

Sakonnet Preservation

Conserving land  Preserving Little Compton

Abigail Brooks
President

May 1, 2026

Peter Rowley
Vice President

Members of the House,

Bill Theriault
Treasurer

Re: House Bill 7230: Bill to Establish May as Native Plant Month in Rhode Island

John Cook
Secretary

I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 7230, which designates May as Native Plant Month in Rhode Island.

Directors
Paul Bazzoni
Michal Brownell
Herb Case
Davy Cutts
Nan Haffenreffer
Maureen Harrington
Sheila Mackintosh
Geoff Manning
Jeannie McAllister
Judy Melanson
Peter Rowley

Native plants are fundamental to Rhode Island's ecological health and resilience. They have adapted to our climate and require less irrigation, fewer chemical inputs, and reduced maintenance than non-native species - delivering real cost savings to our towns and state. Their deep root systems reduce flooding and erosion, protecting our roads and stormwater infrastructure. Native plants also sustain the pollinators essential to our farms and natural communities.

At Sakonnet Preservation, we are deeply focused on native plant restoration. This year, we are conducting four native plant workshops for our community, planting native species across several of our protected properties, and expanding our native plant seed propagation program, which began in 2024. We have witnessed firsthand how native plants strengthen the land we steward and engage our neighbors in conservation.

Joy Elvin
Executive Director

A permanent designation of Native Plant Month will raise public awareness, encourage habitat restoration, and align Rhode Island with a growing national movement toward native plant protection. Fifteen states have already passed similar legislation, with many more expected to do so this year.

Adam Yorks
Stewardship Director

This bill requires no state funding. Its purpose is to promote the use of native species at state and local levels, unlocking the environmental and economic benefits that native plants provide.

Viennia Booth
Administrator

I urge the committee to support House Bill 7230.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Elvin".

Joy Elvin
Executive Director
Sakonnet Preservation Association

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