

Arbor Day throughout the World

Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant trees. Arbor Day originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska, United States and is celebrated in a number of countries.

Though it was founded officially by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872, the celebration may have its original roots in Judaism in a celebration called Tu B'Shevat. Arbor Day dates differ depending on climate and suitable planting times. Arbor Day is now a holiday that has an international observance and recognition in many countries.

Arbor Day – Algeria

The national tree planting day of Algeria is on October 27.

Arbor Day - Australia

July 28 is National Tree Planting Day for schools throughout Australia and 30 July is National Tree Planting Day for the rest of the Nation. Many states have Arbor Day although only Victoria has Arbor Week, which was suggested by the late Premier Dick Hamer in the 80s. Arbor Day has been observed in Australia since 20 June 1889.

Arbor Day - Belgium

International Day of Treeplanting is celebrated in Flanders on or around 21 March as a theme-day/educational-day/observance, not as public holidays. Tree planting is sometimes combined with awareness campaigns of the fight against cancer: *Kom Op Tegen Kanker*.

Arbor Day - Brazil

The Arbor Day (Dia da Árvore) is celebrated on September 21.

Arbor Day - Cambodia

National Tree Planting Day is on June 1.

Arbor Day - Central African Republic

National Tree Planting Day is on July 22.

Arbor Day - Republic of China (Taiwan)

Arbor Day (植樹節) has been a traditional holiday in the Republic of China since 1927. In 1914, the founder of the agricultural college at Nanking University suggested to the now-defunct Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry that China should imitate the practice in the United States of Arbor Day. The holiday would be held the same day as the Qingming Festival. However, for unknown reasons, the suggestion was not made through the formal process, so nothing came from this original request. After the successful conclusion of the Northern Expedition, the now-defunct Ministry of Agriculture and Minerals formally petitioned the Executive Yuan to establish Arbor Day to commemorate the passing of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the Father of Modern China. He had been a major advocate of afforestation in his life, because it would increase people's livelihoods. The Executive Yuan approved Arbor Day in the spirit of Dr. Sun that year and has since been celebrated on March 12 for this purpose.

Arbor Day - People's Republic of China (Mainland China)

In 1981, the fourth session of the Fifth National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China adopted the "Resolution on the unfolding of a nationwide voluntary tree-planting campaign". This resolution established Arbor Day (植树日) and stipulated that every able-bodied citizen between the ages of 11 and 60 should plant three to five trees per year or do the equivalent amount of work in seedling, cultivation, tree tending or other services. Supporting documentation instructs all units to report population statistics to the local afforestation committees as the basis for workload allocation. Moreover, those failing to do their duty are expected to make up planting requirements, provide funds equivalent to the value of labor required or pay heavy fines. Therefore, the tree-planting campaign is actually compulsory, or at least obligatory (that is, an obligation to the community). The "voluntary" in the title referred to the fact that the tree-planters would "volunteer" their labor. The People's Republic of China also celebrates Arbor Day on March 12.

Arbor Day - Costa Rica

"Día del Árbol" is on June 15.

Arbor Day - Egypt

Tree planting day, Arbor day, is on January 15.

Arbor Day - Germany

Arbor Day ("Tag des Baumes") is on April 25. First celebration was in 1952.

Arbor Day - Iran

National Tree Planting Day is on March 5.

Arbor Day - Israel

Israel celebrates Tu Bishvat, the new year for trees, on the fifteenth day of the month of Shevat, which usually falls in January or February. Originally based on the date used to calculate the age of fruit trees for tithing as mandated in Leviticus 19:23-25, the holiday now is most often observed by planting trees, or raising money to plant trees.

Arbor Day - Japan

Japan celebrates a similarly themed Greenery Day, held on April 29. Although it has a similar theme to Arbor Day, its roots lay in celebration of the birthday of Emperor Hirohito.

Arbor Day - Kenya

National Tree Planting Day is on April 21. Often people plant palm trees and coconut trees along the Pacific Coast that borders the East coast of Kenya.

Arbor Day - Lesotho

National Tree Planting Day is on March 21.

