



Washington Native Plant Society

Appreciate, Conserve, and Study Our Native Flora

6310 NE 74th Street, Suite 215E, Seattle, WA 98115

☎(206) 527-3210

April 4, 2006

Dear Council Members,

The Washington Native Plant Society is happy to announce Governor Christine Gregoire has declared **April 30th to May 6th, 2006** as Washington's third annual **Native Plant Appreciation Week**. Last year we were pleased by the many who joined in proclaiming Native Plant Appreciation Week, recognizing the value native plants have to Washington. We invite you to join us, once again, by proclaiming April 30th to May 6th as Native Plant Appreciation Week.

Last year the following cities and counties proclaimed Native Plant Appreciation Week locally:

Cities and Counties Proclaiming Native Plant Appreciation Week Last Year

Airway Heights	Lakewood	Shelton
Bainbridge Island	Lynnwood	Shoreline
Bellevue	Monroe	Snohomish
Chehalis	Moses Lake	Spokane Valley
Colville	Olympia	Spokane
Deer Park	Pacific	Sumner
East Wenatchee	Port Orchard	Tacoma
Edmonds	Port Townsend	Tukwila
Everett	Poulsbo	Tumwater
Gig Harbor	Redmond	Thurston County
Grandview	Renton	University Place
Issaquah	Richland	Vancouver
Jefferson County	SeaTac	Woodinville
Kent	Seattle	Yakima
Kitsap County	Sedro-Woolley	Yakima County

Background information on Native Plant Appreciation Week, a copy of the Governor's proclamation, and a generic proclamation that you may wish to use as a model are attached.

Thank you in advance for your participation, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You may also learn more about the Washington Native Plant Society on our Web site at www.wnps.org.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Hovanic
Administrator

**You and Your Organization Are Invited to Participate in
The Celebration of**

Native Plant Appreciation Week
April 30-May 6, 2006

What is *Native Plant Appreciation Week*?

This week is a celebration of the amazing diversity of Washington's over 3000 native plant species that inhabit deserts, rain forests, high alpine environments, river valleys, and even backyard landscapes. Native plant ecosystems are critical to sustaining our native wildlife and the quality of Washington's environment.

The *Native Plant Appreciation Week* inspires citizens through diverse activities and events to learn more about native plant species and their habitats and how to protect them. The public can participate in everything from talks, walks, hikes, garden tours, and visits to our natural areas to active involvement in habitat restoration projects.

Native Plant Appreciation Week is an opportunity for governmental agencies, non-profit groups and environmental organizations to highlight their work in protecting native plant species and restoring native plant habitats. The public can learn about the many projects and hard work that enhances their area.

The public can also learn how our native plant ecosystems provide suitable habitat for birds, fish and other animals and protect water quality.

Finally, it is an opportunity to convey the tremendous threat posed by invasive exotic pests – insects, plant diseases and invasive plant species. The public can see and learn how invasive species harm native plants and ecosystems. They can learn about work being done in both the public and private sector to combat that threat.

Native Plant Appreciation Week is primarily an opportunity to celebrate our native floral abundance, our amazing bio-diversity, and all the good work being done to protect and preserve it.

How can you and your organization participate?

Individuals and organizations can participate in activities consistent with their resources and goals. Commitments can range from highlighting your work on the *Native Plant Appreciation Week* website to organizing events such as tours, public presentations or restoration projects. Cooperative activities between participants are also encouraged.

The Washington Native Plant Society provides a website highlighting events scheduled for the week and links to other participating organizations' websites. You may find the site at www.wnps.org under "What's New". If your agency policy allows, you may want to link to that website besides posting your own activities.

The week's activities are only limited by time and imagination.

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 ecosystems is critical for protecting wildlife, birds, fish, and water quality in our state; and

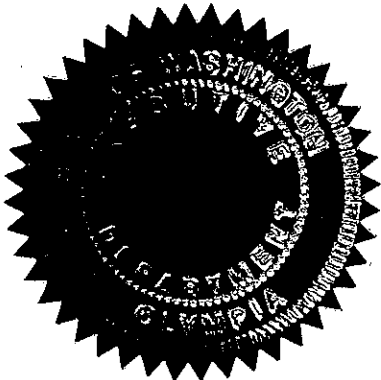
WHEREAS, over 350 of our native plant species are listed as rare by the Washington Natural Heritage Program; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim the week of April 30 - May 6, 2006, as

Native Plant Appreciation Week

in Washington State. I urge all citizens to join me in appreciating, enjoying and celebrating our floral diversity by taking a native plant walk, visiting a natural area, or become involved in a restoration project as we join together to celebrate this precious heritage.



Signed this 15th day of February, 2006

Christine Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

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Signed this __ day of ___, 2006