



## ARBOR DAY 2006: SOUTHEAST STATES INFORMATION SHEET

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### Background

Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and tree care. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in the state of Nebraska in 1872, in response to a state proclamation urging settlers and homesteaders in that prairie state to plant trees that would provide shade, shelter, fruit, fuel, and beauty for residents of the largely treeless plains. On that first Arbor Day, more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska's communities and on its farms.

The Arbor Day idea was promoted by J. Sterling Morton, editor of the *Nebraska City News*, who later helped the idea spread to neighboring states and eventually to all of the United States and many other nations.

Today, Arbor Day celebrations are held in communities all over America, with the date determined by the best tree planting times in each area. Celebrations are held as early as January and February in some southern states, and as late as May in more northern locations. National Arbor Day is observed on the last Friday in April.

*Background excerpt taken from the National Arbor Day Foundation's Arbor Day website*

### The National Arbor Day Foundation address <http://www.arborday.org/>

For lots of ideas about how to observe and celebrate Arbor Day in your community, write for their free "Celebrate Arbor Day!" booklet. Send your name and address and the words "Celebrate Arbor Day! Booklet" to:

**The National Arbor Day Foundation**  
**100 Arbor Avenue**  
**Nebraska City, NE 68410 Phone: 402-474-5655 M-F 8-5 CST**

### Website addresses

For more information about the history of Arbor Day and how to celebrate Arbor Day in your community, see the following websites available from the National Arbor Day Foundation:

What is Arbor Day? <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/history.html>

How to celebrate Arbor Day <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/celebrate.html>

### Year 2006 Arbor Day dates for Southeastern states

<b>Alabama</b>	Last full week of February; February 19-25 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Longleaf Pine
<b>Arkansas</b>	Third Monday in March; Monday, March 20 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Shortleaf Pine
<b>Florida</b>	Third Friday in January; Friday, Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Cabbage Palmetto
<b>Georgia</b>	Third Friday in February; Friday, Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Live Oak
<b>Kentucky</b>	First Friday in April; Friday, April 7 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Tulip Poplar
<b>Louisiana</b>	Third Friday in January; Friday, Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Baldcypress
<b>Mississippi</b>	Second Friday in February; Friday, Feb. 10 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Southern Magnolia
<b>North Carolina</b>	First Friday after March 15 <sup>th</sup> ; Friday, March 17 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Pine
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Last full week in March; March 19-25 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Eastern Redbud
<b>South Carolina</b>	First Friday in December; Friday, Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> ♦ State Tree: Cabbage Palmetto
<b>Tennessee</b>	First Friday in March; Friday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ♦ State Tree: Tulip Poplar
<b>Texas</b>	Last Friday in April; Friday, April 28 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Pecan
<b>Virginia</b>	Last Friday in April; Friday, April 28 <sup>th</sup> ♦ State Tree: Flowering Dogwood

<b>National Arbor Day</b>	<b>Friday, April 29, 2006 (Last Friday in April)</b> <i>134<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Arbor Day in 1872</i>
<b>Earth Day</b>	<b>Saturday, April 22, 2006 (Always on April 22<sup>nd</sup>)</b> <i>36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970</i>