

By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

*W*HEREAS, native plants are indigenous species that have evolved alongside native wildlife and occur naturally in a particular geographic region, ecosystem, and habitat; and

*W*HEREAS, native plants are essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems and are critical for cleaning air, filtering water, and stabilizing soils; and

*W*HEREAS, native plants are well-adapted to Connecticut's soils, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions, making them the best option for conserving and protecting our environment, and adapting to its changes; and

*W*HEREAS, native plants provide food including nectar, pollen, seeds, and foliage for native birds, caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut is home to more than 2,427 native plant species which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

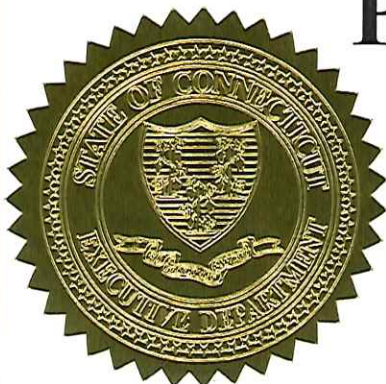
*W*HEREAS, some of Connecticut's rarest plants are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and many native plants are protected under the Connecticut Endangered Species Act of 1989, including American Bittersweet, Yellow Lady's Slipper, Showy Aster, Creeping Snowberry, Goldenseal, White Milkweed, Prairie Goldenrod, and Eastern Prickly Pear; and

*W*HEREAS, it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Connecticut's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Connecticut's fragile ecosystems; now

*T*HEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut – in recognition of the importance of native plants to Connecticut's rich biological heritage, and as a source of food for pollinators and native wildlife – do hereby officially proclaim the month of April 2023, to be

CONNECTICUT NATIVE PLANT MONTH

in the State of Connecticut.



Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR