

Top Suggestions for Tree Actions

For those that have access to the internet, there is a profusion of information being shared worldwide. I am on a number of different list serves. One list serve I am on connects hundreds of professionals and laypersons that work with or have an interest in community forestry issues. Recently one member posed the question, "What are the five most important actions a person can do for the community forest trees?" The following list represents selected responses that were given:

- ◆ Plant a tree (most common response)
- ◆ Water a recently transplanted tree
- ◆ Kill the grass around a recently transplanted tree
- ◆ Properly prune a young tree
- ◆ Mulch trees in preparation for summer time
- ◆ Before planting more trees, ensure the ones already planted are receiving adequate care
- ◆ Talk to a school or youth group about the importance of trees
- ◆ Talk to your City Council about Tree City USA
- ◆ Ask your mayor why your city is not a Tree City USA
- ◆ Read a book about trees and share what they learn with somebody
- ◆ Actively join a tree board, local forestry council, or state association
- ◆ Be active at city council meetings and express your opinions about the way trees are managed in your town
- ◆ Volunteer to be an ACTIVE member of your church's and or school's building and grounds committee and let your voice be heard for trees
- ◆ Help plan a Tree Planting Festival for your neighborhood or town
- ◆ Build an oak woodland near an elementary school
- ◆ Supply the local newspaper with stories on trees
- ◆ Start a local TreeTrust and Tree Bank
- ◆ Adopt A Tree and Adopt A Oak Bench project
- ◆ Talk about trees and their importance to your own children
- ◆ Do something to "pay your rent" on this planet
- ◆ Take an elected official to lunch and tell them how important trees are in your community
- ◆ If the person in charge of trees in a municipality is not knowledgeable or experienced in proper tree care, work to change this
- ◆ Emphasize long-term tree programs instead of one-time projects
- ◆ Be a partner in your local Community Forestry program
- ◆ Write your representative(s) about the importance of urban forests in their lives
- ◆ Author a letter to the editor of the local paper about the importance of trees for society
- ◆ Support biodiversity and color in the landscape by planting a cool, unusual, flowering tree in their yard or local school yard (with proper permission, of course)
- ◆ Engage your children or grandchildren or little ones anywhere in planting a tree

