

**PROCLAMATION  
NATIVE PLANT MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) began in 1980 in Winter Park, Florida, by a group of scientists, educators, and conservationists concerned about the loss of Florida native plants and the introduction of non-natives species overtaking natural areas; and,

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Society now constitutes 37 chapters and 4,000 members who volunteer their time, knowledge, and skills in public workshops, land management reviews, raising money for conservation and research grants, landscape awards, recreation projects and teaching Floridians about the benefits of native plants to: protect their existence; reduce our need for irrigation, improve water quality; and increase Florida native species; and,

**WHEREAS**, Sumter County has an incredible wealth of natural areas that include the Sharon Rose Wiechens Preserve, the Butterfly Garden at DeLuna and Hogeye Nature Preserve that showcase Florida native plants; and

**WHEREAS**, The Villages Chapter of the FNPS has over 200 members who participate in activities that benefit the citizens and environment of Sumter County.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County proclaims:

**The month of October as:**

**FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH**

**DONE AND PROCLAIMED** this 20<sup>TH</sup> day of September 2022, Sumter County, Florida.

Attest:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SUMTER COUNTY**

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**Caroline Alrestimawi**  
Deputy Clerk

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**Craig A. Estep**  
Chairman