

Through Arbor Week we hope to:

- Promote knowledge of trees, particularly indigenous trees;
- Highlight the important role that forestry plays in our economy, especially in the rural areas
- Raise awareness of the dangers of veld and forest fires
- Stress the necessity for everyone to plant trees and care for them;
- Highlight the vital role of trees in our lives by organising a variety of greening events;
- To encourage the youth to participate in tree planting activities

What can we do during Arbor Week?

Suggestions for activities Arbor Week celebrations are:

- Motivate your local schools, clinics, churches and others to engage in tree planting ceremonies

- Organise a poster, essay, poetry or debating competition about trees at your school
- Present a play about the environment
- Initiate a memorial tree garden in your community
- Distribute information on the planting and care of trees
- Start a vegetable garden
- Organise tree identification excursions
- Go hiking in the indigenous forest areas

For further information about Arbor Week, including the programme of events, posters and leaflets, visit the DWAF website: www.dwaf.gov.za (Under Upcoming Events).

Alternatively, you can contact Livhu NemaKonde (012) 336 74832 or e-mail: Nemakol@dwaf.gov.za

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Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

Plant a tree - Grow our future



Plant a million trees a year

**Arbor Week
1-7 September 2007**



water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



TOTAL

Arbor Week is a national campaign initiated to celebrate South Africa's trees and to raise awareness about their importance.

The theme for Arbor Week 2007 is "Plant a tree - Grow our future". Linked to this year's campaign are the following messages:

- If we do not plant trees today, how will future generations know?
- Greening helps to create a healthy and dignified environment
- Veld and forest fires destroy life- PREVENT THEM



- Forests and plantations provide economic opportunities to the nation
- Fruit trees help alleviate poverty and hunger

This year, the Department would like to ask you to:

- ***Protect our indigenous forests;***
- ***Help prevent veld and forest fires;***
- ***Plant a tree***

How can you help to protect our indigenous forests?

Our forests are under threat from people who are careless with our heritage. Never cut down a tree in a natural forest and do not remove an animal or living plant without permission. Explain to others the importance of protecting our natural environment.

How can you help to prevent forest fires?

Each year veld and forest fires destroy thousands of hectares of

trees and grasslands. Many people are injured and even killed. Animals are endangered and people's livelihoods are destroyed. These fires also damage our economy by destroying valuable assets. Please help to prevent these fires. Don't light fires in the open air during winter time when it is dry. Don't be careless with flammable material. Report fires to your fire station or police station as soon as possible. Never drive or walk into an area that is on fire.

What about planting a tree?

Many places in South Africa are barren and lifeless because they do not have trees, gardens or plants. In the past, trees were not planted in township areas while suburbs have usually had trees growing for many years. We need to plant trees in every town, city and school in South Africa. We need to plant a tree with every new home. We need to ensure that every clinic has trees. You can help by planting trees at home or working with your school, church, or local government to plant trees. Remember to water your trees once they have been planted.