



## Houston Area Urban Forestry Council

### ARBOR DAY Planting Competition 2012

**General information:** The Houston Area Urban Forestry Council and Harris County Flood Control District are once again sponsoring the Texas Urban Forestry Council's Regional Tree Planting Competition to be held in conjunction with local Arbor Day celebrations. This event is a regional competition and the 3 fastest planting times will be forwarded to the State as Regional winners where their times will be included in the finals for the State Competition. Each team will consist of 10 planting members and a non-working captain and scoring will be based not only on time, but also on correct hole depth/width, mulching, planting techniques, etc. The Houston Area Urban Forestry Council will be supplying the judges and timers for the event and again, the 3 top times will be sent to the TUFC for consideration in the State Award for best time.

**Date: February 4, 2012**

**Logistics:** HCFCF Retention Basin  
6111 Bourgeois Road  
Houston, TX 77006

**Proposed competition rules:** Each company or volunteer team will be made up of 10 planting members and a non-working captain who will help coordinate the team's activities and plantings with the judge assigned to that team. Each team will plant 100 five-gallon trees. The goal is to perform this as quickly as possible, but also to learn and demonstrate the proper way to plant by following basic industry accepted specifications as recommended by the Texas Urban Forestry Council. Teams will be asked to correct infractions as they occur, if infractions are not addressed by the end of the competition, the team will be eliminated from the competition. The judges will be members of the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council and they will work with each team's Captain to point out deficiencies, as they occur to allow immediate correction.

Planting specifications:

- One Hundred five gallon trees
- All holes are to be hand dug – no machinery allowed in planting zone
- Leave tags, bamboo, etc on the trees
- Each team will be assigned to a specific planting area of equal size
- The trees will be grouped away from the planting area, so they will need to be hand carried to the planting site during the competition (trucks not needed)

HAUFC – Tree Planting Competition  
Page 2

- Hole diameter at ground level will be 2 times root ball diameter and at the bottom of the hole it will 1.5 times root ball diameter
- The bottom of the hole must be flat
- Excavate the tree hole and reuse this mixture as backfill.
- Plant trees two inches higher than finish grade
- No fertilizer will be added
- Water ring will need to be built. The soil part can be made up of excavated soil and will need to be at least 2” high. This ring will begin at the edge of the hole, be at least 6” wide, and, as mentioned, will have a 2” height before adding mulch. Use surrounding soil if excavated soil is not sufficient.
- Mulch the entire tree area, including the water ring, 2” - 3” deep. Mulch must be completed and pulled away from the tree trunk. Mulch will be adjacent to each planting location and mulching WILL be included in the planting time.
- Tree must be plumb
- Move planting buckets out of planting area and stack

What to bring:

- All tree planting tools that you will need (wheel barrows, shovels, rakes, picks, pitch forks, etc.). **NO POWER EQUIPMENT WILL BE ALLOWED.** Note: the trees will be planted in prepared beds, so digging should be fairly easy
- Each team should have company uniforms and/or nametags (show off your colors!)

There are probably some items I have missed, so please think through this with your team and email me with corrections or questions.

Thanks so much for volunteering your company’s time for this worthwhile event.

Sincerely,

Mickey Merritt  
Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator  
Texas Forest Service  
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