

Man's Best Friend -- The Tree

Lately man has shown increasing concern for the future of Mother Earth. He has expressed concern that his own existence may be threatened by breathing noxious air, listening to earsplitting noise, drinking foul water, and viewing graceless landscapes.

In the midst of the environmental uproar, the TREE stands by--like a faithful watchdog--dispensing life-giving benefits, and lives on--like a silent lapdog--taken for granted, and yet one of man's best friends.

Wise men have planting trees in backyards, on woodlands, and along city streets since colonial days. Now, as then, trees are returning an almost infinite number of benefits and services for man and Mother Earth.

To put a price tag on a tree, like putting a price tag on a family pet, is virtually impossible. In fact, in benefits and services, the value of trees in densely populated areas far exceeds the price we pay for their establishment and maintenance and the income we may obtain if they are harvested for wood products.

Yes, the tree is indeed one of man's best friends.

TREES help supply oxygen we need to breathe. Yearly each acre of young trees can produce enough oxygen to keep 18 people alive...

TREES store 13 lbs of carbon annually...

TREES help keep our air supply fresh by using up carbon dioxide that we exhale and that factories and engines emit ...

TREES use their hairy leaf surface to trap and filter out ash, dust, and pollen particles carried in the air...

TREES dilute gaseous pollutants in the air as they release oxygen...

Trees absorb SO_2 , methane, NO_2 and chlorofluorocarbons ...

TREES provide food for birds and wild animals...

TREES lower air temperatures by enlisting the sun's energy to evaporate water in the leaves...

TREES increase humidity in dry climates by releasing moisture as a by-product of food-making and evaporation...

TREES give us a constant supply of products--lumber for buildings and tools, cellulose for paper and fiber; as well as nuts, mulches, oils, gums, syrups, and fruits...

TREES slow down forceful winds...

TREES increase property values and improve the tax base in communities...

TREES cut noise pollution by acting as barriers to sound.

TREES provide shelter for birds and wildlife and even for us when caught in a rain shower without an umbrella. . .

TREES shade us from direct sunlight better than any sombrero. They are welcome in parking lots on hot, sunny days...

TREES when properly placed can save a homeowner up to \$250 annually in energy cost...

TREES camouflage harsh scenery and unsightly city dumps, auto graveyards, and mine sites...

TREE leaves break the onslaught of pelting raindrops on the soil surface and give the soil a chance to soak up as much water as possible. . .

TREE leaves, by decaying, replace minerals in the soil and enrich it to support later plant growth. . .

TREE buffer strips next to streams and rivers catch and hold pollutants...

TREE roots hold the soil and keep silt from washing into streams. . .

TREES reduce the amount of water-borne pollutants that reach streams and rivers...

TREE roots help air get beneath the soil surface...

TREES salve the spirit with pleasing shapes and patterns, fragrant blossoms, and seasonal splashes of color...

TREES break the monotony of endless sidewalks and miles of highways...

TREES improve neighborhood appeals, attracting business, shoppers and homeowners...

TREES beautify our gardens and grace our backyards. . .

TREES soften the outline of the masonry, metal, and glass in our cities and towns. . .

TREES reduce levels of crime and vandalism and foster safer, more sociable neighborhood environments...

TREES reduce the amount of pollutants in sewer systems, saving communities millions of dollars in water treatment cost...

TREES filter and hold stormwater runoff...

And TREES provide for Mississippi's economic growth and stability.



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