



# Forest Facts: Oregon Arbor Month

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 happened in Nebraska in 1872, promoted by newspaperman J. Sterling Morton. On April 10 that year, an estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska.

To fit in all tree-related events statewide, each year since 2020 Oregon's Governor or State Forester has proclaimed the entire month of April as Oregon Arbor Month.

"Trees are important to Oregonians' physical and mental health," says Oregon State Forester Calvin Mukumoto. "Some of the world's most majestic and productive forests grow here.

They enhance our lives by providing clean water and air, shade, economic benefits, wildlife habitat, beauty and recreation."

## Some ways to celebrate

Is your town a Tree City USA? If so, it may already be planning an observance during Arbor Month that you

and your family can participate in. The TCUSA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and administered in Oregon by ODF. It recognizes cities for their efforts to grow and maintain healthy community forests.



*Hold tree events during Arbor Month to ramp up support for your community's trees.*



*Contact your local government to see if they are planning activities for Arbor Month. If not, call and encourage them to hold events and volunteer to help as needed.*

Even if your community is not formally recognizing trees during April, here are some ideas for you, your family, and neighbors to get you started:

- Find a public park or neighborhood that needs cleaning up. Get a group together to clear litter or pull weeds. You might also seek permission to plant trees, shrubs and flowers.
- Organize a "Big Tree" or "Oldest Tree" search in your city. Then publish a booklet with a map listing the locations, or organize a walking tour.
- Find other great ways children and adults can celebrate trees for Arbor Month at [www.arborday.org/celebrate/](http://www.arborday.org/celebrate/) and [www.arborday.org/kids/](http://www.arborday.org/kids/).



## Ways communities can celebrate

If you're a city or county employee or community organizer, you might like to plan a more formal event. Typical activities include:

- issuing a local Arbor Day proclamation
- inviting the public to join in a tree-planting
- arranging for welcoming comments by elected officials or community leaders
- asking scouts or veterans groups to present the flag during an event
- reaching out to your community's religious or indigenous leaders to invite their participation, including sharing their perspectives on trees.

## Proper planting depth is important

Trees are often planted too deeply, which can cause their death or stunt their growth. 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.



*Contact your local library to see if it will display books during Arbor Month about trees and tree care. Story time for the younger children can focus on tree-related books, or having kids make tree-themed bookmarks*

## Other planting tips

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. Remove all containers, wire, plastic and string from the trunk and roots.

Fertilizing at planting is not needed but do water the tree deeply - at least 5 to 10 gallons.

## Tree celebrations 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 Oregon Arbor Month:**  
[www.arborday.org//oregon/](http://www.arborday.org//oregon/).

**More information about trees:**  
[www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).