



Jan. 11, 2019

To: The Honorable Legislators of the 133rd General Assembly
From: The 2019 ONLA Board of Directors
RE: Ohio Native Plant Month

Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association (ONLA) would like to take the opportunity to share our letter of support for Mrs. Hope Taft's proposal. Our board of directors enthusiastically supports the agenda to designate April as Ohio Native Plant Month.

ONLA leads, promotes, and facilitates the success and growth of green industry businesses. We represent over 730 Ohio businesses and work to strengthen and build the integrity of our industry while helping our member businesses succeed. We firmly believe Ohio Native Plant Month will position Ohio as a leader in efforts to protect the environment and advance education on the importance of plants in our daily lives.

The research on the benefits of Ohio native plants is solid. Native plants are vital to all types of pollinators and most thrive in Ohio's climate, saving water and other resources. We support focus on the benefits of native plants through Ohio Native Plant Month to protect our local ecosystems and keep them in balance.

Through Ohio Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) research we have learned that many native insects cannot survive on non-native plants. We must advance efforts to get rid of highly-invasive, non-native plants in Ohio. However, we do value and attest to the benefits of non-native plants in Ohio landscapes as a vital part of a well-balanced ecosystems. Therefore, ONLA supports education for our members and the general public in thoughtful plant selection and the need to raise awareness on the value of native plants.

Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association, our board and officers support the passage of Ohio Native Plant Month in April. We believe this designation will help our industry have a platform to educate the general public, students and our members on the impact and value of each plant in our landscape. Together we can make a difference in our environment, one plant at a time.

We ask that you join us in support of Ohio Native Plant Month to allow all Ohioans to discover that plants make life better. We believe this will be a win, win initiative for all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

The Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association
2019 Board of Directors