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NOTE TO EDITORS: A sidebar on tree planting and selection, a fact sheet about the Trees of Strength campaign, a list of local contacts accompany this story and a column on fall foliage — the first in a series of tree-related stories — accompany this news release.

Americans are planting Trees of Strength *North Carolina Extension Master Gardenerssm* *launch tree-planting campaign*

To remember those who died in terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 and to honor those who protect and defend the United States, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Master Gardenerssm have launched the state-wide Trees of Strength campaign.



“Master Gardenersm volunteers and Extension educators in every North Carolina county, and on the Cherokee Reservation, are planting trees that will stand as living witness to our nation’s enduring strength, and our hope for a bright future,” says Erv Evans, state Master Gardenersm coordinator in North Carolina State University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. “We hope that individuals, families and groups will join us in this effort.”

The Trees of Strength campaign continues through March 15, which is Arbor Day. During the first phase, through Nov. 11, trees will be planted at airports, fire stations, police stations and other key public places throughout the state. The goal is to plant at least one tree for every life lost in the Sept. 11 attacks.

After Nov. 11, Veteran’s Day, the focus shifts to planting trees as a show of support for U.S. troops, Evans says.

Trees of Strength will be marked by red, white and blue ribbons, and Master Gardenerssm will keep a registry of all the trees planted as part of the effort.

To download a black-and-white or full-color version of this logo, go to <http://www.treesofstrength.org/logos/> or contact Dee Shore at 919.513.3117 or dee_shore@ncsu.edu.

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To find out how to join the campaign, or to receive an information packet with a listing of suggested trees, proper planting and care instructions, call your county's North Carolina Cooperative Extension center. You can find the number in your local phone book or on the Web at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/counties>. Or visit the Trees of Strength Web site at <http://www.treesofstrength.org>.

Master Gardenerssm are Extension-trained volunteers who provide county residents with research-based information about lawns, fruits, vegetables, trees and ornamental plants.

These volunteers complement the efforts of Cooperative Extension's faculty members who conduct educational programs related to agriculture, forestry, natural resources, community and rural development, family and consumer sciences and 4-H youth development. Cooperative Extension faculty members are based in every county, on the Cherokee Reservation, in North Carolina State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and in North Carolina A&T State University's School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

— Dee Shore, 919.513.3117 or dee_shore@ncsu.edu —

*For more stories from N.C. State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences:
<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/writing/newsr/s/prespak.htm>*