

Originating Committee: Public/Private Lands

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Intended Recipient: Office of the Missouri Governor and Directors of Missouri State Agencies

Halt the Planting of Non-Native Invasive Species on State-Owned Property

WHEREAS, a non-native invasive species is defined as being both non-native and capable of spreading at such a rate that results in ecological or economic harm; and

WHEREAS, many non-native invasive plant species present in Missouri are spreading rapidly, resulting in a detrimental loss of biodiversity, a decrease in the quality of our natural resources, and significant economic expenses incurred by many private and public landowners, land-based economic sectors, and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the amount of funding dedicated to controlling invasive plants by federal and state agencies and private landowners, continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, some non-native invasive species that are present in Missouri are commonly planted for ornamental purposes in landscaped areas, often around office buildings or other public areas; and

WHEREAS, these species include but are not limited to ornamental pears (e.g. “Bradford/Callery” pear), burning bush, wintercreeper, English ivy, golden raintree, heavenly bamboo, Japanese barberry, and mimosa; and

WHEREAS, these non-native invasive species planted in landscaped environments and other areas can produce large amounts of seed that facilitate their expansion and colonization beyond their intended planting locations; and

WHEREAS, native plants are readily available through the Missouri Prairie Foundation’s Grow Native! Program; and

WHEREAS, plants native to Missouri provide ecologic and economic resiliency and support nature’s web of life; and

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri owns large amounts of property, both with and without developed landscapes, including many office buildings throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, allowing the planting and growth of non-native invasive species on state-owned property is contradictory to efforts put forth by state agencies, local governments, and many private landowners to eradicate the same species where they have spread to natural environments, agricultural land, or developed landscapes; and

WHEREAS, to discourage the planting of non-native invasive species and to promote the

growth of native species, specifications should be included in landscape contracts and internal plans when applicable, to require that all species planted on any state property are native to the state of Missouri or non-native plants proven to be not invasive; and

WHEREAS, the state should lead the effort in slowing the spread of non-native invasive species by halting the planting of non-native invasive species on all state-owned property and promoting the growth of native species by replacing non-native invasive species with other species native to Missouri or non-native plants proven to be not invasive; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources have already taken steps toward achieving this goal; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Transportation has also taken great strides toward treating non-native invasive species through the creation of partnerships with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Prairie Foundation and by using management practices on roadsides that remove non-native invasive species and promote the growth of native species; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 8th day of March, 2020, urges the Office of the Missouri Governor and Directors of Missouri state agencies to halt the planting of non-native invasive species on all state-owned property and encourage the replacement of non-native invasive species with native or proven non-invasive alternatives.

Searchable Keywords: plants, invasive, non-native, Bradford pear, Callery Pear, ornamental, Grow Native.

Expires: March 8, 2025