



Tree News

August 2026

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WOW!

Scientists went looking for giant trees in Taiwan and found a lost world. Poo Loggers took out most of the island's primary forest between 1912 and 1991, but they couldn't get up the steep bits, where a whole lot of old growth survived. Since 2014 a team of climbers, ecologists and remote-sensing nerds has been hunting Taiwanias, the trees the Indigenous Rukai call "the tree that hits the moon". They flew LiDAR over the mountains and mapped 941 trees taller than 65 metres. But the software got 93% of the heights wrong, fooled by cliffs and sudden drops, so hundreds of Taiwanese citizen scientists sat down and checked the profiles by hand.

In January 2023 they went after the best candidate tree, which meant a 20-kilometre hike up a river and two days of steep climbing. A climber shimmied up to the top and dropped a tape. 84.1 metres: the tallest tree in East Asia, now named Heaven Sword of the Da'an River. They've since climbed ten Taiwanias over 70 metres, two over 80, and found 11 giants inside a single hectare near Mt Benya. The area holds 1,384.5 megagrams of carbon per hectare and that's without counting the roots, which makes it one of the densest forests anywhere on Earth.

- Science Daily

https://sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/08/260802223431.htm?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Heaven Sword of the Da'an River, an 84.1 metre (276 foot) Taiwanias fir (*Taiwania cryptomerioides*). It is now recognized as the tallest tree in East Asia.



Dutch Elm Disease update

There have been 7 lab-confirmed cases of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in Saskatoon so far in 2026, including one of the historic trees along Memorial Avenue at Woodlawn Cemetery. You can help prevent the spread of DED by:

- Watering the elms on your property and boulevard to keep them healthy and strong
- Pruning elms once the annual pruning ban is lifted (September 1)
- Disposing of elm wood immediately at the City Landfill – it's free, and they accept elm wood throughout the year

Please remember that it is illegal to store elm wood.

For more information on DED and how to report a suspected case, visit the City of Saskatoon's DED webpage: <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/tree-diseases-pests/dutch-elm-disease>

You can also visit the SOS Trees webpage on Dutch Elm Disease for further information: <https://www.sostrees.ca/ded-info.html>

Symptoms of infected Dutch Elm Disease trees

Flagging - when the leaves of one or more branches near the top of the tree wilt, curl, turn yellow and then brown, remaining on the tree.

How to request an inspection of a suspected Dutch Elm Diseased trees

in Saskatoon you can request an inspection by filling out a short online form and attach photos through the city's Dutch Elm Disease web page <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/tree-diseases-pests/dutch-elm-disease>.

Woodlawn Elm diagnosed with Dutch Elm Disease <https://thestarphoenix.com/news/dutch-elm->

Volunteer Opportunities

Art in the Park Sunday August 30, 10-3:00 Buena Vista Park

We will be distributing Tree Tour booklets and Dutch Elm Disease information. You can help, don't worry if you are not an expert. If you can join us for a couple of hours you can still help. If you can help at any of the following events please email us at trees@sostrees.ca.

Tree Planting volunteer opportunities, join us:

August 26, 2026 Meewasin is planting 800 trees and shrubs @ 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, ERCO Worldwide

More Info & Registration: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f9cFa5sQayF5DKIGpw3BzikUZqaaaMO3j7Ut--7h7to/edit?tab=t.0>

Sept 2, 2026 Meewasin is planting trees @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM, Kiwanis Promenade. More info &

registration: | <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AQLsEHKzqQvHRYLfxHWu7RrqYcWHGL5BYqZzff6OHAU/edit?tab=t.0>

To see our full schedule of volunteer events, go to: <https://meewasin.com/volunteerschedule/>.

Sept 5, 2026 TreeRise is planting 50 trees @ 10:30 A.M., Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area, in collaboration with the City of Saskatoon.

TreeRise is a youth-led environmental organization based in Saskatoon that works to bring young people, community members, businesses, and organizations together to create meaningful environmental change. To learn more about TreeRise and follow our work, visit <https://www.treerise.net/> or find us on social media.



Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who participated at Arbor Week 2026 and Art in the Park in June & July. Your participation helps spread the word about Dutch Elm Disease and the values of our urban forest. We could not do it without you.

Budding and Grafting Workshop

Join the University of Saskatchewan's Fruit Program at Crossmount Cider Company (30 Glen Rd, Crossmount, SK) on August 22 for a hands-on budding and grafting workshop designed for home gardeners, producers, and anyone interested in learning how fruit trees are propagated. Participants will receive expert instruction through presentations, demonstrations, and guided practice, with all materials provided. Attendees will also have the opportunity to apply their skills by grafting trees in Crossmount's research orchard. Trees will be available for purchase. Two sessions will be offered, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CST and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., CST with a maximum of 30 participants per session. Early registration is recommended as space is limited. The registration fee is \$100 per person (tax inclusive), and payment may be made by cash or cheque (payable to the University of Saskatchewan) on the day of the workshop.

To reserve your spot, please fill out the registration form here:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/27kKZgQEDx>

Prairie Colours art event at the Northeast Swale

The Swale Watchers invite you to the first **Prairie Colours art event at the Northeast Swale on Sunday September 13!** Throughout the afternoon we will have dancers, poets, visual art installations, tours and learning about swales with CPAWS-Saskatchewan, and a craft you can add to the trail or take home to celebrate the Swales.

Fireside Stories IV: Hear the Trees

If you love trees, gardens, and the beauty of the prairie landscape, we invite you to join us for **Fireside Stories IV: Hear the Trees** at Dancing Sky Theatre.

Set in our beautiful outdoor prairie amphitheatre, *Hear the Trees* brings together four Saskatchewan writer/performer/musicians to share original stories celebrating the wonder, wisdom, and quiet magic of the trees that shape our lives. Inspired by nature, memory, and community, this intimate evening of storytelling is an opportunity to slow down, gather around the fire, and reconnect with the natural world.

Tickets and Prairie Picnic reservations are available now at [dancingskytheatre.com](https://dancing-sky-theatre.bloomtickets.ca/hostinfo/1549) or <https://dancing-sky-theatre.bloomtickets.ca/hostinfo/1549>

Other Information You Can Use

From our friends at [EcoFriendly West](#) and others

The Tree Book: The Stories, Science, and History of Trees published by Smithsonian: “Combining science with history, and folklore with culture, *The Tree Book* is an immersive guide to the world’s best-loved and most extraordinary species. Its warmly illustrated pages – full of sacred banyans, long-lived baobabs, towering sequoias, and gnarled oaks – reveal trees’ inner workings and show how they support the other inhabitants of our planet, from fungi to humans.”

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/654263/the-tree-book-by-dk/9780744027464>

CBC News : Mayor bringing plan to reverse cut to tree budget at last Winnipeg council meeting

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-council-meeting-tree-budget-cut-reversed-9.7272035>

Kenny Chaplin, 56, planted 17,000 trees in 18 hours in Buena Vista, Sask.

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7256655>

Exciting news for urban forests: Terrasse-Vaudreuil 1st municipality in Canada to sign on to Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Tree.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/terrasse-vaudreuil-quebec-tree-rights-9.7243634>

Dutch Elm Disease Reminder

Help protect our beautiful elm trees and historic canopies by:

1. Not storing or burning elm wood
2. Disposing of elm wood at the Saskatoon Landfill (it's free for residential loads!)
3. Never pruning elms during the April 1 – August 31 ban
4. If you spot unhealthy elms or suspicious wood, report it by submitting a **photo online**
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/tree-diseases-pests/dutch-elm-disease#dedform>

Learn more at
[saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease](https://www.saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease)



We Need You. Get involved! Stand up for our trees & join SOS Trees Coalition Today

SOS Trees Coalition is on the move and we have increased our efforts working with the City of Saskatoon to protect our trees. In addition to Arbor Week, our largest public education event, we are advocating for tree protection and increased City tree planting and monitoring of Saskatoon's Urban Forestry Management Plan. Every member and donor is crucial as we build our coalition. Please take a moment today and sign up for your [Membership](#) and/or donation today. Thank you!



<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/12757>

Memberships can also be purchased by printing out & sending our [membership](#) form: <https://sostrees.ca/pdf/SOS-Trees-MembershipForm-2022.pdf>. Payment can be mailed or sent to us via [e-transfer](#).

Create Your Tree Legacy

A planned gift may be one of the most impactful ways that you can support the trees in Saskatoon. A planned gift, life insurance, annuity, etc. to SOS Trees Coalition will make a difference. A great example is the gift left by Joan Browne. The Joan Browne fund has been a supporter of Arbor Week tree planting activities and other educational programs. We are very thankful for the forethought that Joan Browne had and her vision of Saskatoon with a healthy urban forest. For more information on how you can include SOS Trees Coalition in your estate planning email us at trees@sostrees.ca.



SOS Trees Coalition is pleased to offer this electronic newsletter to our members and supporters who have an interest in trees in Saskatoon. Through sharing information we can all be more consistently informed and therefore become better advocates for our urban forest and the individual trees that make life so much more enjoyable. If you do not want to receive this newsletter or to share your comments with us regarding our publication please email us at trees@sostrees.ca. You can also follow us on Facebook at SOS Trees Coalition <https://www.facebook.com/SOSTreesCoalition>. Membership and contributions to SOS Trees Coalition support the protection and fostering of stewardship of Saskatoon's urban forest. To become a member or supporter go to: [membership](#) or you can mail directly to: [1618 9th Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K3A1](#). SOS Trees Coalition is a registered charity.

THANK YOU SPONSORS



PARTNERS

