1869, and a little later was a member, then president, of the State Board of Agriculture. In 1893, he became the third U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, on the cabinet of President Grover Cleveland. Today, he is nationally recognized as the driving force behind the first Arbor Day celebration in the nation.

On July 10, 1949, Illinois became the eighth state to legally designate Arbor Day as the last Friday in April. In 1972 on the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day, President Richard Nixon officially designated National Arbor Day as the last Friday in April. Today all 50 states and several nations celebrate Arbor Day.



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Moderato

Chorus, 24 times pp

Arbor Day March

1. There's Springtime in the air
When the happy robin sings,
And earth grows bright and fair,
Covered with the robe she brings.

Chorus:
March, oh, march, 'tis Arbor Day,
Joy for all and cares away;
March, oh, march, from duties free
To the planting of the tree.

2. There's Springtime in the air
When the buds begin to swell,
And woodlands, brown and bare,
All the summer joys foretell.

Chorus:
March, oh, march, 'tis Arbor Day,
Joy for all and cares away;
March, oh, march, from duties free
To the planting of the tree.

3. There's Springtime in the air
When the heart so fondly pays
This tribute, sweet and rare,
Which to mother earth we raise.

Chorus:
March, oh, march, 'tis Arbor Day,
Joy for all and cares away;
March, oh, march, from duties free
To the planting of the tree.

Suggestions - See that the children keep step to the air of the song.
Arrange them according to size, the smallest first, that the column may present a picturesque appearance.

Australia celebrates Arbor Day while Japan celebrates 'Greening Week'; Israel has 'The New Year's Days of Trees'; There is 'The Tree-loving Week' of Korea, 'The Reforestation Week' of Yugoslavia, 'The Students' Afforestation Day' of Iceland and 'The National Festival of Tree Planting' in India.

**"Other holidays repose upon the past.
Arbor Day proposes for the future."**

J. Sterling Morton

**A Proclamation
by President Theodore Roosevelt, 1907:
To the School Children of
the United States:**



Arbor Day (which means simply "Tree Day") is now observed in every State in our Union and mainly in the schools in recognition of the importance of trees to us as a Nation, and of what they yield in adornment, comfort, and useful products to the communities in which you live.

For the nation as for the man or woman, and the boy or girl, the road to success is the right use of what we have and the improvement of present opportunity. When you help to preserve our forests or, to plant new ones you are acting the part of good citizens. The value of forestry deserves, therefore, to be taught in the schools, which aim to make good citizens of you.

To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees.

Theodore Roosevelt

Increasing Tree Diversity in Chicago's Landscape

PLANT NATIVE NON-INVASIVE URBAN TOLERANT TREES

2010 Chicago Top-10 Trees



Yellow Buckeye (*Aesculus Flava*)
A large upright oval tree that can reach 75 feet in height. This native tree is insect and disease resistant in urban conditions. The Buckeye is a magnificent addition to the landscape and attracts birds and wildlife.



Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
Excellent for city streets, Hackberry and can grow to 50-70 feet in height and is distinguished by strikingly warty bark. The tree likes full sun, is easily transplanted, and performs well under adverse conditions.



Ginkgo / Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)
A good urban tree because of its ability to tolerate drought, heat, confined and poor soils. Grows slowly at first but once established is vigorous and can reach 100' tall! Ginkgos have survived for millions of years.



Cucumber Tree (*Magnolia acuminata*)
This magnolia, named for its green, warty, cucumber-like fruits, grows to 40-60 feet and produces slightly-fragrant, greenish-yellow, tulip-like flowers at the twig tips in late spring. Best suited for larger parkway areas.



Hill's Oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*)
Hill's oak grows to a height of 60-75 feet, with a trunk diameter of up to 2 feet. The tree is found on dry, sandy sites, dry upland woods, and occasionally on slopes. In Illinois, it is present only in the northern-most tier of the state.



Chicago Blues Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
A locally cultivated tree that is resistant to borers. The flowers are fragrant and contribute to honey production by bees. Chicago Blues Black Locust is a great tree for difficult sites; transplants well and is drought and salt tolerant.



Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
A native tree that can reach 70 feet high, is widely planted in parks and on city streets. It's red fibrous bark and fine leaves provide textural variety. The Cypress's ability to withstand wind-storms and drought assures it's popularity as an urban tree.



Harvest Gold Linden (*Tilia mongolica 'Harvest gold'*)
This tree has the characteristically attractive pyramidal shape of most lindens, but it's leaves are distinctively toothed. It also has the added benefit of attractive flaking bark. This tough and durable tree makes a fine street tree growing to 40-45 feet tall.



Blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*)
Blackhaw may be grown as a large, upright, multi-stemmed shrub or as a small, single trunk tree. Non-fragrant white flowers appear in spring. Its colorful fruit, berry-like drupes, often persist into winter and are colorfully attractive over the course of the year.



Village Green Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata 'Village Green'*)
In the elm family, Village Green Zelkova typically grows to 50-60' tall with a spreading, generally upward-branching, vase-shaped crown. In older trees, the bark exfoliates in patches exposing an attractive orangish inner bark.

Photo: Gary Kling/University of Illinois
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Chicago's Top-10 Trees are selected annually based upon good performance over a wide range of urban conditions.