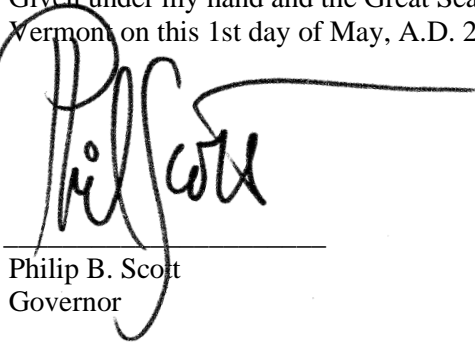


State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

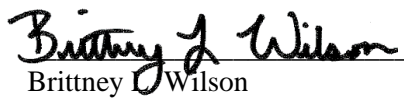
- WHEREAS,** native plants are indigenous species that have evolved alongside native wildlife and occur naturally in a particular geographic region, ecosystem, and habitat; and
- WHEREAS,** native plants are essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems and are critical for cleaning air, filtering water, and stabilizing soils; and
- WHEREAS,** native plants are well-adapted to Vermont'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 often do not; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont supports plants that are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, such as small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) and Jesup's milk-vetch (*Astragalus robbinsii* var *jesupii*) and Vermont currently has 164 state threatened and endangered plants, including butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Dwarf Birch (*Betula minor*), Marsh Horsetail (*Equisetum palustre*), and Fulvous Peatmoss (*Sphagnum subfulvum*); and
- WHEREAS,** it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Vermont native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Vermont's fragile ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermonters can observe Native Plant Month by removing non-native invasive plants in yards and communities, by planting native trees, shrubs and flowers, and by educating Vermonters about the many benefits of native plants.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim May 2024 as

NATIVE PLANT MONTH
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of May, A.D. 2024.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

