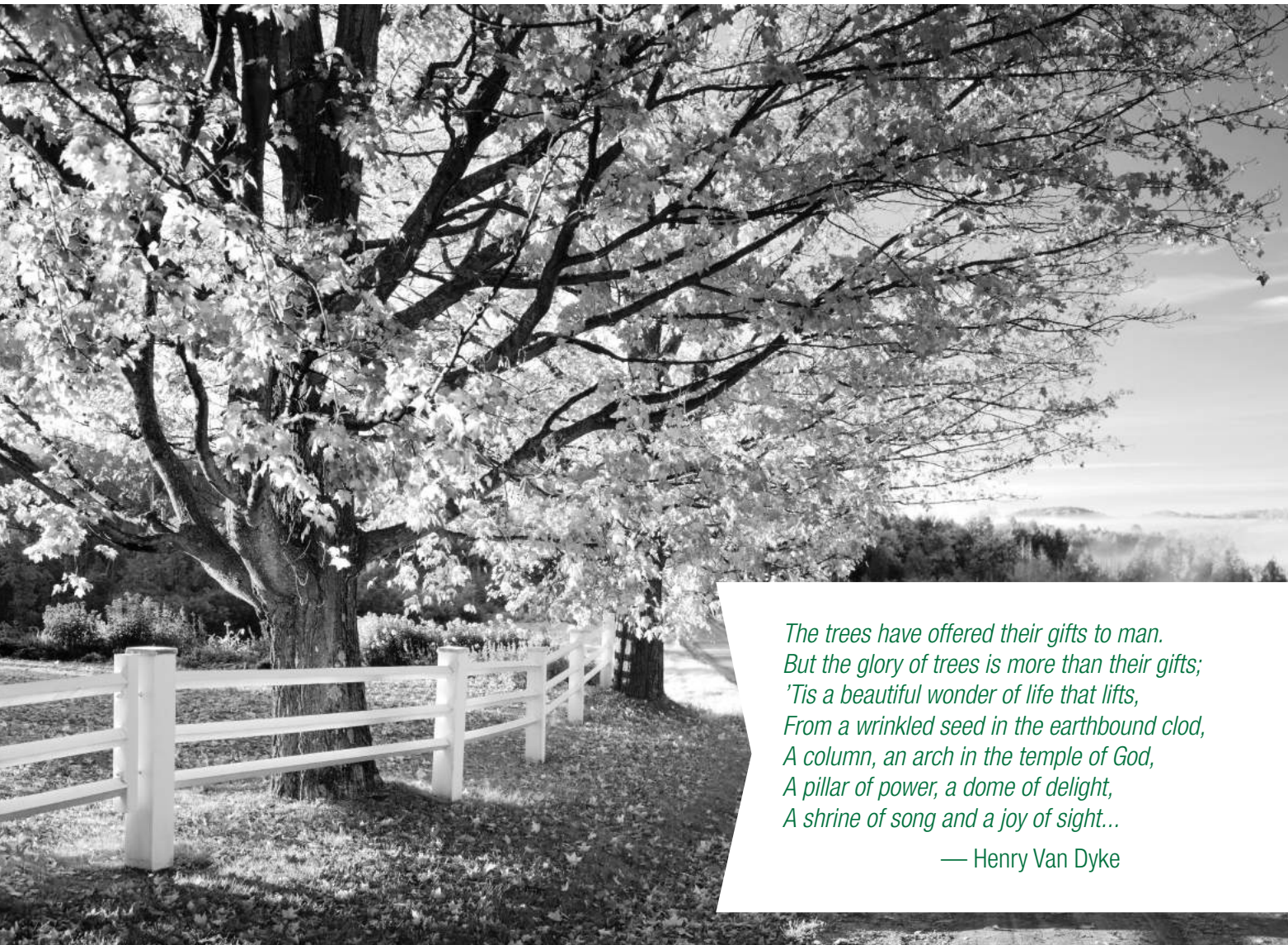




The Way Trees Work – How to Help

TREE CITY USA®
BULLETIN

No. **38** Editor: Dr. James R. Fazio • \$3.00



*The trees have offered their gifts to man.
But the glory of trees is more than their gifts;
'Tis a beautiful wonder of life that lifts,
From a wrinkled seed in the earthbound clod,
A column, an arch in the temple of God,
A pillar of power, a dome of delight,
A shrine of song and a joy of sight...*

— Henry Van Dyke

How trees live and grow is a fascinating subject that some people pursue for a lifetime. But by knowing even a few basics, it is possible to better understand why some of the things we do to trees help their growth while others hinder it.

Not long ago a consulting forester wrote to the Arbor Day Foundation urging that an issue of Tree City USA Bulletin be devoted to the basics of tree growth. The forester wrote, “It continually surprises me just how little most people know about how a tree grows and functions.”

This bulletin is in response to that need. It is an attempt at the bewildering task of condensing into eight pages material that easily fills scores of textbooks and scientific journals. But as impossible as that may be, it is important to know some basic functions, as the forester suggests. To many people, this is fundamental knowledge, but to others it is completely foreign. Perhaps more importantly, in the pages that follow is an attempt to show how the actions and practices of humans are related to the needs of the tree.



Arbor Day Foundation®
100 Arbor Avenue • Nebraska City, NE 68410