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25 Ways to Write Communicate About a Tree

V4

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Numbered items follow talk. Links are to various kinds of pages to get you started on a story—institutional websites, online tools, blog posts. For more sources, with ways to find local sources, see list at the bottom.

1. Trees need us

[Forests](#) (and [this](#))

[Effect of Hurricane Sandy on trees](#)

[Urban tree canopy shrinking](#)

2. Trees as time

3. The why of trees

[Autumn color](#)

[Evergreens](#)

[Cone shape](#)

4. Trees are wider than they are tall

5. Trees as givers (and also [this](#))

[Supply oxygen](#)

[Capture air pollution](#)

[Hold carbon](#)

[Capture rain,](#)

[Reduce water pollution](#)

[Diminish crime](#)

[Support health](#) (and also [this](#) and [this](#))

[Improve retail sales](#)

[Increase property values](#)

[Save energy](#) if properly sited

Utility companies that give rebates: search for [“utility rebate tree planting”](#)

[I-Tree tree benefit planning tool](#) (professional version)

[National Tree Benefit Calculator](#) (simpler, more accessible interface)

[I-Tree landscape mapping tool](#)

[Arbor Day Foundation Benefits of Trees](#)

6. How trees need help: [mulching](#)

7. How trees need help: [watering](#)

[Watering mature trees](#) during drought

8. How trees need help: [Don't move firewood](#)

[Emerald Ash Borer Information Network](#)

[Tree Check Month](#) (August)

9. Trees die slowly

[Protecting trees from construction](#)

10. Beautiful bark

[Bark structure](#)

[Damage to bark](#) (and [this](#), about camper damage)

[Staking damage](#)

11. Tree roots in sewers

12. Tree fear: Reducing tree risk

Hiring a professional arborist: [International Society of Arboriculture](#)

[Dangers of amateur tree trimming and removal](#)

[Centers for Disease Control reports 36,000 chainsaw injuries/year](#)

[Tree climbing championship](#)

13. How to prune a SMALL tree

14. Power line pruning

[Historical power line photos \(LA Department of Water & Power\)](#)

Planting near power lines:

[Arbor Day Foundation planting guide](#)

[Utility Arborist Association](#)

[ComEd planting booklet](#)

[Snohomish County PUD tree planting advice](#)

15. Tree planning

[Northern Illinois Tree Selector](#) (tool from The Morton Arboretum)

[Sun, soil, water](#)

[Form/shape](#)

[Fruit?Seeds?Pods?](#)

[Container?B&B?](#)

16. Mature tree size

[Tree and Plant Finder](#) (The Morton Arboretum website)

17. "I want a fast tree!"

[Fast-growing, weak wood](#)

[Fast-growing giant arborvitae grows big](#)

[Smaller trees recover faster](#)

18. Tree recommendations have changed—a lot

[Need for diversity in tree planting](#)

[Northern Illinois Tree Selector](#)

[Chicago Botanic Garden "Trees for 2050"](#)

[University of Illinois Extension "Selecting Trees for Your Home" site](#)

[Virginia Street Tree Assessment Project](#)

[Utah State University Tree Browser](#) (but note: contains ashes, and EAB infestation is in Colorado next to Utah)

19. Tree planting (and [this](#))

[Not too deep](#)

20. Trees in the garden: your most important plant

[Tree form](#) and texture

[Shade: dense? Filtered?](#)

[Dry shade under trees](#)

21. [Bad place for a planter](#)

22. Trees with history

[Heritage trees](#) (American Forests)

[Tree protection toolkit](#) (American Forests)

[Tree removal laws](#) (Treeremoval.com)

What trees were here?

