

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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 the air, filtering water, and stabilizing soils; and,

WHEREAS, native plants are well adapted to Illinois' soils and climate, 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 wildlife in ways exotic plants cannot; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is home to more than 2,400 native plant species, including trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and,

WHEREAS, these include rare and endangered plants like Willow Oak, Orange Fringed Orchid, Red Pine, Prairie Dandelion, and Tall Sunflower; and,

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

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as **Illinois Native Plant Month** and recognize the importance of native plants to Illinois' rich biological heritage, as a source of food for pollinators and native wildlife, and encourages Illinois' residents to observe the month of April as both National Native Plant Month and Illinois 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.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-EIGHTH day of MARCH, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-THREE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexi Giannoulis
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR