

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Native plants are an important part of Arkansas's natural heritage, history, and identity; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's native plants are indigenous to our region, and have adapted and evolved over many years to flourish in the unique geography, hydrology, and microclimates of our state; and

WHEREAS: More than 2,300 native plant species make for a diverse state flora; 11 of these species are endemic to Arkansas and found nowhere else in the world; and 5 of these species are federally threatened or endangered; and

WHEREAS: Native plants provide high-quality food and shelter for Arkansas's native wildlife, including birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators, and both game and nongame species; and

WHEREAS: Native plants support more than 300 species of resident and migratory birds in Arkansas, many of which are of concern; and

WHEREAS: Native plants and their derivatives provide food, medicine, and other essentials; Arkansas has benefited from the economic impact of native plants, ranging from pecans to muscadine; and

WHEREAS: Gardens and landscapes composed of Arkansas's native plants require less water and little or no fertilizers, soil amendments, or pesticides; and

WHEREAS: Organizations and businesses across Arkansas, including nurseries and retail-garden centers, work to expand the market for our native plants;

WHEREAS: By cultivating Arkansas's native plants, we honor our heritage, sustain the beauty and benefits of our environmental resources, and preserve a natural link to wildland areas both past and present;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 20th, 2020, as

ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT WEEK

across the State, and I encourage all Arkansans to celebrate native plants.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 10th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary Of State