

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Sarah Huckabee Sanders Governor

> Arkansas Department of Agriculture FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 3/18/2024 Contact: Lys Johnson, (501) 902-5075 alyssa.johnson@agriculture.arkansas.gov

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Hosts "Free Tree Fridays" in Recognition of Arbor Day

LITTLE ROCK – In recognition of Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders proclaiming March 18 as Arkansas Arbor Day, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division will be hosting giveaways of bare root seedlings at various locations across the state each Friday from March 22 through April 26.

"Spring is an excellent time of year to plant trees," said Kristine Kimbro, Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator for the Forestry Division. "Adding trees to your yard or to a community forest provides Arkansans with many benefits, including recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and beautiful landscapes."

Species will vary by location and the giveaway will be limited to five seedlings per person on a first come, first served basis. The Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, a new partner in the annual Free Tree Fridays campaign, purchased and donated six species of hardwood seedlings native to Arkansas including red mulberry, bald cypress, sycamore, Shumard oak, cherrybark oak, and river birch. Following is a listing of locations and times currently scheduled:

March 22

- DeQueen Bailey Discount Building Supply, 880 E. Collin Raye Drive: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Little Rock Arkansas Department of Agriculture, 1 Natural Resources Drive: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Walnut Ridge Lawrence County Cooperative Extension Office, 1100 W. Main Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.

March 29

- Malvern Hot Spring County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Office, 2300 Leopard Lane Suite T: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Mena Atwoods, 1100 N U.S. 71 North: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Wynne Wynne Fire Department, 1111 Falls Boulevard: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.

April 5

- Ashdown Horatio State Bank, 110 Main Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Pocahontas American Made General Store, 1100 Pace Road: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Redfield Redfield City Ball Park, Huck Finn Boulevard: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Sheridan Mad Butcher, 815 Rock Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.

April 12:

- Dierks Forestry Division Office, 106 Forestry Drive: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Goshen Goshen City Hall, 124 Church Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Lepanto Parking lot at 205 W. Broad Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Lonoke Marjorie Walker McCranry Memorial Library, 204 E. 2nd Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Warren Warren City Park, 400 W. Church Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.

April 19

- Benton River Center-Riverside Park, 1800 Citizens Drive: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Casa Casa Community Center, 114 S. Maple Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Jonesboro Earle Bell Community Center, 1212 S. Church Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Little Rock University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 4301 W. Markham Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.

April 26:

- Arkadelphia Clark County NRCS Office, 640 S. 6th Street Suite C: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Fairfield Bay Fairfield Bay Chamber of Commerce, 120 Village Place Suite 1: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Osceola Mississippi County NRCS Office, 3137 W. Keiser Avenue: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce, 507 S. Main Street: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.

Additional locations may be added throughout the month. Visit <u>agriculture.arkansas.gov/forestry/urban-</u> <u>community-forestry/free-tree-friday/</u>.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources conservation to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while sustaining natural resources and ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit <u>agriculture.arkansas.gov/.</u> The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.