



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2012

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Trees Delivered Statewide for Toyota Arbor Day Event

Jackson, MS – While at the opening ceremonies for the new Toyota plant in Blue Springs, MS, Gov. Haley Barbour declared November 17th as Toyota Arbor Day to celebrate both the opening of the car manufacturer's new plant and its commitment to the environment and Mississippi.

To celebrate Toyota Arbor Day, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) is giving out 227,000 tree seedlings statewide to public school districts, private schools and religious schools to distribute to their students for the planting season. Students are encouraged to plant the trees on February 10th, the official date for Arbor Day in Mississippi as established by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The state and Toyota created Toyota Arbor Day to offset the loss of trees from construction of the company's manufacturing facility. Toyota funded the tree giveaway event.

The MFC partnered with the Governor's office, Mississippi Development Authority and Toyota to conduct the event. MFC's role was to obtain the seedlings and, using our district and county offices, individually bag the seedlings and distribute them to the different public school district offices, private schools and religious schools throughout the state. Delivery began last week and will continue this week, with the last seedling being delivered on February 8th.

The MFC is proud to be a part of one of the largest seedling giveaways in Mississippi history and greatly appreciates all the partners that helped conduct this event. We would also like to thank the schools and school children participating in this event and showing their commitment to our environment.

For more information regarding the Toyota Arbor Day Event, please contact Russell Bozeman at the information above or visit our website at www.mfc.ms.gov.

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