

## Native Plant Month

Re: SB 537 (Native Plant Appreciation Month)

I would like to support SB 537 that would make April Native Plant Appreciation Month. Native plants are important to the state in several ways. Almost all of our butterflies and many of our bees feed or pollinate only native plant species – without the specific native plants we would lose many of our bee and butterfly species. Another important example is sagebrush, important for maintaining populations of sage grouse.

Native plants are also economically important. Perhaps the most important of these economically important plants are trees that are either harvested for timber or sold in plant nurseries for landscaping. Many native herbs and shrubs are also widely sold for landscaping and this is especially important in eastern Oregon, where soil and climatic conditions exclude the use of many of our non-native landscaping plants.

Native plants are also important for Indigenous traditional food and cultural events. For example, in the Willamette Valley there are at least a dozen native bulb plants, including camas, that were food plants and that are still important for cultural events.

Please support SB 537.