

Originating Committee: Grassland and Prairies Committee

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Intended Recipient(s): Grow Native, Missouri FFA Chapters, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education-Agriculture Education, Missouri Native Seed Association

Add Native Plant Species to Annual Fundraisers of Missouri FFA* Chapters

WHEREAS, populations of many species of flowering plants native to Missouri have been reduced to a mere fraction of their historical range and continue to decline; and

WHEREAS, many pollinators such as native bees and butterflies depend on native plant species for food, shelter, and a place to raise larval young; and

WHEREAS, many native plants provide additional benefits, such as aesthetic value, and are becoming widely used in home landscapes; and

WHEREAS, many native pollinators, which are necessary to ensure adequate seed and fruit production in crops and flowering plants, are experiencing exponential decline due in large part to habitat loss; and

WHEREAS, Missouri FFA chapters, which are largely but not strictly agricultural, are involved in volunteer work, agriculture and conservation-related efforts, and building leadership skills across the state; and

WHEREAS, Missouri high school FFA chapters hold annual plant sales in the spring as a means to fundraise for their programs and connect with the community; and

WHEREAS, adding a variety of native plants to the selection of products available in the annual FFA plant sales would educate high school students and members of their communities about the benefits of native plants, as well as increase habitat and food for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, native plants and related information, as provided, for example, by Missouri Prairie Foundation's Grow Native! program, are readily accessible to the general public and are known to be successful in the market; and

WHEREAS, the education and involvement of students, FFA or otherwise, on issues threatening the environment are vital to securing a better future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at Lake Ozark, Missouri, this 2nd day of March, 2024, encourages Missouri FFA Chapters to include native plants in their annual plant sales, increasing the availability of native plant species, and fostering the awareness and education of participating communities regarding the importance of conserving these species.

*The official name of the organization is Missouri FFA. The letters “FFA” stand for Future Farmers of America. These letters are a part of their history and their heritage that will never change.

Searchable Keywords: pollinators, schools, FFA, native plants

Expires: March 2nd, 2029