

WHEREAS; according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, native plants are indigenous species of plants that are naturally occurring in particular ecosystems, regions, or habitats without past or present human intervention; and

WHEREAS; native plants are fundamental to the survival of healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems, and Wisconsin is home to a diverse range of native plants that have evolved to thrive in the unique soil, temperature, and environmental conditions found throughout the state; and

WHEREAS; native plants clean the air, filter the water, and stabilize the soil of the state's ecosystems, in addition to providing food and shelter in the form of pollen, seeds, nectar, and foliage for native wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Working List includes over 300 trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, wildflowers, and other vascular plants that are native to the state, many of which are tracked by the NHI and protected by the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 due to their rarity and endangerment; and

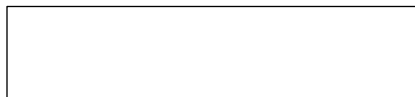
WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins vested individuals and organizations across the state in raising public awareness of the important role that native plants play in preserving the state's fragile ecosystems and encourages all Wisconsinites to be partners in protecting the state's rich biological heritage by removing non-native, invasive plants from their yards and communities, planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers, and educating others on the many benefits of native plants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

## **WISCONSIN NATIVE PLANT MONTH**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State