

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, historically, nearly all of South Dakota has been a vast sea of diverse native prairie grasses and forbs that evolved alongside native wildlife species; and,

*Whereas*, native plants are essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems and are critical for filtering water, stabilizing and building healthy soils, and cleaning air; and,

*Whereas*, native plants are best adapted to South Dakota's soils, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions, making them the best option for conserving and protecting our environment; and,

*Whereas*, native grasses and forbs are critical components of resilient, productive grasslands on ranches and farms across South Dakota; and,

*Whereas*, native plants were traditionally integrated into every facet of daily living among indigenous people, and they continue to be intertwined with spirituality; and,

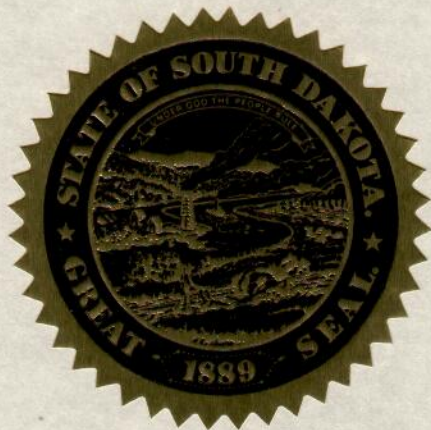
*Whereas*, native plants provide food, nectar, pollen, seeds, and foliage for native birds, caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and,

*Whereas*, it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of South Dakota's native plants to the state's agricultural economy, to pollinators and other wildlife, and to the health and sustainability of South Dakota's ecosystems:

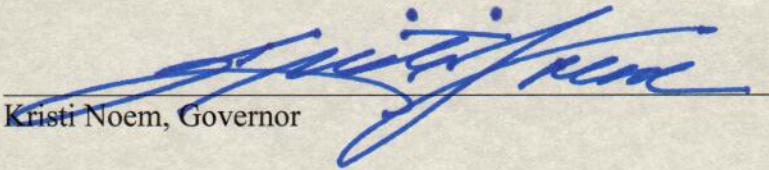
*Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem*, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2023, as

## *NATIVE PLANT MONTH*


in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

  
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Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:

  
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Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State