

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

NATIONAL WILDFLOWERS WEEK
May 19–25, 2013

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

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

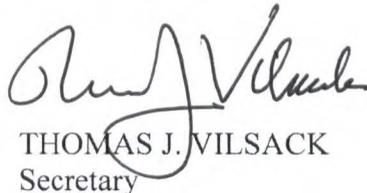
WHEREAS the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture manages our National Forests and Grasslands, including a diverse array of native wildflowers; and

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 humans and wildlife; and medicines, resins, and dyes; and

WHEREAS professional land managers, in partnership with communities, 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 19–25, 2013, 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 28th day of March 2013, the two-hundred thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary