



Campus Arborist Has Long-Range Plan




Nate Dubosh often gets a bird's-eye view of the MUSC campus.

to bring in trees not only native to South Carolina, but, specifically, native to the South Carolina Lowcountry. Less than half of MUSC's trees are native to the Lowcountry, and two species – palmettos and live oaks – account for about half of the natives. “So we don't have a great diversity of natives,” he admits.

Dubosh's goal, however, is to concentrate on planting a more diverse array of trees specifically native to this region. As with humans and disease, genetic diversity in trees and forests equates to resistance and survival. In addition to palmettos and oaks, such native species might include the willow oak or southern wax myrtle, the American holly or the southern magnolia, just to name a few.

“Natives are really important, because they contribute to the overall natural ecosystem,” Dubosh says. “The animals, insects, the better diversity you have, the more predatory insects you have, to help control diseases and pests.”

It's not just the types of trees, but the way they are planted,



“There's a lot of research showing that patients who have views of nature scenes recover more quickly and require less powerful pain medicine.”

