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## CC298 State of Nebraska Proclamation - Plant Two Trees

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# STATE OF NEBRASKA

P R O C L A M A T I O N

## WHEREAS

Many citizens have expressed their concern over the loss of trees in Nebraska, and woodland areas are being removed at an alarming rate; and

## WHEREAS

The loss of trees affects Nebraska's wildlife, beauty, soil protection, temperature, chill index, air purification, crops, and recreation activities; and

## WHEREAS

Farm, civic, and governmental agencies and individual citizens are urged to join together to emphasize that trees are important for people to plant, to enjoy, and to use; and

## WHEREAS

People are encouraged to regenerate this renewable resource by planting 2, 200, 2,000, or 20,000 trees;

## NOW, THEREFORE, I,

Charles Thone, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the initiation of a statewide urban and rural continuing tree planting program to be known as:

## PLANT TWO TREES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this 5th day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty.

Attest:



*Allen D. Beermann*  
Secretary of State

*Charles Thone*  
Governor



Extension work in "Agriculture, Home Economics and subjects relating thereto," The Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Cooperating with the Counties and the U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Leo E. Lucas, Director

# PLANT



P R O G R A M

## INTRODUCTION

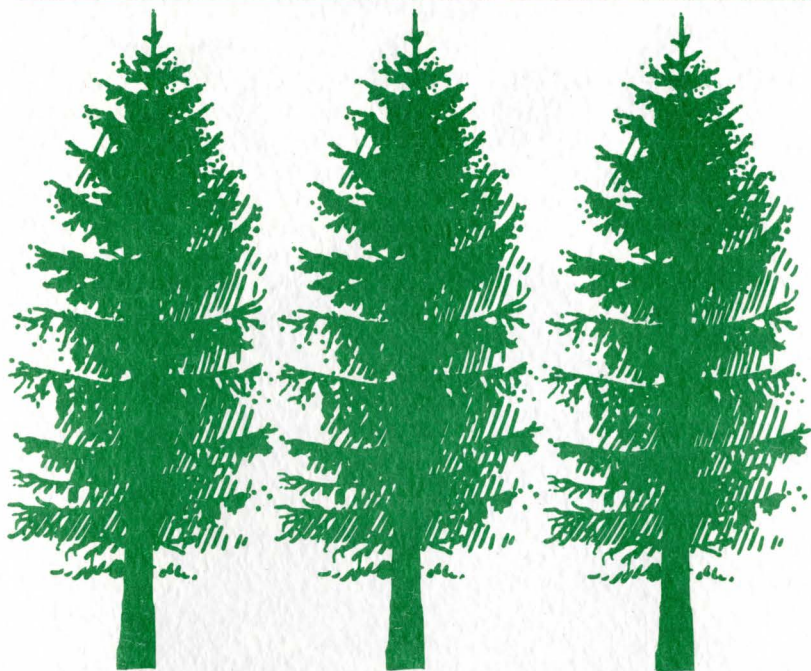
Nebraska has a proud tree-planting heritage. It is "the tree planters' state", the birthplace of Arbor Day. A trip through Nebraska today wouldn't disclose that much of the state was once a treeless plain. The efforts of thousands of Nebraskans, beginning with the earliest pioneers, have resulted in millions of trees being planted to enhance our communities and the countryside.

Yet many of us today seem to have forgotten the importance of our tree-planting tradition. The state has lost 200,000 acres of forest land in the last 20 years. And Dutch Elm disease, storms, and other factors have resulted in a serious loss of trees in our communities. Trees aren't being planted as they once were.

To reverse this trend, Governor Charles Thone has announced the initiation of the Plant Two Trees Program. This statewide project is designed to involve individuals, local groups, and communities in an intensive effort to make trees a more prominent factor in insuring "the good life" for Nebraskans.







## PLANT TWO TREES OBJECTIVES

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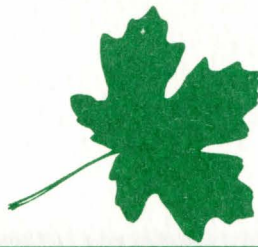
To implement a statewide urban and rural continuing tree planting program.



To bring about increased public understanding of the value of trees as part of our environment for tomorrow, for future years and for future generations.

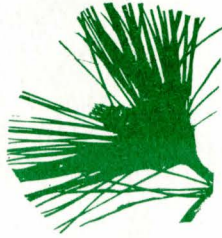


To encourage Nebraskans to care for and nurture their trees.



## WHY PLANT TREES?

A recent forest inventory showed that in the last 20 years, tree-covered land in Nebraska has been reduced from one million acres to less than 800,000 acres. This loss of trees means a loss of many values for Nebraskans. Most of us think of the beauty and shade which trees provide; it would be worth planting trees for aesthetic reasons alone. But they provide many other benefits as well.



In rural Nebraska, it is important to plant shelter belts to reduce erosion; protect livestock, farmsteads, and crops; provide wildlife habitat; and bring greenery to the countryside.

In our cities properly planted trees can reduce heating and cooling costs, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, provide recreation in parks and natural areas, encourage urban wildlife, and enhance the overall appeal of the community.

And wherever they are planted, trees can reduce air pollution, serve as a damper against noise, give off oxygen, and help screen unsightly areas.

At the same time, trees can be an excellent source of revenue for the land owner. A properly managed woodlot can serve as a renewable source of wood products while replanting and conservation efforts maintain the area's beauty and control erosion. Christmas tree farms, nut and fruit orchards, and sawlog and firewood plantations all serve practical economic functions while beautifying the countryside.

