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## **Native Plant Trust Names Dr. Jessamine Finch Research Botanist, Joins Internationally Recognized Conservation Department**

Media Contact: Debbi Edelstein, Executive Director, [dedelstein@NativePlantTrust.org](mailto:dedelstein@NativePlantTrust.org), 508.877.7630 x3101

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(*Framingham, MA*) Native Plant Trust, the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants, has named Dr. Jessamine Finch to the position of Research Botanist. She joins the internationally recognized Conservation Department, whose work focuses on saving imperiled plants, restoring habitat, and documenting the state of New England's native plants. In her role, Dr. Finch will manage Native Plant Trust's seed bank of rare and endangered native plant species and conduct research into genetic diversity. Prior to joining Native Plant Trust, Dr. Finch managed Budburst, a community science program in plant phenology, at Chicago Botanic Garden.

"As a botanist and plant ecologist passionate about native plant conservation, I am excited to join an exceptional team at Native Plant Trust," says Dr. Finch. "In my research, I aim to further plant conservation through applied investigations of the environmental tolerance ranges for plants. My research interests focus on the intersection of seed ecology, ecological restoration, and climate change. The success of plant conservation via *ex situ* seed banks relies on our ability to germinate collections for future use. Many unknowns persist regarding variation in dormancy and germination, both among and within species in response to plant genetics, the environment, and their interaction. Native Plant Trust's seed bank provides an ideal environment for answering critical questions in applied seed science to support conservation efforts in New England and globally."

Dr. Finch earned her PhD in Plant Biology and Conservation from Northwestern University, where her research focused on population genetics and the seed ecology of milkweeds (*Asclepias*). She received a BA in Biological Sciences and Landscape Studies from Smith College.

"With her outstanding qualifications, Dr. Finch strengthens our research team and enables us to focus in important ways on conserving New England's plants in the era of climate change," says Michael Piantedosi, Director of Conservation.

## ABOUT NATIVE PLANT TRUST

Native Plant Trust is the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants. We save native plants in the wild, grow them for gardens and restorations, and educate others on their value and use. We are based at Garden in the Woods, a renowned native plant botanic garden that attracts visitors from all over the world. From this flagship property in Framingham, Massachusetts, 25 staff and many of our 1,500 trained volunteers work throughout New England each year to monitor and protect rare and endangered plants, collect and preserve seeds to ensure biological diversity, detect and control invasive species, conduct research, and offer a range of educational programs. Native Plant Trust also operates a nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and manages six sanctuaries in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that are open to the public. Native Plant Trust is among the first organizations worldwide to receive Advanced Conservation Practitioner accreditation by London-based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), which included an endorsement by an International Advisory Council representing six continents. Please visit [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

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