



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA 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 Florida'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, Governor DeSantis has secured more than \$600 million for the preservation of land through the Florida Forever Program, conserving nearly 175,000 acres of habitat for native flora and fauna to thrive; 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, Florida is home to more than 3,300 native plant species which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

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

WHEREAS, Florida Native Plant Month is an opportunity to encourage the removal of non-native invasive plants in our yards and communities, planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers, and educating citizens about the many benefits of native plants.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing June 2023 as *Florida Native Plant Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 1st day of June, in the year two thousand twenty-three.


Governor