

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, native plant species are an important part of Washington's heritage, providing important aesthetic, economic and ecological contributions that make Washington a special place to live; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington enjoys an amazing biodiversity with over 3,000 native plant species, from rain forest plants on the Olympic Peninsula to the desert species in Eastern Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, preserving native plant eco-systems is critical for protecting wildlife, birds, fish and water quality in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, native plant ecosystems protect our watersheds by recharging natural aquifers, modulating stream flows, filtering water and reducing erosion and flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, over 350 of our native plant species are listed as rare by the Washington Natural Heritage Program; and

**WHEREAS**, invasive species present a great threat to sustaining our native plant ecosystems and biodiversity; and

**WHEREAS**, climate significantly impacts Washington's native plants and their habitats, requiring action to protect them from climate change;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2022 as

### *Native Plant Appreciation Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in appreciating, enjoying and celebrating our floral diversity by learning more about our native plants and their habitats.

Signed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee

