



How YOU Can Help Make Georgia's State Flower Native

It's simple - ask your state representative and senator to support it!

Step 1: Don't know your legislators? Find out quickly who your STATE Representative & Senator are at this site: pluralpolicy.com/find-your-legislator/

- You will see official contact information here, but can search for more (and more personal) phone numbers and emails via their campaign and social media sites.

Step 2: Making contact! Personal contact from a voter is very impactful and, on most issues, it only takes a handful of people to convince the elected official that the issue is worth supporting. They actually want to and like hearing from you!

- Phone calls are best (leave a message and follow up with email, if no answer).
- Personal handwritten letters with a follow up call if you don't hear back is also great.
- Emails can be less impactful because of the volume they get, but are still worthwhile especially as a way to follow up from other attempts.

What to say? The best message is one that is personal and short! They need to know:

- That you are from their district (always reference the city/county where you live).
- Why the issue is important to you.
- Ask for action! Tell them you want their support to change the state flower to the native Sweetbay Magnolia from the non native and invasive Cherokee Rose.
 - o Support means their YES vote on the legislation.
 - o "Can I count on you to vote in favor of this change?"
 - o "Would you be willing to co-sponsor the bill?"

Always be friendly and thank the legislator for taking the time to listen to you.

After you make contact, encourage your friends to do the same!

	Sweetbay Magnolia	Cherokee Rose
Native to Georgia	✓	✗
Beneficial to Georgia's ecology	✓	✗
Non-invasive	✓	✗
Available from Georgia nurseries	✓	✗
Legacy of the Cherokee people	✓	✗

Step 3: Let us know how it went!

Reach out to Michael Cowan, co-chair of the GNPS state advocacy committee, to report who you contacted and what the response was. Email is best: michael.cowan@gnps.org.

Our collective efforts can lead to real change in Georgia!