

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

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 South Carolina'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, South Carolina is home to more than 135 native plant species which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, some of South Carolina's rarest plants are federally listed under the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*, and include: Carolina Hemlock, Boykin's Lobelia, and Bog Spicebush; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the importance of native plants to South Carolina's rich biological heritage and as a source of food for pollinators and native wildlife, as well as to recognize the month as an opportunity to remove non-native invasive plants in our yards and communities, plant native trees, shrubs, and flowers, and raise awareness of the many benefits of native plants.



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA