Alabama Tree Recovery Campaign

Restoring North Alabama's Tornado-Damaged Urban Forests

What is the Alabama Tree Recovery Campaign?

The Alabama Tree Recovery Campaign is a joint effort between the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Arbor Day Foundation to restore trees in North Alabama communities that were destroyed in the April 2011 tornados.

Why was it created?

The purpose of this campaign is twofold: 1) to replace trees lost due to the April 2011 tornados, and 2) provide citizens a way to participate in the recovery of North Alabama's urban forest through donations and volunteer service. By way of this campaign, people across the US can give back to our state's communities and know they had a hand in rebuilding Alabama's urban forests.

How will the campaign work?

A donation website, ***www.arborday.org/alabama,*** has been established by the Arbor Day Foundation so that anyone in the country can make a donation. For every dollar donated, the Arbor Day Foundation will give Alabama a 2-4 foot seedling. The trees will be handed out in February of 2014.

Who will receive the trees?

Both citizens and local governments are the intended recipients of the tree seedlings. Cities and towns that were directly in the path of or within a half-mile from a tornado will receive priority.

How will the trees be distributed?

The Alabama Forestry Commission will coordinate the overall delivery of tree seedlings with the Arbor Day Foundation. Priority communities that agree to participate will be required to organize the distribution of tree seedlings to its citizens through volunteers and local organizations.

What type of trees will be replanted?

Four species have been chosen:

a) Bald Cypress
b) Shumard Oak
c) Flowering dogwood
d) Blackgum or Tupelo
e) Eastern Redbud

How can citizens help?

We're asking citizens, foundations, businesses, and other organizations to visit the Arbor Day Foundation website at ***www.arborday.org/alabama*** and donate to the campaign. Donations are tax deductible with 100 percent of the funds going to the purchase of tree seedlings for North Alabama communities.

www.forestry.alabama.gov | ***www.arborday.org/alabama***


Photo: FEMA


Photo: FEMA

Background Photo: Kelly Knowles

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Five Species of Trees

Flowering Dogwood

Scientific Name: *Cornus florida*

This beautiful tree flowers in the spring and is found throughout the state of Alabama. Mature trees are usually 20 to 30 feet high. Its thick crown, which can grow to 15 to 20 feet diameter, provides pleasant shade in the warmer months. Growth rate is slow but worth the wait.

Shumard Oak

Scientific Name: *Quercus shumardii*

Mature trees range from 60 to 90 feet in height with a broad, rounded, open crown up to a width of 40 to 60 feet. Native to Alabama, it prefers moist, well-drained soils. It is very adaptable and transplants well. This fast-growing tree needs plenty of room to grow, with no overhead obstructions.

Eastern Redbud

Scientific Name: *Cercis canadensis*

A smaller Eastern American woodland understory tree, Eastern Redbud is common from southernmost Canada to piedmont Alabama and East Texas. They are characterized by simple, rounded to heart-shaped leaves and pinkish-red flowers borne in the early spring on bare leafless shoots. This is satisfactory ornamental tree that can be found in rich bottom lands where it can grow rapidly. The green twigs from the Eastern redbud are used as seasoning for wild game.

Blackgum or Tupelo

Scientific Name: *Nyssa sylvatica*

This typically medium-sized native tree sometimes grows to 90 or 100 feet in height, with branches that stand at right angles to the trunk. The brilliant scarlet colors of autumn leaves are among the first to develop as the seasons change. Growth rate is moderate.

Bald Cypress

Scientific Name: *Taxodium distichum*

Bald cypress is a large tree, reaching 130 feet tall and a widespread of 25 ft. The bark is gray-brown to red-brown, with a stringy texture. It is a very popular ornamental tree, grown for its light, feathery foliage and orange-brown fall color, which can also range to a dull red. In cultivation it thrives on a wide range of soils including well-drained sites where it would not grow naturally due to the inability of the young seedlings to compete with other vegetation. It is considered by some to be a symbol of the southern swamps.

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TREE GIVE-AWAY

Argo	Jefferson	15-Feb-14	8 a.m.	Argo City Hall
Birmingham	Jefferson	22-Feb-14	10 a.m.	Linn Park
Blountsville	Blount	17-Feb-14	8 a.m.	Blountsville Town Hall
Clay	Jefferson	12-Feb-14	10 a.m.	City of Clay Public Works
Fairfield	Jefferson	15-Feb-14	8 a.m.	Fairfield City Park
Forkland	Greene/Hale	8-Feb-14	9 a.m.	Forkland City Hall
Fulton Dale	Jefferson	28-Feb-14	9 a.m.	Fultondale Sports Complex
Geiger	Sumter	1-Mar-14	9 a.m.	Geiger City Hall
Henagar	Dekalb	22-Feb-14	9 a.m.	Henagar Volunteer Fire Department
Irondale	Jefferson	22-Feb-14	8 a.m.	City Hall
Midfield	Jefferson	15-Feb-14	10 a.m.	Midfield Park
Moody	St. Clair	15-Feb-14	9 a.m.	Moody City Park
Myrtlewood	Marengo	21-Feb-14	9 a.m.	Mytlewood Town Hall
Pinson	Jefferson	8-Feb-14	10 a.m.	Turkey Creek Nature Preserve
Rainsville	Dekalb	1-Mar-14	9 a.m.	Rainsville Public Works
Sylvania	Dekalb	8-Feb-14	8 a.m.	Sylvania Town Hall
Vestavia Hills	Jefferson	22-Feb-14	9 a.m.	Cahaba Heights Elementary
Woodstock	Bibb	8-Feb-14	8 a.m.	Woodstock Town Hall

For more information contact Cliff Hawkins at (334) 240-9306, clifford.hawkins@forestry.alabama.gov

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION
www.forestry.alabama.gov

Arbor Day Foundation
arborday.org