



Trees

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Trees
By Joyce Kilmer

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*



Since there are more than 100,000 different kinds of trees, it would be a difficult task to write about each tree. So, I'm going to write about trees in general. I will throw in a few poems plus a few pictures of the better-known, famous, and unusual trees. As usual, there will be some statistics and fun facts.

Trees are the longest living organisms on the planet and one of the earth's greatest natural resources. They keep our air supply clean, reduce noise pollution, improve water quality, help prevent erosion, provide food and building materials, create shade, and help make our landscapes look beautiful. Here are some more thought-provoking facts and figures about these living treasures...trees:

- Trees are tall plants made of wood.
- Plants that aren't quite tall enough to be considered trees are often called shrubs.
- Trees can live for thousands of years.
- Some trees can grow to around 328 feet in height!
- The tallest species of trees in the world include the Coast Redwood, Giant Sequoia, Coast Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce and Australian Mountain Ash.
- The Giant Sequoia tree is not only tall, it is also wide. Because of its amazing size, the Giant Sequoia is the largest living organism in the world!
- Trees produce oxygen and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- The roots of a tree usually grow underground, helping keep it stable and providing it with water and important nutrients.
- Water and nutrients travel up the tree trunk, through the branches and all the way out to the leaves.
- The trunk of a tree is protected by an outside layer of bark.
- The way a tree grows through different seasons can be seen by growth rings in the wood, they can even be used to determine the age of a tree.
- Planting trees can help prevent erosion.
- Wood from trees can be used in a lot of different ways including as a building material and energy source (such as a campfire).
- A single tree produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year.
- In one day, one large tree can lift up to 100 gallons of water out of the ground and discharge it into the air.
- Over the course its life, a single tree can absorb one ton of carbon dioxide.
- About one third of the United States of America is covered by forests.
- There are about 250 billion trees over 1 inch in diameter in the U.S.
- There are over three trillion trees on Earth - That is roughly 400 trees for every human.
- About half of all trees are living in tropical or subtropical forests.

- Leaves appear green because chlorophyll absorbs red and blue light energy, causing the green energy to bounce off the leaf's surface.
- Tree shaded surfaces can be 20–45°F cooler than surfaces in direct sun, helping homeowners reduce summer cooling costs.

Advice from a Tree
By Ilan Shamir

*Dear Friend,
Stand Tall and Proud
Sink your roots deeply into the Earth
Reflect the light of a greater source
Think long term
Go out on a limb*

*Remember your place among all living beings
Embrace with joy the changing seasons
For each yields its own abundance
The Energy and Birth of Spring
The Growth and Contentment of Summer
The Wisdom to let go of leaves in the Fall
The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter
Feel the wind and the sun
And delight in their presence*

*Look up at the moon that shines down upon you
And the mystery of the stars at night.
Seek nourishment from the good things in life
Simple pleasures
Earth, fresh air, light
Be content with your natural beauty
Drink plenty of water
Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes
Be flexible
Remember your roots
Enjoy the view*



The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The next best time is now.
~Chinese proverb

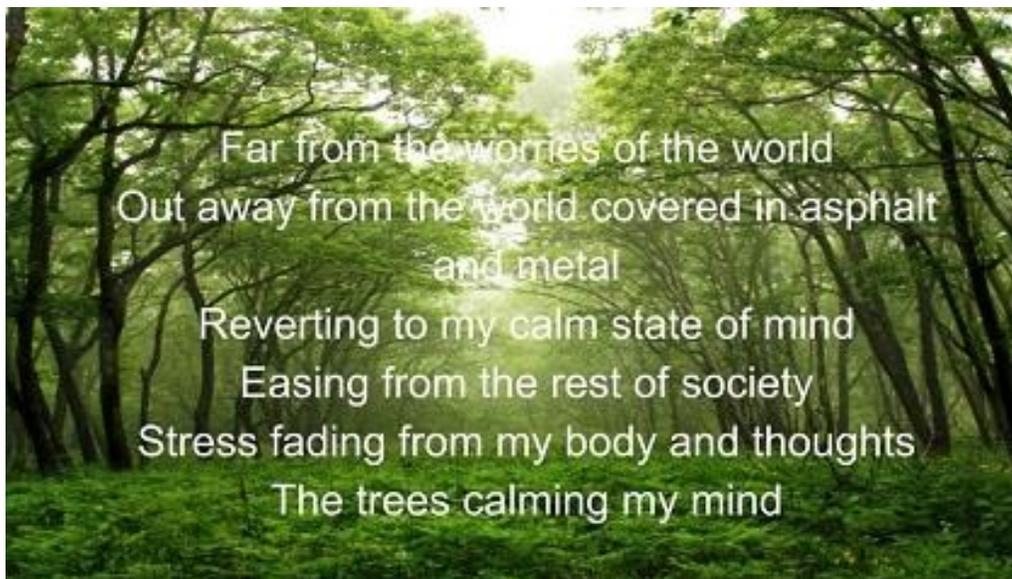
Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them. ~Bill Vaughn

*They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot
They took all the trees
Put 'em in a tree museum
And they charged the people
A dollar and a half just to see 'em
Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
'Til it's gone...
~Joni Mitchell*

*Climb a tree — it gets you closer to
heaven. ~Anonymous*

*We say we love flowers, yet we pluck
them. We say we love trees, yet we cut
them down. And people still wonder why
some are afraid when told they are loved.
~Author Unknown*

*Save a tree. Eat a beaver.
~Author Unknown*



Alright, it is time to see how many kinds of trees we can name. Get your pen and paper out and write down all of the different trees you can think of – then come back here to see how your list compares with mine. I'm going to start with the trees I can remember that we had in the yard of the house where I grew up in Pleasant Grove, Utah and the trees we currently have in our yard in Mililani, Hawaii.

1. Pine



- 2. Apple**
- 3. Apricot**
- 4. Oak**
- 5. Lemon**



6. Plumeria



- 7. Elm**
- 8. Birch**
- 9. Douglas-Fir**



14. Chestnut



15. Cherry

- 16. Pear**
- 17. Palm**
- 18. Starfruit**
- 19. Bamboo**



20. Redwood

- 21. Cedar**
- 22. Fig**



27. Walnut

28. Peach



29. Plum

30. Orange



31. Banana

32. Ash



33. Aspen

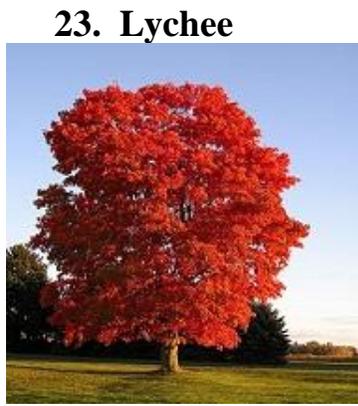
34. Cottonwood



- 10. Pecan
- 11. Mango
- 12. Coconut



13. Dogwood



24. Maple



- 25. Papaya
- 26. Cashew

- 35. Hazelnut
- 36. Sequoia



- 37. Mulberry
- 38. Cypress



39. Willow

Okay, I cheated a bit but this is a pretty good list of trees that are in the U.S. How did you do?

From the pictures shown so far, I would say that the Maple, Dogwood, and Cherry Blossom trees are the most colorful. What do you think?



The Rainbow Eucalyptus is the Most Colorful Tree on Earth. These trees may look like they've been painted on, but these colors are all natural. The multi-colored streaks on its trunk comes from patches of outer bark that are shed annually at different times, showing the bright-green inner bark. This then darkens and matures to give blue, purple, orange and then maroon tones. This tree grows naturally in New Britain, New Guinea, Ceram, Sulawesi and Mindanao. Now, this tree is cultivated widely around the world, mainly for pulpwood used in making paper and for ornamental purposes.

The Tree

by Tom Splitt



*The calm quiet strength of a tree
Anchored deep in the earth
Reaching high in the sky
The calm quiet strength of a tree*

*The calm quiet strength of a tree
Full of life from its roots
To the tiniest branch
The calm quiet strength of a tree*

*And oh, how it comforts me
How it teaches me
Without a sound
Then I realize at once
That this tree and I are one
In eternity*

*The calm quiet strength of a tree
From the weight of its trunk
To its delicate leaves
The calm quiet strength of a tree*

*The calm quiet strength of a tree
Showing anyone near
All the secrets of time
The calm quiet strength of a tree*

State Trees – Do you know what your state tree is?

State Name	Tree	State Name	Tree
Alabama	Southern Longleaf Pine	Montana	Ponderosa Pine
Alaska	Sitka Spruce	Nebraska	Eastern Cottonwood
Arizona	Palo Verde	Nevada	Single-Leaf Pinon
Arkansas	Pine Tree	New Hampshire	White Birch
California	California Redwood	New Jersey	Red Oak
Colorado	Colorado Blue Spruce	New Mexico	Pinon Pine
Connecticut	White Oak	New York	Sugar Maple
Delaware	American Holly	North Carolina	Pine
Florida	Sabal Palm	North Dakota	American Elm
Georgia	Live Oak	Ohio	The Buckeye
Hawaii	Kukui	Oklahoma	Redbud
Idaho	Western White Pine	Oregon	The Douglas Fir
Illinois	White Oak	Pennsylvania	Hemlock
Indiana	The Tulip Tree	Rhode Island	Red Maple
Iowa	Oak	South Carolina	Palmetto
Kansas	Cottonwood	South Dakota	Black Hills Spruce
Kentucky	Tulip Poplar	Tennessee	Tulip Poplar
Louisiana	Bald Cypress	Texas	Pecan
Maine	White Pine	Utah	Quaking Aspen
Maryland	White Oak	Vermont	Sugar Maple
Massachusetts	Elm	Virginia	American Dogwood
Michigan	White Pine	Washington	Western Hemlock

Minnesota	Red (or Norway) Pine	West Virginia	Sugar Maple
Mississippi	Magnolia	Wisconsin	Sugar Maple
Missouri	Flowering Dogwood	Wyoming	Plains Cottonwood

Now, why didn't I know the state tree of Hawaii? Or my home state of Utah?

The Kukui Tree was designated as the official state tree of Hawaii in 1959. The blossom of the Kukui is also the official Island flower of Moloka'i. The Kukui Tree is not native to Hawaii (originating in Polynesia). The Kukui is also called the Candlenut Tree (because the nut of the Kukui was used for candles by early settlers).



Kukui Tree Nuts

The real state tree of Utah is the Quaking Aspen but probably the best-known tree in Utah is not even a tree at all!

“Metaphor: The Tree of Utah”, that is sometimes called the “Tree of Life”, is an 87-foot-tall sculpture that was created by the Swedish artist Karl Momen in the 1980s and dedicated in 1986. It is located in the desolate Great Salt Lake Desert of Utah on the north side of Interstate 80, about 25 miles east of Wendover, NV.



The sculpture, which is constructed mainly of concrete, consists of a squarish 'trunk' holding up six spheres that are coated with natural rock and minerals native to Utah. There are also several hollow sphere segments on the ground around the base. These are meant to represent fallen leaves. The sculpture currently has a fence surrounding the base to protect people from falling tiles.

It has been said that Momen was moved to create the tree after having a vision of a tree while driving across the Bonneville Salt Flats. Following the dedication of this work of art, he donated the sculpture to the State of Utah and returned to Sweden.

The 10 Most Famous Trees in the World

#10 The 9/11 Survivor Tree

When this Callery Pear Tree was pulled from the rubble after 9/11, it looked dead, its trunk charred and its upper branches shattered. Only one of its branches was alive. But the NYC Parks Department took a chance on the tree, and after lots of dedicated care at a Bronx nursery, it recovered. In 2010, the so-called “Survivor Tree” was planted at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

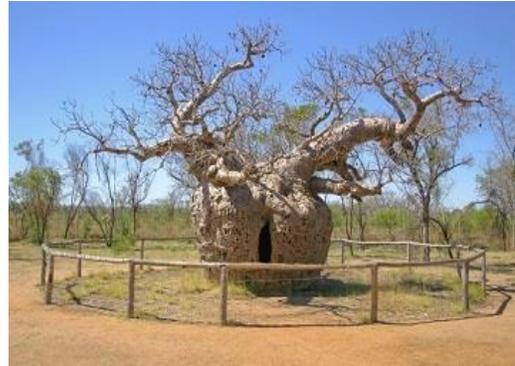


#9 Arbol del Tule



Árbol del Tule is a Montezuma Cypress, standing strong in the city center of Santa María del Tule in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. It boasts the thickest trunk of any tree in the world.

#8 The Prison Tree



The Prison Tree is large hollow Boab Tree, standing south of Wyndham in Western Australia. Supposedly, it was used in the 1890's as a jail cell for Australian Aboriginal prisoners on their way to sentencing.

#7 Major Oak



The Major Oak is a huge oak tree in the heart of Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, England. According to local folklore, it was Robin Hood's shelter where he and his band of outlaws slept. The famous tree is about 1000 years old.

#6 Lone Cypress



The Lone Cypress Tree near Monterey is probably the most famous point along the 17-Mile Drive, a scenic road through Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach. The road winds through miles of breathtaking coastal views of the Pacific Ocean.

#5 Tree of Life



The Tree of Life in Bahrain is a mesquite tree which grows in the middle of desert. The tree is said to be 500 years old. Its long roots have found some underground water source, but it is still a miracle as it is the only green living organism living in a vast and barren desert. The local inhabitants believe that this was the actual location of the Garden of Eden.

#4 Socotra Dragon Trees



The Dragon blood tree is arguably the most famous and distinctive plant of the island of Socotra. It has a unique and strange appearance, having the shape of an upside-down umbrella. This evergreen species is named after its dark red resin, that is known as “dragon’s blood”.

#3 Cedars of God



The Cedars of God is a small forest of about 400 Lebanon Cedar trees in the mountains of northern Lebanon. They are among the last survivors of the extensive forests of the Cedars of Lebanon that thrived in this region in ancient times. The Cedars of Lebanon are mentioned in the Bible over 70 times. The ancient Egyptians used its resin in mummification and King Solomon used the famous trees in the construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem.

#2 Avenue of the Baobabs



The Avenue of the Baobabs is a group of famous trees lining the dirt road between Morondava and Belon’i Tsiribihina in western Madagascar. Its striking landscape draws travelers from around the world, making it one of the most visited tourist attractions in Madagascar. The Baobab trees, up to 800 years old, did not originally tower in isolation over the sere landscape of scrub but stood in dense tropical forest. Over the years, as the country’s population grew, the forests were cleared for agriculture, leaving only the famous Baobab trees.

#1 General Sherman

General Sherman is a Giant Sequoia located in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park in California. The famous trees of the Giant Forest are among the largest trees in the world. In fact, if measured by volume, five of the ten largest trees on the planet are located within this forest. At 36.5 feet along the base, the General Sherman tree is the largest of them all. The tree is believed to be about 2,700 years old.



And the most famous tree of them all – **THE CHRISTMAS TREE**



The United States Capitol Christmas Tree



Four Seasons Tree

A Few Unusual Trees



Last Picture and One of My Favorites



Autumn in New England

Okay, lets recap the importance of trees.

Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilize the soil and give life to the world's wildlife. They also provide us with the materials for tools and shelter.

Not only are trees essential for life, but as the longest living species on earth, they give us a link between the past, present and future.

It's critical that woodlands, rainforests and trees in urban settings, such as parks, are preserved and sustainably managed across the world.

Without trees, you and I would not be here today. Trees are absolutely required for animal (that includes humans) life on this planet. So, next time you are out for a walk or a drive, take a look around and give thanks to God who created all of these beautiful trees. We are blessed here in the United States to have so many tree-filled National Forests, trees in our cities, along the streets, in parks, and even in our yards. Let's try to keep it that way.