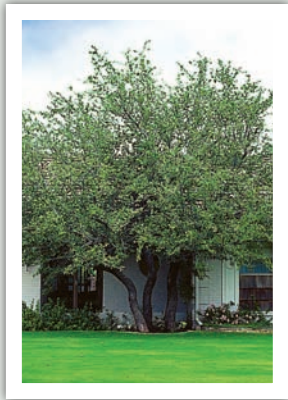


Georgia

2012 State Report



Georgia's state tree is the Live Oak.

Georgia State Statistics

Active Arbor Day Foundation Members in Georgia: **21,760**



TREE CITY USA®

Program in Georgia:

Tree City USA Communities: **137**

Total population served: **3,066,496**

Largest Tree City USA in Georgia:

Atlanta, population 570,000

Smallest Tree City USA in Georgia:

Buckhead, population 210

Tree Line USA Utilities: **1**

Tree Campus USA Colleges: **6**

Certified Nature Explore Classrooms: **3**

Georgia celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday in February.

Nature Explore Classrooms Are Changing the Lives of Children

Children today spend less time outdoors and are more disconnected from nature than ever before. At the same time studies show increasing rates of childhood obesity, diabetes, and behavior challenges. Addressing the problem is the growing Nature Explore program, a collaborative project of the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. Nature Explore provides comprehensive, field-tested resources to help educators, administrators, and families make nature part of the daily lives of children – at child care centers, schools, nature centers, parks, and at home.

Nature Explore Classrooms, in spaces large and small, continue to be designed and built across the country using field-tested principles in the *Learning With Nature Idea Book* (available at natureexplore.org). In Nature Explore Classrooms, children begin to understand the natural world around them, instilling a lifelong sense of wonder and a love of nature...creating the earth's next generation of tree planters and environmental stewards. To learn more about Nature Explore Classrooms in Georgia, please visit natureexplore.org/classrooms.



Georgia Members Plant 187,338 Trees

The Arbor Day Foundation's dedicated members are making a difference by planting trees in their communities across the United States. Our 21,760 Georgia members helped plant more than 187,338 trees across the state last year.

Ella M. Helm has been a member of the Arbor Day Foundation since 1998 and she recently let us know how much she enjoys the benefits. "I appreciate and thank the Arbor Day Foundation for what you have done for me and my forest," says Ella. With her Foundation trees, Ella has created a beautiful forest that provides a privacy fence most of the year.



Our State and National Forests are National Treasures

From coast to coast, they are more than our national forests. They are national treasures. They thrill us with towering majesty and inspire us with breathtaking beauty. They provide wood for our homes, habitat for wildlife, clean air, and drinking water for millions of us.

But, in recent years, record wildfire seasons have destroyed millions of trees in forests around the country. Many areas have burned so severely that replanting is necessary. Yet much of the U.S. Forest Service budget has been diverted to simply fighting these massive fires, with much less funding left for replanting. The Forest Service has identified a backlog of more than one million acres of America's national forests that need to be replanted. And each year, with every wildfire, storm, or insect epidemic, the backlog steadily increases.

Our forests are our future. And you can help protect them... one tree at a time.



Tree Campus USA

Colleges and universities across the United States can be recognized as a Tree Campus USA college by meeting five standards developed to promote healthy trees and student involvement. By meeting the annual standards and being recognized as a Tree Campus USA college, the campus not only benefits the environment but instills pride in the students, faculty, and community.

The following Georgia colleges have been recognized as Tree Campus USA schools:

- Georgia Tech
- Albany Technical College
- Emory University
- The University of Georgia
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Macon State College

Learn more about the Tree Campus USA program at arborday.org/treecampususa.



Georgia Tree City USAs Support Community Forestry

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA® program encourages, supports, and strengthens effective urban and community forestry programs in diverse communities nationwide through recognition, education, and publicity. From the humble beginning of the program 36 years ago, it has grown to be the leading community forestry recognition program in the country, with more than 3,400 designated Tree City USAs across America.

Tree City USA is thriving in Georgia because of the strong partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the Georgia Forestry Commission. Georgia boasts 137 certified Tree City USA communities. Last year, Georgia Tree City USAs spent a combined total of \$19,961,035 on their urban forestry budgets benefiting the more than 3 million Georgia residents who live in those communities. The dedication of Georgia's urban and community foresters, city officials, and citizens to planting and caring for trees in their cities and towns helps increase energy savings, clean the air and water, and beautify the entire state.



Contacts

For more information about programs offered by the Arbor Day Foundation and our work in Georgia, please visit arborday.org or call:

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