

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. Ranging from tallgrass in the east to shortgrass in the west, each prairie type is home to a unique set of species. Also 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. 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. Whether in vast acreages in the Flint Hills or small roadside remnants in the Glaciated Region, Kansans have an extraordinary opportunity as stewards of these vestiges of our natural heritage. Remnant prairies protect ecological diversity and provide habitat for increasingly rare species. They are also valuable blueprints for future prairie restoration efforts, and

WHEREAS, more than 470 of our native plant species are listed as rare by the Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory, and

WHEREAS, invasive species present a threat to sustaining of Kansas' native ecosystems and the biodiversity that they support, and

WHEREAS, preserving native eco-systems is critical for the protection of wildlife, as well as water quality in Kansas, and

WHEREAS, the month of September is one of the showiest months across the state for flowering native plants.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim September 2020 as

Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month

in Kansas and I urge all citizens join me in appreciating, enjoying, and celebrating our floral diversity by taking advantage of the opportunities of this month to learn more about our native plants, their habitats, and how to protect them. Take a native plant walk, visit a natural area, or become involved in a restoration project as we join together to celebrate this precious heritage.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 1st day of
September, A.D. 2020

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly

Scott Schmal
Secretary of State

Byron A. Corby
Assistant Secretary of State