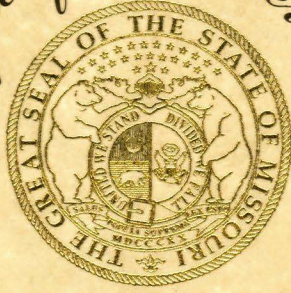


*Office of the Governor*



*State of Missouri*

*Governor's 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 Missouri'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**, Missouri is home to more than 2,200 native plant species which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Missouri's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Missouri's fragile ecosystems.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim April 2024, to be

**NATIVE PLANT MONTH**

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.



*Michael L. Parson*

*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Jay Ashcroft*

SECRETARY OF STATE