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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 61  
**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**  
INTRODUCED BY  
Jeannette O. Wallace

A JOINT MEMORIAL  
REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR DESIGNATE THE LAST SATURDAY IN  
AUGUST AS "NATIVE PLANT DAY" IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico contains a greater number  
of plant habitats than nearly any other state in the United  
States, from Chihuahuan desert to alpine tundra; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico also supports a larger number of  
native plant species than nearly any other state in the United  
States; and

WHEREAS, some of these species are found nowhere else on  
earth; and

WHEREAS, these native plants support a great variety of  
birds and animals, both native and domestic; and

WHEREAS, the modern way of life inadvertently destroys  
natural habitats and introduces noxious weeds, which in turn

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1 replace native forage, which is the state's natural heritage;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, in every season, New Mexicans enjoy the beauty  
4 and variety of these native plants in the state's forests,  
5 grasslands and deserts, including the official state flower,  
6 the yucca; the state tree, the pinon; the state grass, blue  
7 grama; and the colorful displays of native wild flowers; and

8 WHEREAS, there is increasing concern that many of these  
9 native plants may be destroyed or eradicated because they are  
10 not well-known;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to designate  
13 the last Saturday in August as "Native Plant Day" in New Mexico  
14 to showcase the natural heritage of plants that New Mexico  
15 provides for its residents and visitors; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the governor and to the president of the native  
18 plant society of New Mexico.