

As a horticulturalist, botanist, landscaper, and person who loves to recreate in Oregon's outdoors, I have used Oregon Flora for at least 15 years. In the private sector I have used it to help homeowners look for native plants for their gardens. When I worked for a native plant nursery, I used it to help identify species. I continue to use it in my work for a public agency.

I can personally testify that Oregon's homeowners are increasingly choosing our native plants to help lower their water bills as they discover the unheralded beauty of our native plant species. The information about plant identification, growing requirements, habitats, and value to wildlife are invaluable and have been built up over several decades. Oregon Flora has successfully printed books, built a website and an app, and given presentations on native plants across our state. I ask that the Oregon Legislature and this committee please consider passing HB3173 so that Oregon Flora can continue to serve the people of Oregon. Thank you.