

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, native plants are essential for healthy and diverse ecosystems and are critical for clean, air, water, and soil stability; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is home to more than 2,700 native plant species which include trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, native plants are well-adapted to Mississippi's soils, wetlands, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions; and consequently, are the best at conserving and protecting our environment and adapting to its changes; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2021, the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 109, declaring April as "National Native Plant Month"; and

WHEREAS, according to Senate Resolution 109, "native plants are indigenous species that have evolved and occur naturally in a particular region, eco-system, and habitat"; and

WHEREAS, according to the Mississippi Native Plant Society, native plants preserve our rich biological heritage; provide shelter, as well as, nectar, pollen and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot provide; provide diversity in form, texture, and color to fit any landscape style; and, are hardy and easy to grow once established; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi's rarest native plants include four species that are federally listed under the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*: Price's Potato-Bean, American Chaffseed, Louisiana Quillwort, and Pondberry; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the value of Mississippi's native plants and encourage public awareness of the many benefits they provide to Mississippi's economy, and to pollinators, and to the health of Mississippi's environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim April 2022, as

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANT MONTH

in the State of Mississippi and urge all citizens to educate themselves about the importance and rich history of Mississippi's native plants and the many benefits they provide to pollinators, to preserving our rich biological heritage and aiding in the prevention of flooding and erosion and helping to maintain and preserve the health of Mississippi's economy and environment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 5TH day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.



Handwritten signature of Tate Reeves in blue ink.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR