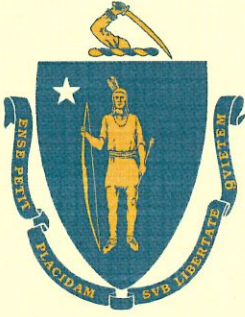


# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

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 Massachusetts' 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, moths, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and

Whereas, Massachusetts is home to more than 1,800 native plant species which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

Whereas, Over 250 of Massachusetts' native plants are listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act of 1990, and include globally rare species such as New England Blazing Star, New England Boneset, and Plymouth Gentian; and

Whereas, Some of Massachusetts' rarest plants are also federally listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and include: Small Whorled Pogonia, American Chaffseed, and Sandplain Gerardia; and

Whereas, It is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Massachusetts' native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Massachusetts' fragile ecosystems,

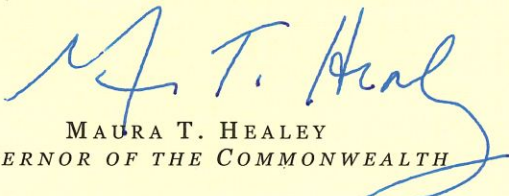
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 2024, to be,


## MASSACHUSETTS NATIVE PLANT MONTH


And urge all residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of April, in the year two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-seventh.

BY HER EXCELLENCY

  
MAURA T. HEALEY  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

  
KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts