

FOREST NEWS



**National Tree Planting Day
2018**

**Plant Trees to Mitigate
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PLANT TREES TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

As Jamaica marches closer to a predicted state of climate departure, the Forestry Department is urging Jamaicans to take steps that will count towards a climate resilient future as the Agency leads the 16th observance of National Tree Planting Day on Friday, October 5, 2018.

Climate departure, according to Yale Environment 360 online magazine, is said to mark 'the point at which the earth's climate begins to cease resembling what has come before and moves into a new state, one where heat records are routinely shattered and what once was considered extreme will become the norm'.

A 2013 publication in the British scientific Journal, Nature, said that Jamaica is expected to experience climate departure by 2023 with the possibility of it changing to 2028 with carbon dioxide mitigation.

Ms. Marilyn Headley, CEO & Conservator of Forests, says that two ways we can help to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is by **not** cutting down trees and by planting more trees.

"One of the many functions of trees is the absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. When we cut trees, we are reducing the number of trees that are able to absorb this greenhouse gas but when we plant trees we are increasing the capacity for the absorption of greater levels of the gas. It's really clear what we need to do going forward and it is not the responsibility of one agency or one individual, it is everyone's responsibility," Ms. Headley said.

The Agency is therefore urging all Jamaicans to play their part this National Tree Planting Day by planting a tree that will count towards a sustainable future, under the theme, "**Every Tree Counts: 1, 2, 3... Plant Yours Today**".

"Every year we make the call for individuals to get involved and plant trees and the call remains just as urgent today. We lose trees every year, whether as a result of forest fires, illegal cutting or a result of road and building construction. If we are to continue reaping the benefit that these trees provide at the national level, we have to continue planting to replace those that we have lost," she said.

The Agency started distribution of an assortment of free timber and ornamental seedlings on Monday, September 24 to give individuals the opportunity to get involved. Persons may visit the Agency's nurseries at its Head Office, 173 Constant Spring Road; Moneague, St. Ann, adjacent to the JDF Camp; and Williamsfield, Manchester to collect seedlings for tree planting projects.

Distribution will continue until Friday, October 12, however, there will be no distribution on Friday, October 5 to facilitate tree planting activities in observance of the day.

In the meantime, the main ceremony and national project for this year's observance will be at the Donald Quarry High School in Kingston. Other ceremonies and projects will be held at the Grange Hill High School, Westmoreland; Moneague Primary School, St. Ann; St. Mary and Oracabessa High Schools in St. Mary; and Fair Prospect High School, Portland. The Agency will also be partnering with other organizations to carry out tree planting projects on the lead up to National Tree Planting Day including the National Council for Senior Citizens, which will be planting trees as part of its observance of Senior Citizens Week and the St. Catherine Municipal Council which has included tree planting as part of its rehabilitation works of the the Old Harbour Bathing Beach.

National Tree Planting Day is a nationwide observance led by the Forestry Department. It is aimed at promoting the value of forests and trees, while providing an opportunity for everyone to contribute to increasing the island's forest cover and beautifying the surroundings by planting trees.

For further information, persons may contact the Forestry Department at (876) 618-3205 or by visiting the Agency's website www.forestry.gov.jm or social media pages, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by searching for the handle @ForestryDeptJa.

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TREES TO PLANT IN URBAN AREAS

The majority of Jamaica's population live in urban areas and are disconnected from natural areas such as forests. Apart from recreational purposes, trees are needed in urban areas to remove air pollutants, reduce stormwater runoff, provide shade and to beautify the surroundings.

Not every tree is suited to be planted in the urban environment as some trees require lots of space to grow and require cooler and hilly terrains. Here's a list of 10 trees available at the Forestry Department that can be planted in urban areas as they can be pruned to remain at a desired height, and they add a lot of beauty to the environment.

