The State of Maryland

Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

MARYLAND 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, and stabilizing soils; and

WHEREAS, native plants are well-adapted to Maryland’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, 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, Maryland is home to more than 1,250 native plant species which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1975 governs the legal listing of threatened and endangered species, and includes 31 threatened and endangered plants of Maryland; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim APRIL 2023 as MARYLAND NATIVE PLANT MONTH in Maryland and call upon the people of our state to join in supporting this observance.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, this 1st day of April, Two Thousand and twenty-three.

[Signatures]

Governor

Lt. Governor

Secretary of State