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**NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT – NRD’s Acknowledge Arbor Day
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I’m Roger Lawson, the Information & Education Coordinator for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District in Curtis, NE

- Pause – This is the Natural Resources Report....

Since 1872 Nebraskans have been planting trees in celebration of Arbor Day, founded by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City. Since 1972, NRDs have been acknowledging Arbor Day and the value of trees for their role in conservation. Mr. Morton, a journalist from Michigan, envisioned Nebraska planted with trees like his home in Detroit.

While NRD’s don’t necessarily have the exact same vision as Mr. Morton did for Nebraska, NRD’s do support the planting of trees for wildlife, as windbreaks and for urban forests. The Middle Republican NRD has planted more than 1.6 million trees since its program began.

The Middle Republican NRD celebrates Arbor Day each year by offering tree seedlings for all fifth grade students within the District along with a program about trees. Perhaps your fifth grader has come home with a tree seedling from school around this time of year in past years. Planting trees with your children provides a lesson in conservation and a living time capsule to the past as well as a contribution to the future. 500 white pine tree seedlings will be distributed to students in the district this week. Hopefully, most of these trees will be planted by the first week of May and become a valued contribution to the community forest.

While Nebraska is a prairie state, trees still play a vital role in conservation around the home, in the community and on the edges of our farms and pastures. A Second “Dust Bowl” has certainly been averted as a result of planted shelter belts.

Thank you for listening. This is Roger Lawson, keeping you informed about your natural resources. Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future.