1. Poor Man's Orchid (*Bauhinia purpurea*)
2. Yellow Poui (*Tabebuia serratifolia*)
3. Pride of Barbados (*Ceasalpina pulcherrima*)
4. Queen's Flower (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*)
5. Shower of Gold (*Cassia fistula*)
6. Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)
7. Lignum Vitae (*Guaiacum officinale*)
8. Cassia siamea (*Cassia siamea*)
9. Cassia javanica (*Cassia javanica*)
10. Poinciana (*Delonix regia*)



National Tree Planting Day



2018

Save
Date

Friday, October 5

*Distribution runs from Monday,
September 24 to Friday, October 12, 2018*

Forestry Department, 173 Constant Spring Road | Tele: 876 618 3502 | www.forestry.gov.jm





Things to Consider when deciding where to plant your tree

Congratulations on deciding to add a tree to your outdoor space. This is one of the best decisions you could possibly make. Now, it's time to decide where to put this magnificent feature.

Here are three things you should consider when deciding where to plant your tree:

1. Growing conditions

One of your considerations should be the growing conditions the tree needs, which would include the location it is planted at and exposure to sunlight. Some trees do better in some areas, so it is a good idea to ask what trees may do particularly well in your area. For example, if you live in an area which is in the mountains or near the seaside, you should consider using species which thrive under these conditions.

As it relates to the exposure to sunlight, most trees love the sun. Plant trees in areas which allow access to direct sunlight.

2. Does it have enough space to grow

Another question you should definitely ask yourself is how big the tree will be when it is fully grown. A meticulous gardener can put in the work to maintain a tree at a specific height. Pruning will give you some control over how tall a tree gets and how much its branches spread, but some trees are better off not tamed.

Plant large trees, such as the magnificent Poinciana, in locations where they will have the space to grow and establish their impressive crowns. Homes with a lot of open land space are also well-suited for large trees, so if you have the land space, you will have more options.

3. How near will tree be to structures/infrastructure

When it comes to the size of your tree, there is one more thing you need to consider, plant your tree where it will be less likely to pose harm as it gets larger.

Plant trees with sufficient distance from houses, walls, power lines and boundaries with neighbours. Sometimes tree roots will spread and can cause damage to sidewalks and foundations. This happens in some cases if the soil is not deep enough for the roots to continue growing downwards. So, if you live in an area, with not much soil depth, such as in Portmore, St. Catherine, the roots of your tree may spread more than expected.

Before you go

Also bear in mind that Jamaica is affected by hurricanes, so any tree you plant should not be located in an area where overhanging branches can easily damage a home or power lines. And since causing a mess in someone else's yard isn't neighbourly, consider where fruits, leaves and blossoms will fall and make sure these will not inconvenience someone else.

So there you have it, keep these tips in mind when deciding where to plant, or even while going shopping, for your next tree. Happy planting!

INVESTING IN FORESTRY...SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

When we hear the term investment, we often think of stocks and bonds; however, there are other unorthodox options available. When one man was seeking to invest, he sought to do so in an unconventional area, one that wasn't "crowded" and one where he could reap real rewards through a medium to long-term investment. He decided to plant trees.

This man, Mr. Dalkeith Hanna received his first batch of 500 Caribbean Pine seedlings as part of the Forestry Department's Private Forestry Programme in 1980. The programme allows private landowners who have lands that are not under productive use to get free timber seedlings, to plant on their properties. Along with the free seedlings, technical advice is given to ensure trees survive and thrive.

Mr. Hanna recognised the opportunity that the programme presented and latched onto it. Today, just over 28 hectares (70 acres) of his 53 hectares (132 acres) of land in St. James, called 'Croydon in the Mountains', is forested and forms part of the product offering at the property which operates as an eco-tourism site.

However, his main purpose for planting the trees was as an income earner through the sale of lumber. Mr. Hanna said although it was a long term investment with a turnaround time of approximately 20 years, he was not dissuaded. It has been 38 years since he received his first batch of seedlings and he has never looked back. While waiting on his timber trees to mature, Mr. Hanna planted other short-term income earning crops such as pineapples. These crops provided additional short-term income source.

Over the close to forty years that he has been farming timber trees, he has harvested some, however he ensures that he replants so the property remains forested. Mr. Hanna has not only been planting trees but by maintaining the tree cover, he is able to get remission of property taxes. Mr. Hanna was the first individual to benefit from the remission of property tax benefit as set out in the Forest Act, 1996.

The Act states that, "if, and for so long as, the owner of private land in a protected area or forest management area declared forest reserve complies with the regulations or directions under this Act in relation to that land - he shall in each financial year, on application to the Conservator, be granted a certificate to that effect; and be entitled to remission of property tax in respect of that land in that financial year".

Mr. Hanna's story demonstrates the successes that potential investors can also reap should they participate in the Forestry Department's private forestry programme or land declaration programme. Mr. Hanna's contribution to the forest sector has not gone unnoticed as he was recognized as a Forest Hero by the Agency in 2013 when the Forestry Department celebrated its 75th anniversary. The private forestry programme has more than 5000 participants since the programme was revamped in 1998. Since the restructuring, the Forestry Department has distributed over 1,000,000 trees which represents 1,600 hectares of trees planted.

Industry News

FORESTS CRUCIAL TO MEETING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENTS

Without the world's forests and the multiple benefits they provide, it will be difficult to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Forests and trees must therefore be central to plans and programmes aimed at meeting these international commitments, according to discussions on the opening day of World Forest Week at FAO headquarters in Rome on Monday, July 16, 2018.

Participants, representing governments, civil society and international organizations, described the important roles that forests are playing in their regions and discussed how forests can be sustainably managed so they can continue to provide such necessities as climate adaptation, biodiversity, and livelihoods, while also contributing to food and water security. Such benefits are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, according to discussions during the event titled 'High-Level Dialogue on Forests and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

The complexity of issues related to sustainable development and the interconnectedness of the goals and their targets were discussed, as well as how to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Discussions focused on Goal 15 'Life on Land', with its pledges to promote the implementation of sustainable management of forests, halt deforestation,

restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

The role of forests in the context of combating climate change was a key theme of the side event on July 16, 2018 'Implementing Article 5 of the Paris Agreement and achieving climate neutrality through forests'. The event was convened by FAO and Poland, which will hold the Presidency of the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Conference of the Parties (COP24). Discussions emphasized the catalytic role of forests in strengthening work to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Discussions also highlighted initiatives on forest-based climate mitigation solutions and the role of innovations and sustainable wood products in accelerating the implementation of climate commitments. Actions on forests to reduce emission levels arising from deforestation and forest degradation and to enhance forest carbon sinks are one of the most significant and cost-effective ways to reduce global emissions, while also producing important adaptation, biodiversity, livelihood and development benefits. Poland, which will host the next meeting of COP24 in the city of Katowice in December 2018, outlined some of its work to promote the protection of forests through sustainable management practices.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

On Saturday, September 15, the Forestry Department participated in International Coastal CleanUp Day at the Gun Boat Beach along the Palisadoes strip where 1159lbs of garbage and 715.4lbs of plastic were collected.

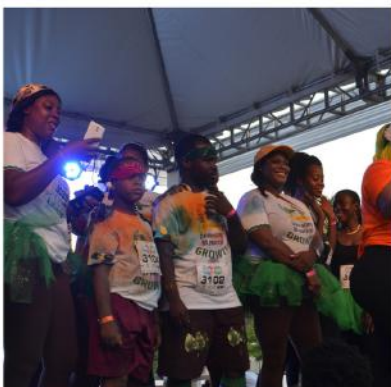
On the same day, we also participated in the Kind Hearts Foundation's annual 5K Colour Me Happy charity run at Hope Gardens. The funds raised at the Run will be used to build basic schools across Jamaica.

See page 10 for pictorial highlights of these events.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY



COLOUR ME HAPPY 5K RUN



Mission

Manage our forests in an effective and responsible manner for the benefit of current and future generations.

Vision

Jamaica: a country where we value our forest ecosystem and use its resources in a responsible manner.

Core Values

Commitment Confidentiality Teamwork
Integrity Professionalism

Forestry Department
173 Constant Spring Road
Kingston 8
Phone: 876-618-3205
Fax: 876-924-2626
E-mail: fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm
www.forestry.gov.jm

Find us on:

