

Georgia's State Flower Should Be A GEORGIAN



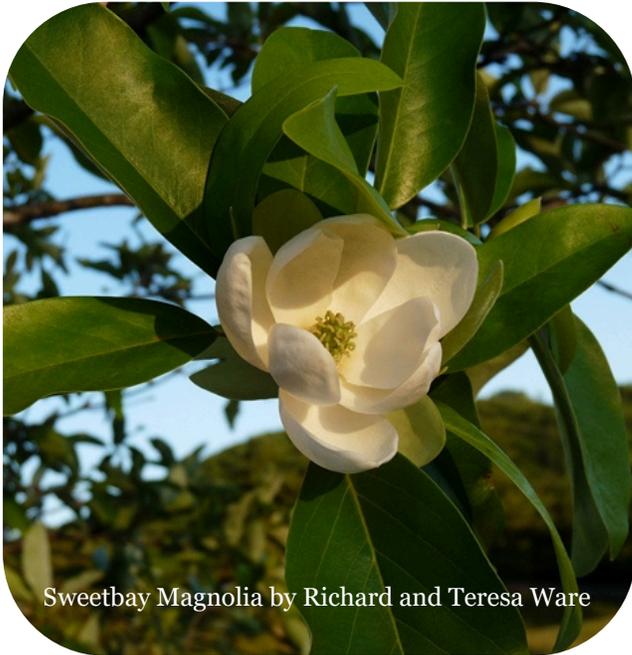
Please Support Designating a Native State Flower & Making April Native Plant Month!

Native plants are the foundation of all healthy ecosystems--sustaining pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Georgia's unique bio-diversity is home to nearly 3,600 beautiful and hard-working native plants that actively contribute to making Georgia an economic and agricultural powerhouse as well as a tourist destination.

Considerations for our State Flower	Sweetbay Magnolia	Cherokee Rose
Native to Georgia	✓	✗
Beneficial to Georgia's ecology	✓	✗
Non-invasive	✓	✗
Used by Georgia landscape designers	✓	✗
Available from Georgia nurseries	✓	✗
Legacy of the Cherokee and other native people	✓	✗

The Proposed New State Flower, Sweetbay Magnolia

Sponsored by Representative Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs)
and Senator Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville)



- Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) is a **native plant found throughout Georgia** that boasts breathtaking white, fragrant flowers and glossy evergreen leaves. Its stunning appearance captures the essence of Georgia's picturesque landscapes.
- Sweetbay Magnolia's botanical heritage has **historical significance**, used by indigenous communities for medicinal and ceremonial uses.
- Georgians can feel good about planting Sweetbay Magnolia. It provides soil stabilization and is used in rain gardens for stormwater control.
- As a native species, Sweetbay Magnolia **contributes to the state's rich biodiversity**.
- Sweetbay Magnolia directly supports the lifecycle of **Georgia's state butterfly, the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail**, an important pollinator.

The Cherokee Rose (*Rosa laevigata*), designated our current state flower in 1916, is not only native to China and SE Asia but is also listed as a harmful invasive weed by the Georgia Invasive Species Council. Non-native, invasive plants harm our environment and require valuable resources to control. It was mistakenly assumed at the time to be native.



Supporting Georgia Organizations



Championing the stewardship and conservation of Georgia's native plants and their habitats



Interested in learning more? Contact Georgia Native Plant Society at info@gnps.org or 770-343-6000.