[Chicago-area presettlement vegetation map](#)

[Michigan 1800 vegetation](#)

Your place's special tree

[OAKtober](#)—Illinois Oak Awareness Month

Champion trees: [National Big Tree Program](#)

23. Urban forestry volunteers

[Alliance for Community Trees](#) (find local programs)

[Openlands TreeKeepers](#) (Chicago)

24. Trees as part of the urban forest

[Urban Forests-Why We Care](#) (American Forests)

[Planning for Urban and Community Forestry](#) (American Planning Association)

[State urban forestry coordinators](#) (Arbor Day Foundation)

[Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition](#)

[Tree censuses and other reports](#) (iTrees list)

[Value of street trees](#)

24.5 What lives in your trees?

[Urban wildlife](#) (University of Illinois Extension)

24.75 Food forests, urban orchards

[Food forests](#) (blog)

[Urban orchards](#) (blog)

25. Climate change

[2014 U.S. National Climate Assessment](#) (U.S. Global Change Research Program)

[Regional assessments](#)

[Forest impacts](#)

[Study of a beloved British woodland](#)

[Climate change in Eastern US forests](#)

[Slower tree growth with climate change](#)

[Where forests will be affected](#)

Sources

Academic, scientific, public gardens

A few major arboretums (or arboreta)

[Arnold Arboretum](#), Boston, Mass.

[Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest](#), Clermont, Ky.

[Chicago Botanic Garden](#), Glencoe, Ill.

[Dawes Arboretum](#), Newark, Ohio
[The Holden Arboretum](#), Kirtland, Ohio
[Longwood Gardens](#), Kennett Square, Pa.
[Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), Los Angeles, Calif.
[Lyon Arboretum](#), University of Hawai'i
[Minnesota Landscape Arboretum](#), Chaska, Minn.
[Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania](#), Philadelphia, Pa.
[The Morton Arboretum](#), Lisle, Ill.
[United States National Arboretum](#), Washington, D.C.

List of many other arboreta:

[Morton Register of Arboreta](#) (arbnnet.org/about-morton-register-arboreta)

(Look for ArbNet accreditation--Level III and Level IV arboreta have largest staffs, most academic expertise, can provide best science sources)

[Wikipedia list of U.S. botanical gardens and arboreta](#)

Other sources of academic expertise on trees, tree care, humans and trees, humans and nature

[National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis](#)

[List of universities and colleges with forestry programs](#) (forestryusa.com)

[US Forest Service Research & Development](#)

[US Forest Service regional research locations](#)

[University of Illinois Landscape and Human Health Laboratory](#)

[University of Washington Green Cities research lab](#)

Tree care industry

[American Society of Consulting Arborists](#)

[International Society of Arboriculture](#) (includes academics as well as practitioners)

[Find an arborist](#) (to find a local source, or provide a link to find a pro)

Also, websites of state and local chapters

[National Association of Landscape Professionals](#) (landscape contractors)

[Tree Care Industry Association](#) (trade group of tree care firms)

[Find a company](#)

[Utility Arborist Association](#)

Big nationwide tree firms:

[Bartlett Tree Experts](#)

[Bartlett Tree Research Lab](#)

[Davey Tree](#)

[Davey Institute](#) (research, training)

[Lucas Tree Experts](#)

[Savatree](#)

Trade magazines/websites:

[Arbor Age](#)

[Evergreen Magazine](#)

[ForestryUSA](#)

[Forest Landowner](#)

[Tree Services](#)

Related fields

[American Planning Association](#) (check for state chapters)

[American Society of Landscape Architects](#) (ditto)

[Association of Professional Landscape Designers](#) (ditto)

Nonprofits

[Alliance for Community Trees](#) (urban forestry, community action about trees)

[American Forest Foundation](#)

[American Forests](#)

[Arbor Day Foundation](#)

[Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#) (threatened trees)

[Casey Trees](#) (Washington, D.C.)

[Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities](#) (The Nature Conservancy)

[Global Trees Campaign](#)

[National Forest Foundation](#)

[Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition](#)

[Tree City USA](#)

[Trees Are the Key](#)

Government

[US Forest Service](#)

[National Association of State Foresters](#)

[Society of Municipal Arborists](#)