



The flora of Maryland was previously represented by a diverse assemblage of over 1,250 species of vascular plants in ecosystems ranging from woodlands to successional fields to unique habitats such as bogs, sand dunes and serpentine barrens.

Many of those species and habitats are in serious decline, or are now functionally absent. Many of our previously common plants such as American chestnut and American elm are nearly gone and our ash and oak trees, flowering dogwoods, arrowwoods, and beeches are currently under attack by nonnative and invasive fungi and insects. Invasive alien plants such as Asiatic bittersweet, tree-of-heaven, Japanese stilt grass and lesser celandine are outcompeting our native species in many places.

At risk is our biological heritage and the stability of our existing forests and other habitats, and the beneficial insects, mammal and bird populations that are dependent upon them. One way to help is to keep the genetic diversity and distribution of our native plant species strong and diverse by encouraging the planting of as many native species as possible.

We can help to draw attention to these concerns and encouraging the citizens of Maryland to plant native plants, turning their gardens and properties into native habitats and refuges.

We support and encourage the adoption of the month of May as "Maryland Native Plant Month"

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley A. Kollar, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Stanley A. Kollar, Jr.
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