



For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson Proclaims New Mexico Native Chile Week

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson has issued a proclamation, declaring New Mexico Native Chile Week from September 5 through September 12.

“Chile is synonymous with New Mexico, and whether you prefer red or green, if you have been to New Mexico, you’ve tried our world renowned chile,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “New Mexico chile is marketed across the U.S. Stop by your local Farmers Market during New Mexico Native Chile Week and give back to your local growers.”

Chile has long been a famous New Mexico tradition. Proclaiming an entire week to honor New Mexico Native chile will help to educate consumers about the varieties of chile grown in the state and pay tribute to the New Mexican chile growers and farmers. During this week, farmers markets around the state will have modern and native chile on hand.

For more information on Chile Tastings at New Mexico Farmers’ Markets, contact *The Save New Mexico Seeds Coalition* or go to <http://www.gmofreenm.com>.

Full text of the proclamation follows:

WHEREAS, for centuries, New Mexico growers have developed, collected and saved regional seeds, thereby selectively breeding native chile crops suited to local microclimates; and

WHEREAS, for generations, New Mexicans have been stewards of the land saving seed to preserve biodiversity and ensure food security; and

WHEREAS, chile has been an integral part of New Mexico’s diet and culinary traditions for hundreds of years; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1888, New Mexico State University starting with Fabian Garcia in the early 1900s, has developed exceptional modern chile plant varieties from native chile crops, through the proven techniques of crossbreeding, using natural procedures that are well documented and successful; and

WHEREAS, today many local farmers grow both the native and modern varieties, which are economically important and internationally famous; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico Native Chile Week will educate consumers about the varieties of chiles grown in New Mexico, honor the growers who maintain this diversity, and encourage support of local farming to ensure our state's food security;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim September 5th through September 12th, 2009 as:

“New Mexico Native Chile Week”

throughout the State of New Mexico.

Attest:

Done at the Executive Office this

13th day of August, 2009.

Mary Herrera

Witness my hand and the Great Seal

Secretary of State

of the Great State of New Mexico

 Bill

Richardson
Governor

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