

Fall trees now available through joining Arbor Day Foundation

Everyone who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in September will receive 10 free trees as part of the Foundation's Trees for America program.

Through Trees for America, everyone is encouraged to plant trees, which benefit the environment and improves quality of life. With nearly 1 million members and supporters, the Arbor Day Foundation is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees.

Everyone joining this month will receive one of the following tree packages based on their location: 10 Arizona Cypress, 10 Live Oak or 10 Mix trees including eastern redbud, white pine, sugar maple, white

flowering dogwood, pin oak, red maple, river birch, silver maple, northern red oak, and Colorado blue spruce.

"These trees are carefully selected to yield year-round benefits, including beautiful spring flowers, cool summer shade, spectacular autumn colors, winter berries, and nesting sites for songbirds," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

"These trees will also add to the proud heritage of your state's Tree City USA communities." Harris continued. "For the past 40 years, Tree City USA has supported effective urban forestry management across the country, and planting these trees will enhance this tree-planting

tradition."

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between October 15 and December 10. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Easy-to-follow planting instructions are enclosed with each shipment of trees.

New members of the Arbor Day Foundation will also receive The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To receive the 10 free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by September 30, 2017, or join online at arborday.org/september.

Kindergartners, pre-k students achieve steady gains on statewide assessment

For the third year in a row, the results of Mississippi's statewide assessment of learning in pre-K and kindergarten show that the majority of the state's youngest students have made significant gains during the academic year, with the average statewide score exceeding the previous two school years.

Close to 37,000 kindergartners took the STAR Early Literacy exam in the fall and spring of the 2016-17 school year.

The state average score for the fall test was 502. The average score climbed to 710 on the spring test. The score gain is greater than last year, which grew from 502 in the fall to 703 in the spring.

"Mississippi kindergarten teachers are continuing to do a great job helping students build the foundational literacy skills they need to be successful throughout their education," said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. "Reading instruction must remain a major focus through the 3rd grade so that all children complete elementary school with strong reading skills."

Every district in the state showed progress among their kindergarten classes, though student achievement varied. District average scores ranged from 609 to 782.

Statewide, 65% of kindergartners scored above the end-of-year target score of 681, which categorizes them as transitional readers. Students scoring at this level are beginning to read unfamiliar words and easy reader material, but are not yet independent readers.

At the end of the 2015-16 school year, 63% met the target score, up from 54% in 2014-15.

The STAR Early Literacy exam evaluates skills such

as the ability to recognize letters and match letters to their sounds and a student's recognition that print flows from left to right.

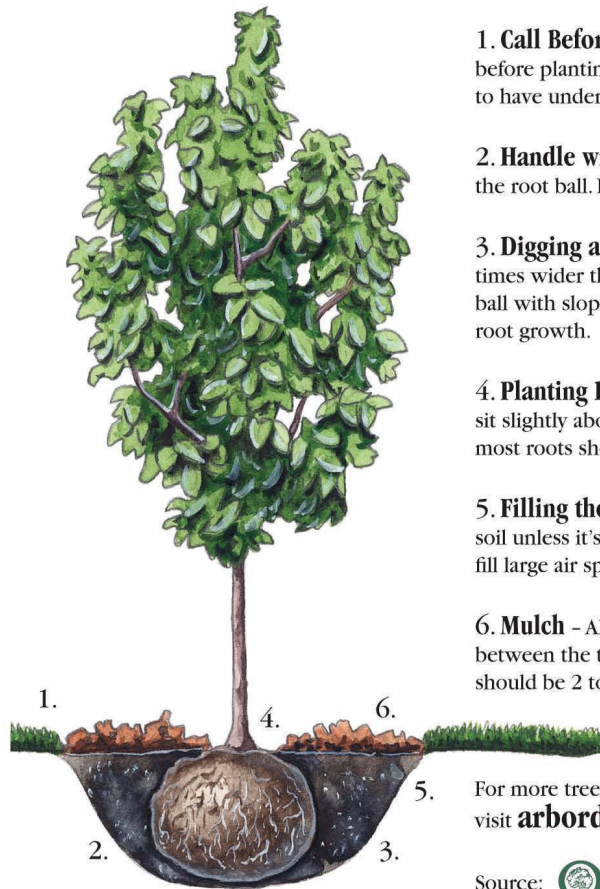
The exam produces reports for parents and teachers that detail each child's early reading skills. Teacher reports also include diagnostic information and instructional plans for every student.

