

Multi-purpose Trees

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Trees are very important to our existence on earth. They produce oxygen that we need to survive. Trees have so many uses; here I will be able to name only a few. We make paper from trees; we also make rubber from certain kinds of trees; we build houses and furniture with trees too; and we eat their fruits and seeds. Before we had coal to burn or electricity, people had to depend on wood for fires to keep warm during the cold winters. Humans are not the only creatures who use trees. Many animals make their homes in different kinds of trees. Others eat the leaves and bark.

In another article in *Greentimes*, we look at how trees and plants release oxygen, a substance that we breathe and that we need to survive. The more trees we cut down, the more we put our oxygen supply at risk.

Trees are living things. They grow, reproduce and die. A tree is made up of a trunk, bark, branches, leaves and roots just as we have a body with arms and legs and skin. Some trees' leaves change color and fall to the ground in autumn, but others don't. There are different types of trees. We have tall and short trees. Trees that are used for decoration and trees that are depended on for their food. But no matter what we use them for, trees are really important to us and we should try our best to protect them.

