

# West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Walt Helmick, Commissioner



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## NEWS RELEASE

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### SPENCER TREE PLANTING

**Charleston, W.Va.** – The West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the city of Spencer are teaming up to honor the sacrifices of West Virginia’s veterans and Gold Star families as part of the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture program. Fifty-five black walnut trees will be planted around the city, home of the Black Walnut Festival, one to represent service members in each of the state’s 55 counties.

“Tens of thousands of West Virginians have served in the military and given their lives for our country,” stressed Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick. “The black walnut tree represents the strength of those military members. The trees are hardy, weather strong storms and provide protection.”

The WVDA purchased the trees from the West Virginia Tree Nursery at Clements Tree Farm in Mason County. A ceremonial tree planting will take place Tuesday, June 7, at 11 a.m. at Heritage Park in Spencer. Veterans and Gold Star family members are invited to attend. Two trees will be planted at the park. The other 53 trees are being adopted out to citizens of Spencer to plant, care for and maintain.

“These trees will provide shade, beauty and an edible resource for generations to come,” says West Virginia Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Director James McCormick.

For more information on the event and the West Virginia Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture program, contact James McCormick at [jmccormick@wvda.us](mailto:jmccormick@wvda.us) or 304-558-3550.

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