



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL WILDFLOWERS WEEK  
May 15–21, 2011

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By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

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A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** Americans receive great enjoyment from viewing and photographing our Nation's beautiful native wildflowers and in so doing contribute to local economies; and

**WHEREAS** the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture manages our national forests and grasslands, including a diverse array of native wildflowers; and

**WHEREAS** wildflowers and other native plants in our national forests and grasslands help sustain native ecosystems and contribute to clean air and water; food for wildlife and humans; and medicines, resins, and dyes; and

**WHEREAS** professional land managers, in partnership with communities and organizations and local, State, and tribal governments, work hard to manage public lands and to conserve our country's wildflowers and other native plants;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of the significance of our precious natural heritage of native flora, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim May 15–21, 2011, as National Wildflowers Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the United States Department of Agriculture's management of native wildflowers and other plants as well as the enduring benefits provided to society by native plant resources in America's national forests and grasslands.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of April 2011, the two-hundred thirty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
Secretary