

**SPRING GROVE NURSERY, INC.**

**Spring Grove Nursery, Inc.**

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# **Arbor Day Celebration 2014**

## **Arbor Day is Friday, April 25, 2014**

Thank you for your interest in National Arbor Day! Our nursery has been supporting Arbor Day for many years, and we have plans again this year to help educate area youth about the importance of planting trees in our communities. Following this page, you will find some information about the history of Arbor Day and the value of trees to our communities and environment. The information was gathered from the Arbor Day website at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org). The website provides a wealth of information should you need more details or graphics.

Spring Grove Nursery, Inc. began in 1999 and is owned and operated by Jamie & Becky Thomas of Mazon. We are a family run wholesale tree nursery growing over 90 acres of beautiful shade, ornamental, and evergreen trees. The nursery is located north of Mazon on Rt. 47. This year we will celebrate our 11th Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting in our community. For the past 11 years, we have planted a tree each year at local grade schools with the students. The schools participating with us this year are:

Mazon-Verona-Kinsman Elementary School	Fri, April 25 11:00am
Seneca Elementary School	Fri, April 25 2:15pm
Immaculate Conception Elementary School	Fri, May 2 10:30am
Coal City Elementary School	Fri, May 2 11:50am

We will be donating & planting a tree at each participating school with the students. We invite anyone interested in trees to come out to some or all of the schools for our plantings. The times for the plantings are noted above. Arbor Day is a fun & important day in our nation, and we hope you will share this positive story with your readers!

Spring Grove Nursery is committed to educating children about the importance of trees, and we hope to inspire our area youth to value trees and understand their impact on our environment. More information about our nursery and our trees can be found on our website at [www.SpringGroveNursery.com](http://www.SpringGroveNursery.com).

Please call if you have any questions about our Arbor Day info. Thanks for your time and Happy Arbor Day!

Becky & Jamie Thomas

*Here is a sample of the flyer the kids will be provided with after planting their tree:*

## **Cool Facts about Trees...**

Arbor Day was founded by J. Sterling Morton in 1872 and is celebrated every spring around the world!

The Tree you planted today will provide these benefits to your school each year:

### **Year 1**

#### \$12 Annual Benefits

Eliminate 74 gallons of storm water runoff  
Conserve 20 kilowatt/hours energy from cooling effects of shade  
Reduce Carbon in the atmosphere by 54 pounds

### **Year 5**

#### \$68 Annual Benefits

Eliminate 517 gallons of storm water runoff  
Conserve 94 kilowatt/hours energy from cooling effects of shade  
Reduce Carbon in the atmosphere by 294 pounds

### **Year 10**

#### \$149 Annual Benefits

Eliminate 1,278 gallons of storm water runoff  
Conserve 208 kilowatt/hours energy from cooling effects of shade  
Reduce Carbon in the atmosphere by 725 pounds

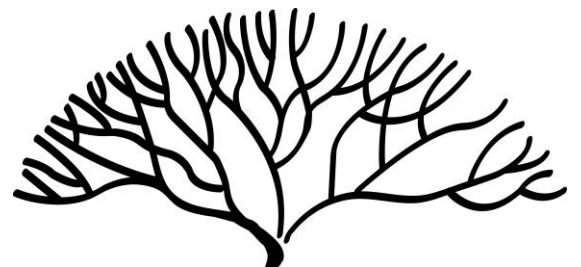
### **Year 20**

#### \$241 Annual Benefits

Eliminate 2,867 gallons of storm water runoff  
Conserve 284 kilowatt/hours energy from cooling effects of shade  
Reduce Carbon in the atmosphere by 1090 pounds

That's over **\$18,310** in benefits to your school over the tree's lifetime, **306,029 gallons** of storm water runoff eliminated, **25,600 kilowatt/hours** of energy conserved, and **97,224 lbs** of carbon reduced in our atmosphere! That's all from just the one tree you planted today!

