



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION
Rhode Island Native Plant Month

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

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

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

WHEREAS, 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


WHEREAS, Rhode Island is home to more than 1,200 native plant species, which include trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, aquatic plants, and grasses, as well the globally rare native-plant ecosystem, the Coastal Oak Holly Forest in Tiverton, RI.

WHEREAS, some of Rhode Island's rarest plants are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and include: American ginseng, bunchberry, small-whorled pogonia, and several species of orchids.

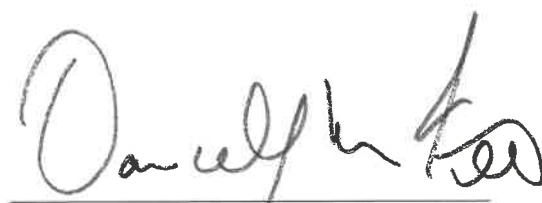
WHEREAS, it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Rhode Island's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Rhode Island's fragile ecosystems.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as **Rhode Island Native Plant Month** and recognize the importance of native plants to Rhode Island's rich biological heritage, and as a source of food for pollinators and native wildlife, and encourage Rhode Island's citizens to observe the month of April as both National Native Plant Month and Rhode Island Native Plant Month by removing non-native invasive plants in our yards and communities, planting native trees, shrubs and flowers and educating our citizens about the many benefits of native plants.




Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the seal of
the Office of the Governor of the State
of Rhode Island, this 19th day of March,
2023.


Daniel J. McKee
Governor