

# 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: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/find-my-legislator>

- You will see official contact information here, but once you know the name, you can use it to search for more personal contact info via their campaign and/or 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 hand-written letters with a follow up call if you don't hear back is also great.
- Emails are less impactful, because of the volume received, but are still worthwhile.

**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/town where you live)
- Why the issue is important to you (like: "I've been member of GNPS for X years and...").
- Ask for action! Support means their YES vote on the proposed legislation.  
**"Please support HB 955/SB 240 that both changes the state flower to the native Sweetbay Magnolia from the non-native invasive Cherokee Rose and also designates April as Native Plant Month in Georgia."**

### Key points to consider and share

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

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

If you have questions or need support please contact [michael.cowan@gnps.org](mailto:michael.cowan@gnps.org).

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	✓	✗

**Our collective efforts can lead to real change for Georgia!**