

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

MARYLAND NATIVE PLANT MONTH MAY 2026

- WHEREAS,** *Native plants are Indigenous species that have evolved alongside native wildlife and occur naturally in a particular geographic region, ecosystem, and habitat, and 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 Maryland'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,** *Maryland is home to more than 1,250 native plant species, which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The Maryland Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1975 governs the legal listing of threatened and endangered species, and includes 390 threatened and endangered plants of Maryland; and*
- WHEREAS,** *It is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Maryland's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Maryland's fragile ecosystems; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The State of Maryland recognizes the importance of native plants to our rich biological heritage, and as a source of food for pollinators and native wildlife, and encourages Marylanders to observe Maryland Native Plant Month by removing non-native invasive plants in our yards and communities, planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers, and educating our residents about the many benefits of native plants.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MAY 2026 as MARYLAND NATIVE PLANT MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observation to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of May
Two Thousand and twenty-six

Wes Moore
Governor

Oruna Miller

Susan C. Lee
Lt. Governor

Secretary of State