



History

The Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund) is the merged organization of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Research Trust and the National Arborist Foundation. The missions of the two organizations were similar, and the boards felt that through the joining of resources, the TREE Fund would advance the joint mission more effectively.

The ISA Research Trust was established in 1975 to provide a reservoir of money from which important research could be funded. Overseen by a Board of Trustees, the mission of the Trust was to "identify significant environmental, biological, social and economic needs of arboriculture and urban forestry, including tree genetics, management and care; and provide funding for innovative basic/applied research and education projects."

The National Arborist Foundation was established in 1985 to "be a vehicle for funding endeavors that would benefit the commercial arborist profession in its efforts to protect and enhance the global environment." Overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors, the main objective of the Foundation was to fund scholarships in arboriculture, and to create an awareness of the career opportunities in arboriculture.

The gains made through arboricultural research are significant. The TREE Fund has supported research that has led to the development of more environmentally-sensitive methods of plant management, produced genetically superior trees that can withstand the stress of urban environments, advanced strategies for tree disease suppression and insect resistance and improving techniques for planting, fertilizing and adapting shade trees to poor soils.