Arbor Day - Republic of Macedonia

Macedonia celebrated Tree Day on March 12, 2008. It was declared an official non-working day, and over 2 million trees were planted. The holiday was declared in honor of reforestation following the devastating Macedonian wildfires of Summer 2007.

Arbor Day - Malawi

National Tree Planting Day is on the 2nd Monday of December.

Arbor Day - Mexico

National Tree Day is on the 2nd Thursday of July.

Arbor Day - Namibia

Its first Arbor Day was celebrated on the 10th of August 2004.

Arbor Day - Netherlands

Since conference and of the Food and Agriculture Organization's publication [World Festival of Trees](#), and a resolution of the United Nations in 1954: "The Conference, recognising the need of arousing mass consciousness of the aesthetic, physical and economic value of trees, recommends a World Festival of Trees to be celebrated annually in each member country on a date suited to local conditions"; it has been adopted by the Netherlands. In 1957 the National Committee Day of Planting Trees/Foundation of National Festival of Trees (*Nationale Boomplantdag/Nationale Boomfeestdag*) was created.

On or around 21 March (the first day of Spring) or sometimes on or around 21 September (the first day of Autumn), three quarters of city schoolchildren and others plant trees.

Arbor Day - New Zealand

New Zealand's first Arbor Day planting was in Greytown in the Wairarapa on 3 July 1890. The first official celebration took place in Wellington in August 1892, with the planting of pohutukawa and Norfolk pines along Thorndon Esplanade. Since 1977 New Zealand has celebrated Arbor Day on June 5, which is also World Environment Day, prior to then Arbor Day, in New Zealand, was celebrated on August 4 - which is rather late in the year for tree planting in New Zealand hence the date change.

Arbor Day - Niger

Since 1975, Niger has celebrated Arbor Day as part of its Independence Day: 3 August. On this day, aiding the fight against desertification, each Nigerien plants a tree.

Arbor Day - Philippines

Arbor Day in the Philippines has been institutionalized to be observed every June 25 throughout the nation by planting trees and ornamental plants and other forms of relevant activities. The necessity to promote a healthier ecosystem for the people through the rehabilitation and greening of the environment was stressed in Proclamation No. 643 that amended Proclamation No. 396 of June 2, 2003. Proclamation No. 396 enjoined the "active participation of all government agencies, including government-owned and controlled corporations, private sector, schools, civil society groups and the citizenry in tree planting activity and declaring June 25, 2003 as Philippines Arbor Day."

Arbor Day - Poland

In Poland Arbor Day is celebrated on 10 October.

Arbor Day - Portugal

Arbor Day is celebrated on March 21. It's not a national holiday but instead schools nationwide celebrate this day with environment-related activities, namely tree planting.

Arbor Day - South Africa

Arbor Day was celebrated from 1983 until 1999 in South Africa, when the national government extended it to National Arbor Week, which lasts from 1-7 September. Two trees, one common and one rare, are highlighted to increase public awareness of indigenous trees, while various "greening" activities are undertaken by schools, businesses and other organizations.

Arbor Day - South Korea

Arbor Day (Sikmogil, 식목일) was a public holiday in South Korea on April 5 until 2005. The day is still celebrated, though. On non-leap years, the day coincides with Hansik.

Arbor Day - Sri Lanka

National Tree Planting Day is on October 15.

Arbor Day - Tanzania

National Tree Planting Day is on January 1.

Arbor Day - Uganda

National Tree Planting Day is on March 24.

Arbor Day - United States

The national holiday is celebrated every year on the last Friday in April. Each state celebrates its own Arbor Day state holiday. The customary observance is to plant a tree. On the first Arbor Day, April 10, 1872, an estimated one million trees were planted.

Arbor day - Venezuela

Venezuela recognizes "Día del Arbol" on the last Sunday of May.
In popular culture

It's Arbor Day, Charlie Brown, an animated special featuring the *Peanuts* characters, was produced in 1976.

"April 25 - When You Plant a Tree (Arbor Song)" is a solo piano piece in honor of Arbor Day, composed by jazz pianist Mark Massey.