**What an easy way to make a big difference in our environment!**



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## **The History of Arbor Day**

The idea for Arbor Day originally came from Nebraska. A visit to Nebraska today wouldn't disclose that the state was once a treeless plain. Yet it was the lack of trees there that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s. Among pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton from Detroit. He and his wife were lovers of nature, and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers.

Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. Given that forum, he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an equally enthusiastic audience. His fellow pioneers missed their trees. But, more importantly, trees were needed as windbreaks to keep soil in place, for fuel and building materials, and for shade from the hot sun.

Morton not only advocated tree planting by individuals in his articles and editorials, but he also encouraged civic organizations and groups to join in. His prominence in the area increased, and he became secretary of the Nebraska Territory, which provided another opportunity to stress the value of trees.

### **Arbor Day's Beginnings**

On January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for planting properly the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed by the young state's Gov. Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874, and the day itself was observed April 10, 1874. In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska and April 22, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance.

According to accounts from the *Nebraska City News*, April 1885, the City celebrated Arbor Day with a grand parade and a speech by J. Sterling Morton. Students of different grades met at their respective school rooms in the morning for the purpose of planting at least one tree. Each tree that was planted was labeled with the grade, the time planted, and was to be especially cared for by that grade.

When the plantings were completed, 1000 students formed a line to begin the parade from the various schools to Nebraska City's opera house. In the parade, each class carried colorful banners made of satin with silk lining and trimmed with gold fringe. The letters on the banners were painted in oil colors. By the time the parade reached the opera house the throng numbered well over the 1000 as townspeople joined the march. Every available foot of space in the opera house was occupied, the students having the front seats and gallery while the older persons stood. At 11:00, the throng of celebrants was addressed by the founder of Arbor Day, J. Sterling Morton.

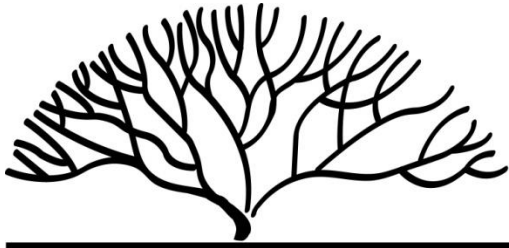
Mr. Morton was listened to with much attention, and loudly applauded at the close of his address. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the students sang "America," and the large audience was dismissed.

This ended the first celebration of Arbor Day as a legal holiday, and, as reported by the newspaper, "... to say that it was a complete success but faintly expresses it. A celebration of this kind results in good to all, and is worthy of imitation by every school in the state."

During the 1870s, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day, and the tradition began in schools nationwide in 1882.

Today the most common date for the state observances is the last Friday in April, and several U.S. presidents have proclaimed a national Arbor Day on that date. But a number of state Arbor Days are at other times to coincide with the best tree planting weather, from January and February in the south to May in the far north.

Arbor Day has now spread beyond the United States and is observed in many countries of the world.



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## **The Social, Economic, & Environmental Benefits of Trees**

- 1 Tree reduces stormwater runoff by over 4,000 gls per year.
- 100 trees remove 5 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere per year.
- "The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day."—*U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- "Landscaping can reduce air conditioning costs by up to 50 percent, by shading the windows and walls of a home." — *American Public Power Association*
- Healthy trees can increase property values by an average of 10%. Trees provide habitat for birds, mammals, & insects.
- The roots of trees help reduce soil erosion by holding soil in place.
- "If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%." —*Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research*
- "Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating."—*USDA Forest Service*
- Through photosynthesis, in 1 day an average tree can provide enough oxygen for a family of 4 for that day.
- Trees planted along highways & city streets have been shown to help reduce drivers' stress & reduce speeds.
- Mature trees in business districts have been shown to positively affect shoppers' behaviors.
- Neighborhoods with more trees have been shown to have a lower crime rate.
- Trees help people feel better – both mentally & physically.
- Trees help reduce flooding by helping to reduce runoff.
- "One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people."—*U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- "There are about 60-to 200- million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs."—*National Wildlife Federation*