

Bill Number: HB2644
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I would like to thank Chairman Olson for allowing me to speak here today. My name is Tyson Detweiler from Sabetha Elementary School and I am a proponent of the bill HB2644. The purpose of this writing is to convince the people in this room to make the Sandhill Plum the state fruit of Kansas, and to convince everybody to take this bill seriously.

Kids from all over Kansas, including twenty-three other schools, and my school, Sabetha Elementary School, have voted, and the outcome of the vote was the Sandhill plum by far. This means that all these kids have high hopes to make the Sandhill Plum the state fruit of Kansas. And we can't do it without the help of you people.

To show you how serious we are, we had Doug Grimm from Grimm's Gardens, speak about the pros and cons of native fruits in Kansas. Next, we had our state representative, Randy Garber, come talk to us, and explain a lot of things about bills and how they work. As you can see, we have done our work.

Now, we are going to need multiple great reasons to ensure that the Sandhill Plum is the perfect choice and candidate for our state fruit. So, I have gone through and scanned the internet for the best qualities of this magnificent plum. Here are my reasons.

For all you moms out there, the Sandhill Plum can be made into jams, jellies, and wine to congratulate you after a hard day's work.

The Sandhill Plum was discovered by native Americans way way back before anybody had even heard of it, in Kansas. This may not be a well-known fact, but it proves that the Sandhill Plum is native to Kansas. Have you *ever* heard of the Chickasaw Plum, the Cherokee Plum, the Florida Sand Plum, or the Sand plum? Well, these are all other names for the Sandhill plum! Wow, this is a popular plum.

This awesome plum also benefits wildlife in huge ways by giving an easy to track down food source because of the strong scented bark near the roots of the bush. The foliage also provides *cover* for nesting sites. Now, I can go on and on listing amazing facts about the Sandhill Plum, but I don't want to bore any of you.

In my opinion, I think the Sandhill Plum is great because it is sweet, easy to grow, and leaves a great taste in your mouth. I think the Sandhill Plum should be our state fruit because is native to Kansas, good tasting, can help our precious wildlife, and is not hard lo farm either.

Thank you for listening to my speech, and taking our wants and Kansas's needs into consideration.