

2024 -- H 8135

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2024 TO BE "NATIVE PLANT MONTH" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives McGaw, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,  
Speakman, Vella-Wilkinson, Henries, DeSimone, Spears, and Cotter  
Date Introduced: April 04, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In April of 2021, the federal government declared “National Native Plant  
2 Month” to encourage public awareness about the correlation between native plants to pollinators  
3 and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of our fragile ecosystems;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Native plants are the indigenous terrestrial and aquatic species that have  
6 evolved and adapted to the environment and biological conditions in a particular geographic  
7 region, ecosystem, and habitat; and

8 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has recognized 1,200 native plant species which include trees,  
9 shrubs, perennials, vines, aquatic plants, and grasses, as well the globally rare native-plant  
10 ecosystem, the Coastal Oak Holly Forest; and

11 WHEREAS, Some of Rhode Island’s rarest plants are federally listed under the  
12 Endangered Species Act of 1973, and include: American ginseng, bunchberry, small-whorled  
13 pogonia, and several species of orchids; and

14 WHEREAS, Native plants are essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems  
15 and are critical for cleaning air, filtering water, and stabilizing soil; and

16 WHEREAS, Advantageous to soil, native plants do not require fertilizers, require fewer  
17 pesticides than lawns, less water, prevent erosion, and increase the soil’s capacity to store water;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Native plants invite native birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects to

1 our yards and parks by creating a habitat that feeds, shelters and provides nesting places for them  
2 that non-native plants cannot; and

3 WHEREAS, Non-native plants are often invasive, spreading aggressively, and destroying  
4 biodiversity by outcompeting native plants or animals to the point of extinction; and

5 WHEREAS, It is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Rhode  
6 Island's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and  
7 sustainability of Rhode Island's fragile ecosystems; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
9 proclaims April of 2024 as "Native Plant Month" in the State of Rhode Island and recognizes the  
10 importance of native plants to Rhode Island's rich biological heritage and as a source of food for  
11 pollinators and native wildlife. We moreover encourage all Rhode Islanders to remove nonnative  
12 invasive plants in our yards and communities, and choose native trees, shrubs, and flowers when  
13 making landscaping decisions; and

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Lavinia Gadsden, Little Compton Garden Club,  
16 the Perennial Planters Garden Club of Providence, the Newport Garden Club, and the South  
17 County Garden Club of Rhode Island.

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