



# High Desert Horticultural Center

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Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Re: HB 3173; Oregon Flora at Oregon State University

February 3, 2025

Dear House Committee Members

We're writing in strong support of HB 3173, establishing the OregonFlora at Oregon State University. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit working to promote native plants in urban landscapes and natural areas, the Flora is essential to our central mission. The Flora provides the definitive reference to the state's native vegetation for our work and our members and supporters.

But the Flora is not only a reference of plant material. The continued work by Linda Hardison and her staff ensure accurate descriptions, geographic range, and a wealth of additional information about the native flora of the state and its role in helping municipalities reduce resource dependency and reach conservation targets, one of our primary goals. Without the Flora, gathering this information for use in urban planning and management would be nearly impossible.

Our members have been financial supporters of the Oregon Flora since the early 2000's. The two volumes that have been completed to date have been funded primarily through donations and contributions. Additionally, our founder co-authored a chapter on native landscaping with Linda Hardison, the Director of OregonFlora, in Volume II. However, the work has always been completed on a shoe-string budget. Private donations and volunteer labor have barely kept the Flora alive, and can no longer support the rising costs associated with maintaining the massive database of Oregon's native vegetation, updating the records, and developing resources to make the Flora increasingly valuable to planners, architects, contractors, and researchers. Passage of HB 3173 would establish the OregonFlora as a valuable program at Oregon State University and provide funding to maintain their essential work.

OregonFlora is a unique resource essential to the native plant industry and the public. With an increasing awareness and interest in native plants as climate solutions, we must establish and support efforts to provide crucial information for our own future. The OregonFlora is an outstanding resource that does just that.

We strongly urge you to pass House Bill 3173 and establish the OregonFlora as an indispensable resource for the state of Oregon. Thank you.

*The Staff and Board of the High Desert Horticultural Center*

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