Plant Two Trees recognizes all values of woodland conservation, including the value of a wise harvest, and the value of preserving a unique tree or collection of woodland plants.

**It is the goal of Plant Two Trees to double the number of trees in Nebraska. It aims to increase forested land from 1% to 2% of the state, and to increase the number of street trees in our communities from 100 trees per street mile to the recommended 200 trees per mile.**

We can plant 2 trees — or 200, 2,000, or 20,000 — for a variety of reasons: to commemorate a birthday, wedding or other special occasion; for our own or our children's and grandchildren's economic welfare; to attract a favorite bird or animal; or simply because we want to do our part in making our neighborhood or state an even better place in which to live.

As Lt. Governor Roland Luedtke said at the Plant Two Trees kickoff conference, "Tree planting really is symbolic that we as God's people on earth, as stewards of what God has given us to account for, must put down our own spiritual roots in our community. 'The good life' will continue only as long as Nebraskans continue to plant trees and perform other acts of stewardship."









## PROGRAM FORMAT

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The heart of the Plant Two Trees program will be the tree-planting work carried out by individuals, local organizations, and communities all over the state. To serve as a stimulus and a facilitator for this activity, Plant Two Trees county committees will be formed. These committees will be established by county extension agents who will also assist in making available materials about tree planting and care.

The county committees will first establish overall tree planting goals for the next planting season and for the years to follow. Defining specific action programs is the next step. These may be county-wide, or for individual communities. They might also involve Natural Resource Districts, school districts, or other organizations cutting across county boundaries.

Communication will be very important in insuring a vigorous state-wide program. The people in charge of the county committees' various projects will want to continually monitor their progress and keep the county committee up to date. Good records should be kept on what is accomplished in each county.

Awards will be presented for outstanding Plant Two Trees projects, so complete records will help in providing recognition as well as in communicating with other organizations.

The State Forester's office should be informed when the county committees are formed, when goals and action programs have been identified, and as progress is made on individual programs. This information will be incorporated into a newsletter going to all county committees.

County and community groups will often need financial support for their tree planting activities. They can carry out local fund raising projects such as community suppers, T-shirt sales, auctions, bake sales, raffles, recycling or paper drives, benefits, and marathons. Sometimes local businesses may be interested in underwriting tree planting projects.

The efforts of county committees will be supported by a wide variety of literature and technical information produced by the University of Nebraska's Cooperative Extension Service. A series of news releases and other materials will be distributed to the state's media encouraging their participation in telling the public the story of the importance of tree planting.



# TREE PLANTING

I D E A S

Tree planting can take a variety of forms in our rural or urban areas. These are a few examples of the many possible planting projects:



Plant trees along city streets and in parks.

Plant shelter belts, wind breaks, or living snow fences.



Plant community, school, neighborhood, family, or personal arboretums.

Plant Christmas trees to harvest or as permanent Christmas trees.



Plant trees in corners not used by center pivot irrigation systems.

Plant a fruit or nut orchard.



Plant community entrances and parks to attract visitors.



Plant trees to enhance the appearance of business areas and industries.

Plant firewood plantations.



Plant shade trees on the south and west sides of homes for cooling.



Plant evergreen trees on the north side of homes to reduce heating costs.



Develop community forestry programs to insure adequate tree care.

Plant green belts near cities or in flood plains.

Plant walnut and other trees for lumber crops.



Plant trees on marginal farmland to prevent erosion, provide wildlife habitat, and serve as a source of income.



Plant shade and flowering trees around schools.





Encourage participation in on-going programs such as:

- *The Nebraska Forest Service's Clark-McNary tree distribution program for rural shelter belts and wind breaks.*
- *The Tree Farm program.*
- *The National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA community forestry program.*
- *The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum program.*
- *The Game and Parks Commission/NRD Wildlife Habitat program.*
- *The ASCS Tree Cost Sharing program.*

Arrange tours of local nurseries for school and other groups.

Involve local nurseries in tree planting and pruning demonstrations.

Distribute literature to land owners about the value of shelter belts.

Hold meetings with elected municipal officials about the benefits of community forestry.

Arrange for an idea exchange (newsletters, video tapes, meetings) with teachers interested in Arbor Day.



## LOCAL RESOURCE PEOPLE

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Every Nebraska community and county is unique, and you'll want to carry out projects appropriate for your area. As a local leader or tree planter, you'll find a variety of resource people available who you can call on. County extension agents will generally be able to assist in providing technical information, and in putting you in touch with appropriate local experts. In general, you can obtain information and assistance from the following State, Federal and Local Government Offices:



Natural Resource Districts  
Soil Conservation Service  
County Extension Agents  
Game and Parks Commission  
ASCS Office  
City Tree Boards  
City Park and Recreation Departments  
Nebraska Forest Service

In addition, a number of local organizations and individuals are likely prospects to involve in your tree planting projects:



Garden Clubs  
School, College and Church Leaders  
Mayors  
State Senators  
Civic Organizations and Service Clubs  
Youth Clubs such as 4-H, Scouts, Campfire  
Girls, and Church Groups  
Local Businesses  
Any other groups, tree planting experts, or  
other people willing to help.

**PLANT TWO TREES ADDRESS:** Plant Two Trees Coordinator  
State Forester's Office  
101 Plant Industry Bldg.  
Lincoln, NE 68583

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