

ARBOR DAY 2023: WHY DO WE CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY?

Arbor Day sprouted from the mind of a zealous tree lover named Julius Sterling Morton. A popular Arbor Day tradition is to plant a tree in honor or memory of a loved one. Learn some interesting facts about this day, and learn about the power of trees, which support our well-being!

When Is Arbor Day?

Arbor Day is celebrated on the **last Friday in April**, although some states observe it on dates that better coincide with the local area's planting times. For instance, Hawaii celebrates Arbor Day on the first Friday of November, and Alaskans celebrate it on the third Monday in May.

What Is Arbor Day?

Arbor Day, much like [Earth Day](#), is a holiday that celebrates nature.

Its purpose is to encourage people to plant trees, and many communities traditionally take the opportunity to organize tree-planting and litter-collecting events on or around the holiday.



What does he plant who plants a tree?

*He plants cool shade and tender rain,
And seed and bud of days to be,
And years that fade and flush again;*

*He plants the glory of the plain;
He plants the forest's heritage;
The harvest of a coming age;
The joy that unborn eyes shall see—
These things he plants who plants a tree.*

—Excerpt from *The Heart of the Tree* by Henry Cuyler Bunner (1855-1896)

The History of Arbor Day

Arbor Day sprouted from the mind of a zealous tree lover named **Julius Sterling Morton**, who had a passion for planting all kinds of trees.

The first Arbor Day occurred on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. It's estimated that nearly one million trees were planted on this day.

By 1885, Arbor Day had become a legal holiday in Nebraska. (The date was changed to April 22 to honor Morton's birthday, which was also the 22nd of April.) On that day, thousands of Nebraska City citizens turned out for one big party, including 1,000 school-children who formed a parade.

Within 20 years of its creation, the holiday was celebrated in every American state except Delaware, which eventually joined in.

Particularly pleasing to Morton was the fact that schools across the country began celebrating Arbor Day by dedicating the trees they planted to special people.

Plant a **TREE** for our **PLANET** – **YES**, we **CAN!!!**