



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Colorado is known for its beautiful scenery of colorful native wildflowers and diverse native plant communities which transition over 10,000 feet of elevation from grasslands, riparian areas with ribbons of cottonwood and willow, sagebrush semi-desert shrublands, piñon-juniper pygmy forests, scrub oak and mountain mahogany montane shrublands, montane forests of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pines, and aspen groves that reach into the subalpine forests of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, limber pine, and bristlecone pine, and to the delicate plants of the alpine tundra; and

*WHEREAS, our state flower, the Rocky Mountain columbine (*Aquilegia coerlea*), our state grass, blue grama, (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and our state tree, the Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) all serve as beautiful symbols for Colorado; and*

WHEREAS, the native plants of Colorado, such as the ancient bristlecone pine that is 2,500 years old, a limber pine 1,600 years old, and an aspen grove with a root system over 80,000 years old, are some of the most ancient residents of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, native plant ecosystems with riparian, wetlands, and fens are important to keeping Colorado's watersheds healthy; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has over 3,000 native plant species, 132 of those species being endemic, and their habitats are in danger of being crowded out by invasive, non-native plants; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's native plants are a critical part of our state's natural heritage, and over 500 native plant species are recognized as rare; and

WHEREAS, the native ecosystems provide necessary food and habitat for the smallest to largest of creatures: pollinators, birds, pika, marmot, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, elk, bears, and other wildlife of the state; and

WHEREAS, native plants incorporated into the landscaping in our yards and communities helps increase the amount of habitat available to our native wildlife displaced by human development and necessary for biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem, and helps decrease the amount of resources, such as water and chemicals, used in our yards; and

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the entire State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, forever after, the period between June 10, 2016 and June 16, 2016, as

NATIVE PLANTS WEEK

in the State of Colorado.

*GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this tenth day of June,
2016*



John W. Hickenlooper
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor