

Proclamation

by

Andy Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- 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 Kentucky'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, Kentucky is home to more than 2,000 native plant species, which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and
- WHEREAS, Some of Kentucky's rarest plants are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and include: Short's Goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*); Kentucky Glade Cress (*Leavenworthia exigua* var. *laciniata*); and Globe bladderpod (*Physaria globosa*); and
- WHEREAS, It is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Kentucky's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Kentucky's fragile ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim April 2023, as

NATIVE PLANT MONTH

in Kentucky and encourage Kentucky citizens to observe this occasion 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.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 22nd day of February, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three and in the 231st year of the Commonwealth.

Handwritten signature of Andy Beshear in blue ink.

ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Michael G. Adams in blue ink.

Michael G. Adams
Secretary of State

