

Proclamation text:

State of Kansas

**PROCLAMATION  
BY THE  
GOVERNOR**

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, native plant species are an important part of Kansas' heritage, providing important aesthetic, economic, and ecological contributions that make Kansas a special place to live; and

WHEREAS, the state's varied landscape supports nearly 1,700 native species of flowering plants and ferns. Kansas spans most of the width of the grasslands that blanket the plains of central North America, and prairies are the hallmark of the state's natural heritage; and ranging from tallgrass in the east to shortgrass in the west, each prairie type is home to a unique set of species; and scattered across the state are marshes, forested bluffs, dry woodlands, glades, rocky uplands, chalk breaks, glaciated hills, and many other habitats, each contributing to the diversity of the flora; and wildflowers produce a kaleidoscope of colors and forms as they bloom and fruit in our prairies, forests, and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, approximately four percent of our nation's original tallgrass prairie remains intact, and ninety-five percent of this prairie is in Kansas; and remnant prairies protect ecological diversity and provide habitat for increasingly rare species; and they are also valuable blueprints for future restoration efforts; and

WHEREAS, more than 470 of our native plant species are listed as rare by the Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory; and invasive species present a threat to sustaining of Kansas' native ecosystems and the biodiversity that they support; and preserving native eco-systems is critical for the protection of wildlife, as well as water quality in Kansas:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim June, 2007, as

***Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month***

in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance by enjoying, appreciating, and celebrating our floral diversity by taking advantage of the opportunities to learn more about our native plants, their habitats, and how to protect them.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka  
under the Great Seal of the  
State this 25th day of  
June, A.D. 2007

BY THE GOVERNOR: Kathleen Sebelius (signature)