



January 10, 2019

Nursery Growers of
Lake County Ohio
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To the Honorable Legislators of the 133rd General Assembly;

This letter is on behalf of the members of the Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio regarding our heartfelt support of April becoming Ohio Native Plant Month. We find that the opening statement prepared by Nathan Jonson, Nancy Linz and Hope Taft express our thoughts and feelings as well.

NGLCO takes great pride in preserving and growing native plants. We are cognizant of the value native plants provide. Our retail members encourage consumers to choose native plants because of their intrinsic ability to thrive in local environments and the role they play in balancing our fragile ecosystems.

Many of these attributes are detailed in the opening statement mentioned above. Not the least of which is how readily native plants settle into a new landscape planting and require less special care and soil adjustments, because quite simply, they belong there. Many of these specific species were bulldozed away to clear sites for construction. Their selective return completes an important cycle that benefits other species, including birds, butterflies, pollinators and more. This also creates an environment where people thrive.

Ohio is a beautiful state filled with impressive botanical gardens, from the shores of Lake Erie to the Ohio River, all of which offer programs for families and students on landscaping for wildlife, creating butterfly gardens and protecting pollinators. Clearly, everyone who grows is aware of the importance of native plants. Help us share that knowledge. Please show your support by dedicating April as Ohio Native Plant Month.

We believe that doing so will serve as a catalyst to our industry and create a focal point, April, a prime planting month, to direct attention to the critical importance of preserving native plants and the ecosystems that accompany them.

When the nation looks to Ohio, let them see our vision, our dedication, and our resolve to be responsible stewards of our land by preserving our natural history, our native plants. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
The Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio
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