

# Thousands of trees up for grabs in N.J.

State continues efforts to replace seedlings lost to Superstorm Sandy

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For The Warren Reporter

Get your green thumbs ready: Spring is here and New Jersey is giving 90,000 young trees away for free.

The state forest service's New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign is handing out



Sugar maple tree, above, and black oak trees may be available at the distribution centers for residents of Warren County. Warren Reporter file photo

seedlings in communities around the state as part of a continuing effort to replace trees that were lost in Superstorm Sandy.

"Trees provide habitat for wildlife, clean the air we breathe, provide shade, reduce the damaging effects of wind, limit erosion and contribute to a healthier environment," DEP Acting Commissioner Catherine McCabe said in a press release. "Equally important, trees beautify our communities and improve our quality of life in the Garden State."

Each participating community has up to 2,000 seedlings to distribute. All of the seedlings are raised at the New Jersey Forest Nursery in Jackson.

The types of trees available in each community

depends on the location; the forest service assigns species based on what grows best in a given location.

More than 30 species of trees are being distributed through the program.

"Municipalities in the northern part of the state may receive sugar maple or black oak trees, while towns in the south may receive Atlantic white cedar or other species adapted to this region," New Jersey Forest Service Chief Todd Wyckoff said in a news release. "Seedlings distributed to shore towns may include bayberry or beach plum, shrubs commonly found on dunes and in other coastal environments."

Residents are eligible to receive up to five seedlings at any distribution site.

The first distribution was on March 31 in Ocean Gate Borough, and the last distribution will be on May 6 in Oxford Township.

Salem County is the only county without a distribution center; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Spokesman Larry Hajna said this is because no Salem County municipalities applied.

The New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign was launched in 2014 to help replace the millions of trees that were lost in Superstorm Sandy. The program is a partnership between the state and the Arbor Day Foundation, a nonprofit conservation group.

According to Hajna, about 500,000 trees have been distributed around the state since the program started.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, those trees have been responsible for taking 950,000 tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and saving \$193 mil-

## DISTRIBUTION CENTERS

### Warren County

**Frellinghuysen Township:** May 4, noon to 3 p.m., Town Hall, 210 Main St., Johnsonburg

**Hope Township:** April 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Go Green with Hope event at Hope Township School Gym, 320 Johnsonburg Road

**Liberty Township:** May 5, 9 to 11 a.m., Mountain Lake Pavilion, 137 Lakeside Drive West, Belvidere

**Oxford Township:** May 5 and May 6, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Oxford Township, 11 Green St

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