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Dear

As more and more people have been learning more about the importance of native plants and supporting habitat for wildlife in our community this past year, I see a great opportunity for your nursery to support habitat for our native birds and pollinators.

Would your nursery be able to create plant lists or designated tags for native plants? This could be as simple as posting a flyer near the entrance or placing a table or row in an ideal location that has only Illinois native plants.

While I'm sure you know this, "nativars" are different than native plants. Some native cultivars, such as those within the Echinacea genus are selected for their double blossoms through a breeding process which removes the reproductive parts of the plant that create pollen to feed our pollinators. These plants should not be marketed with the native plants, as they are not able to provide the same benefits to native wildlife.

If your nursery is able to provide an adequate selection of native plants, you can be added to a number of databases and resources that send customers your way. [National Wildlife Federation](#), [Homegrown National Park](#), [Chicago Living Corridors](#) and [West Cook Wild Ones](#) all maintain lists of nurseries and garden centers that sell native plants. Personally, I want to be able to source native plants from local, family-owned sources instead of going to the "Big Box" stores. I know that a growing number of people share this preference.

I hope that you will implement these practices in your store this season.

Warm Regards,