

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 547

Ordered by the Senate February 17
Including Senate Amendments dated February 17

Sponsored by Senators SOLLMAN, GELSER BLOUIN; Senators BROADMAN, CAMPOS, LIEBER, MEEK, REYNOLDS, WEBER, Representatives MCLAIN, NATHANSON (at the request of Luci Moody) (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Makes the month of April of each year Oregon Native Plant Appreciation Month. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.4).

Designates the month of April of each year as Oregon Native Plant Appreciation Month.
Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Oregon Native Plant Appreciation Month; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas Oregon has more than 4,700 plant species that grow in the wild without cultivation,
4 72.5 percent of which are native to this state and more than 115 of which are endemic to and only
5 grow in this state; and

6 Whereas native plants in Oregon are those that have established in the landscape independently
7 from direct or indirect human intervention, including those that are new to science or that existed
8 prior to European arrival, and that have adapted to and evolved in the local environment; and

9 Whereas Oregon's native plants provide unique environmental, economic and cultural value to
10 this state, including forming the foundation of this state's food chain and providing food to our na-
11 tive animals, including birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and insects; and

12 Whereas Oregon's native plants are essential to this state's healthy, diverse and sustainable
13 ecosystems and help create and maintain clean air and water and stable soil; and

14 Whereas Oregon's native plants are well established in the ecosystems of this state and have
15 very little potential to become invasive pests in our wild and natural areas, thus requiring minimal
16 fertilizer, soil amendment, water and pesticide to maintain; and

17 Whereas Oregon currently contends with over 1,300 wild non-native plants, including more than
18 150 invasive species (including noxious weeds) growing in our wild and natural areas; and

19 Whereas noxious weeds displace and compete with native and desirable economic plants, nega-
20 tively affect agricultural and forest economies, impact natural resources such as fish and wildlife
21 and overall watershed health, threaten cultural resources and first foods and can contribute to ex-
22 treme wildfire behavior; and

23 Whereas The Oregon Biodiversity Information Center ranks 633 of Oregon's native vascular
24 plants as uncommon, threatened, vulnerable, imperiled or critically imperiled in this state; and

25 Whereas Oregon's native plants attract beneficial insects like butterflies, ladybugs and
26 bumblebees, which help fight agricultural pests and pollinate food crops, thus boosting the economy

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 of this state; and

2 Whereas many of Oregon’s native plants improve soil health by increasing the diversity of soil
3 microbes and helping the soil absorb and store water through their deep root systems; and

4 Whereas Oregon’s Native American tribes have lived and thrived by their knowledge of native
5 plants, which have provided them with food, clothing, shelter, dyes, tools, medicine and fuel for
6 centuries; and

7 Whereas the Oregon grape has been Oregon’s state flower since 1899, and was used by
8 indigenous tribes for medicine, food and dyes; and

9 Whereas the Douglas fir has been Oregon’s state tree since 1939, and was used by tribes such
10 as the Nuxalk and Quinault for torches, structures, fuel, tools, caulking and medicine; and

11 Whereas Oregon’s native plants are a major part of this state’s natural heritage, providing
12 countless aesthetic, cultural, economic and ecological benefits; now, therefore,

13 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

14 **SECTION 1.** **The month of April of each year is designated as Oregon Native Plant Ap-**
15 **preciation Month.**

16 **SECTION 2.** **This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
17 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
18 **on its passage.**

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