

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** native plants are indigenous species that have evolved alongside native wildlife and occur naturally in our particular geographic region, ecosystem, and habitat; and
- Whereas,** native plants are essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems and are critical for cleaning our air, filtering water, and stabilizing soils; and
- Whereas,** native plants are well-adapted to West Virginia's soils, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions, making them the best option for conserving and protecting our beautiful 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,** West Virginia is home to more than 1,700 native plant species which include trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and
- Whereas,** it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of West Virginia's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of West Virginia's ecosystems.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 2023* as:

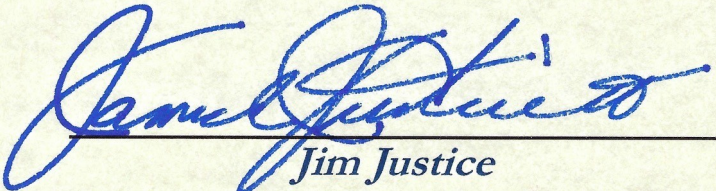
West Virginia Native Plant Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


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

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twentieth day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State