



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**PENNSYLVANIA NATIVE PLANT MONTH
April 2023**

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, stabilizing soils, and flood protection where non-native plants do not; and

WHEREAS, native plants are well-adapted to Pennsylvania'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, Pennsylvania is home to approximately 3,000 plant species with roughly two-thirds of them being native to the Commonwealth, which 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, of these native plants, 582 are classified by DCNR and 349 of them are considered rare, threatened, or endangered in Pennsylvania. This includes *Aconitum reclinatum* (White Monkshood), *Arethusa bulbosa* (Dragon's Mouth), *Carex formosa* (Handsome Sedge) and *Polemonium vanbruntiae* (Jacob's-ladder), to name a few; and

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

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as PENNSYLVANIA NATIVE PLANT MONTH to recognize the importance of native plants to Pennsylvania's rich biological heritage, and as a source of food for pollinators and native wildlife. I also encourage Pennsylvania's residents to observe the month of April 2023 as PENNSYLVANIA NATIVE PLANT MONTH by removing non-native invasive plants in our communities, focusing on planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers and educating our citizens about the many benefits of native plants.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-seventh day of March two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-seventh.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor