



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA NATIVE PLANT MONTH

- 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 Georgia'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:** Georgia is home to more than 3,844 native plant species which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and
- WHEREAS:** Some of Georgia's rarest plants are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and include: Smooth Coneflower, Georgia Trillium, Pond Berry, Georgia Aster; and
- WHEREAS:** It is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Georgia's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Georgia's fragile ecosystems; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2023, as NATIVE PLANT MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 30th day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF