

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL GARDEN MONTH
April 2015

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS gardening at home, at school, or within a community is a vibrant American tradition that provides healthy food for the table; pleasant surroundings and recreational benefits for people; and beneficial habitat for wildlife across the Nation; and

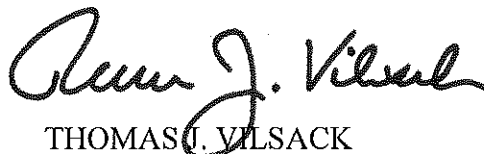
WHEREAS gardens provide a positive setting for pollinators such as bats, bees, birds, butterflies, beetles, and other animals that contribute substantially to the U.S. economy and play a vital role in keeping fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our diets; and

WHEREAS the People's Garden Initiative, launched by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2009, has resulted in the establishment of 2,116 People's Gardens on public and private lands across the United States and its territories and in 12 foreign countries; and

WHEREAS People's Gardens serve as helpful models for uniting individuals, groups, and neighborhoods in a common effort to benefit communities, enhance diets, promote food security, utilize sustainable practices, mitigate pollinator habitat loss, and address environmental issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the importance of gardens in fostering a healthy and sustainable environment for current and future generations of people, pollinators, and other living things, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as National Garden Month. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the dedicated work of gardeners and the many valuable benefits of gardens with appropriate observances and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of April 2015, the two-hundred thirty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary