

Submitter: Madie Richenstein
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB547

February 10, 2025

Support of SB 547 Designating the month of April of each year as Oregon Native Plant Appreciation Month.

As residents of Oregon, The Portland Garden Club and its 325 members support SB 547 to make the month of April Oregon's Native Plant Appreciation Month. While Governor Kotek signed a proclamation making April Oregon Native Plant Month for 2024 and 2025, creating a permanent resolution would preclude the need to request a proclamation every year.

The Portland Garden Club knows that native plants are essential for healthy and diverse ecosystems and critical for clean air and water, and for soil stability. Given the importance of native plants, permanently designating April as Oregon Native Plant Appreciation Month into law would encourage the public to learn how native plants benefit pollinators, wildlife, and the health of our beautiful state.

The Portland Garden Club has also joined a larger national effort led by the Garden Club of America to increase awareness of the importance of native plants, with a goal of creating Native Plant Months in all 50 states. Last year, 47 states across the country passed either a proclamation or state law establishing a native plant month. The six states that have passed laws declaring April or May as their Native Plant Month include California, Mississippi, Ohio, Colorado, New Jersey and Louisiana. It is our hope that Oregon will become another key state in the nation to permanently acknowledge the importance of native plants through its own resolution.

Thank you for consideration and passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Madie Richenstein, President

The Portland Garden Club
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