Pre-K students in the state's Early Learning Collaboratives (ELCs) and other public pre-K classes for 4-year-olds also made steady gains on the STAR Early Literacy exam.

The average score among students in ELCs was 585, which exceeded the pre-K end-of-year target score of 498. The average score among 4-year-olds in other public pre-K classrooms was 549.

"I am proud of our state's pre-K and kindergarten teachers and school leaders for their hard work and dedication to equipping our state's youngest learners for success," Wright said. "Our schools' and teachers' focus on literacy in the early years will have a significant impact on student achievement for years to come."

Six things you should know when planting a tree.



1. Call Before You Dig - Several days before planting, call the national 811 hotline to have underground utilities located.

2. Handle with Care - Always lift tree by the root ball. Keep roots moist until planting.

3. Digging a Proper Hole - Dig 2 to 5 times wider than the diameter of the root ball with sloping sides to allow for proper root growth.

4. Planting Depth - The trunk flare should sit slightly above ground level and the top-most roots should be buried 1 to 2 inches.

5. Filling the Hole - Backfill with native soil unless it's all clay. Tamp in soil gently to fill large air spaces.

6. Mulch - Allow 1 to 2 inch clearance between the trunk and the mulch. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep.

For more tree-planting tips and information, visit arborday.org.

Source: **Arbor Day Foundation**
90075201



- Bridal Registry**
- Ashley Boatner
Jacob Williamson
September 23
 - Sara O'Reilly
Jamie Boyette
October 7
 - Laura Ellis
Justin Rennhack
October 21
 - Kristan Carroll
Conner Pounders
November 11
 - Brett Spell
Grey Clark
November 20
 - Katelyn Bienemann
Davis Ables
December 9

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ACROSS

- 1) She played Madeleine in "Bel Ami" (2012)
- 4) Get really excited
- 8) Mug shot result?
- 14) ___ data
- 15) "The Diana Chronicles" author Brown
- 16) Rooks, e.g.
- 17) Social follower?
- 18) Levitate
- 20) Fashionable
- 22) "Enough, José!"
- 23) Shout after a muleta manipulation
- 24) Hard-to-hit pitch
- 26) ___ fail
- 28) Carrier of many old couples
- 30) Historic Buddhist temple
- 33) You can count on them
- 35) Response acknowledging familiarity
- 38) Couple getting away together?
- 41) Beyond reproach
- 42) Lemony spice used in Middle Eastern cuisine
- 43) Question of time
- 46) Half a drink
- 47) Not out
- 50) 2000s Showtime series, with "The"
- 52) "Star Trek" initialism
- 54) In a big way
- 57) Party where lomi salmon may be served
- 58) Runway highlight
- 61) Treasury Dept. variable
- 62) Fitting game
- 63) 1970 Kinks hit
- 64) Stand in a barrel
- 65) Outsmarts
- 66) Good place to see plays
- 67) Rocker Nugent

DOWN

- 1) "Spenser: For Hire" actor
- 2) He's no Johnny One Note
- 3) Barely clear of the bottom
- 4) Co. with a bouquet in its logo
- 5) Bank security
- 6) Scoop
- 7) Loan document
- 8) Iranian language
- 9) Clark's "Mogambo" co-star
- 10) It helps you avoid seeing spots
- 11) Boxer who retired undefeated
- 12) Building security device
- 13) Humanities dept.
- 19) Clothing giant
- 21) Starbucks latte order
- 25) Courvoisier and Hennessy
- 27) Taunt
- 29) Surfer's option
- 31) Garlic relative
- 32) "Just doing my job"
- 34) Nocturnal bird
- 36) City name that looks like an oxymoron
- 37) Over
- 38) "Hey!"
- 39) "___ Hunger Force": Adult Swim cartoon
- 40) Ponder
- 44) Milky Way component
- 45) Farm
- 48) Profundity metaphor
- 49) Provider of answers, briefly
- 51) Had
- 53) Provider of answers
- 55) Some summer births
- 56) Kennel noise
- 58) "Takin' Care of Business" rock gp.
- 59) Bills left behind, perhaps
- 60) Indian bread

LA TIMES Crossword

By Mark Bickham / Ed. Rich Norris
Edited by Rich Norris

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