



**KEEP OHIO BEAUTIFUL**  
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

# Keep Ohio Beautiful Day at the Ohio Statehouse

## What is Keep Ohio Beautiful Day at the Ohio Statehouse?

Each September Keep Ohio Beautiful celebrates Keep Ohio Beautiful Day at the Ohio Statehouse, in conjunction with National Planting Day, a Keep America Beautiful program, to celebrate the value and power of native species in restoring ecological balance to the environment and creating greener, more beautiful communities.

- Beautified communities improve quality of life, attract businesses and sustain community growth.
- Gardens and well-maintained landscaping can increase home value by up to 11 percent.



Fringed Gentian, photo ©Jim McCormac

## Why does Keep Ohio Beautiful (KOB) participate in National Planting Day?

Native Ohio plants are losing ground to suburbanization, fragmented habitats, non-native ornamental plants and invasive species. Native plants provide homes and food for a diverse array of native insects and animals, which may not adapt when native plant habitat is lost. By planting native Ohio species in visible public spaces on National Planting Day, we are teaching people that natives are beautiful, low-maintenance plants that can be the “stars” in public and residential gardens.



Great Spangled Fritillary butterfly, photo ©Jim McCormac

## Why plant native species?

- Natives are critical to attracting specialized pollinators and insects, which in turn provide food for birds and other animals up the food chain.
- They are hardy, low maintenance and, when planted correctly, require less water than non-native ornamentals.
- Native plants do not require fertilizers and help reduce air pollution.
- They are attractive and can play a leading or exclusive role in residential gardens and public green spaces.
- Native gardens that attract butterflies are perfect first gardens for children.

### Keep Ohio Beautiful National Planting Day History

**2015, 2016 & 2017** – Ohio Native Pollinator Gardens at the Ohio Statehouse

**2014** – Ohio Native Butterfly Garden at the Ohio Statehouse

**2013** – Woodland Restoration and Demonstration Native Garden at the Ohio Statehouse

**2012** – Native Moist Meadow and Perennial Beds at the Ohio Statehouse

For project site plans, photos and more information about Keep Ohio Beautiful Day at the Ohio Statehouse, please contact Keep Ohio Beautiful executive director Mike Mennett at [mmennett@keepohiobeautiful.org](mailto:mmennett@keepohiobeautiful.org) or 330-338-8328.