

Support for H7074

Plant native plants along our roadways

January 20, 2026

Rear RI House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Please support the bill that requires the Department of Transportation to plant native plants, shrubs and trees along our roads and highways. Here's why:

- Doing so will lower the cost of maintaining the roadsides throughout the state. Native plants require less mowing, watering and herbicides.
- Mowing costs time and money. Labor, equipment maintenance and cost of fuel. The DOT uses a huge amount of gas, polluting the air that we breathe.
- Native plants have deep root systems which improve stormwater management and erosion control, stabilize slopes and reduce vegetation overgrowth.
- Native plantings out-compete invasives - Reduces invasive species spread/vegetation overgrowth.
- Native plants support pollinators and wildlife. Highways cut through critical wildlife corridors, so native plants planted along roadsides can become long, continuous pollinator pathways.

I believe we can save the state money and improve the appearance of our roadways by implementing this initiative. Planting native plants will have a significant impact on the health of our state with cleaner air and cleaner water. It's a win-win for our state!

Sincerely,

Nancy Clark

President, Little Compton Garden Club