

University of Delaware Graduate Student Government
SR-1920-03

Sponsors: Senator Nicholas Butler (Geography & Spatial Sciences) and Senator Elizabeth Davis (Earth Sciences, Co-Chair, Sustainability Committee)

A RESOLUTION in Favor of Native Plant Landscaping on University of Delaware Campuses

WHEREAS a native plant is defined by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control in “Native Plants for Delaware Landscapes” as a plant that originated and occurs naturally in a region; and

WHEREAS native landscaping saves money by requiring less water, maintenance, and use of fertilizer; and

WHEREAS native plants benefit pollinator populations and therefore all other plants on campus; and

WHEREAS native plants provide habitat and protection for native bird species; and

WHEREAS native canopy trees store carbon in their mass, capture and recycle rainwater, and moderate the ground temperature; and

WHEREAS the use of non-native plants increases the risk of introducing an invasive species; and

WHEREAS the University of Delaware Science and Technology Campus Master Plan 2011 - Executive Summary states “the commitment the University is making to develop the site using environmental sustainability principles will set an example for future development within the region and beyond... By creating a green, inviting campus consisting of trees, native plantings...”; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government calls for the exclusive use of native plants in future non-academic landscaping on all UD campuses.