

Hendersonville Tree Board

An Appointed Board of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina

Memo to: Garden Jubilee Vendors
From: Hendersonville Tree Board
Date: September 2023
Re: *Provide Native Plants at 2024 Garden Jubilee*

While making plans for the 2024 Garden Jubilee in Hendersonville, NC, scheduled for May 25-26, we hope you will assist us in curbing the spread of invasive plants in our area by providing and selling native and non-invasive plants as a vendor at our popular garden festival. Hendersonville Tree Board encourages you to help shoppers learn more about the value and benefit of using native and non-invasive plants.

These links and web addresses -- North Carolina Invasive Plant Council <https://nc-ipc.weebly.com/mountain-invasive-plants.html>; Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/show_ep3_pdf/1694009854/23548/ -- provide a list of invasive plants we hope to eliminate in this area and give further information about this problem. We hope you will take a moment to review them.

Biologists consider the negative impact of non-native plants, especially those from Western Europe and Asia, to be one of the most serious problems facing native plant and wildlife populations in the United States today. Overuse of non-native plants in landscapes and gardens reduces food sources for wildlife and pollinators and negatively affects natural biodiversity. As an example, 96% of all terrestrial birds require insects and caterpillars to feed their young ... non-native plants simply do not support those insects. Certain foreign and imported plants are actually harmful to our North American native landscapes. For example, we have all seen large areas taken over by exotic bamboos, kudzu, English ivy, Oriental wisterias, Japanese knotweed, and Bradford pear, just to name a few. Planting such non-native species in home gardens is responsible for about 60% of invasive species introductions. Until action is taken to curb the sale and use of such invasive plants, wildlife and native landscapes will continue to be adversely affected.

These are some of the reasons Hendersonville Tree Board is requesting Garden Jubilee vendors to help shoppers create beautifully landscaped gardens, patios, and porches while protecting and supporting area wildlife, pollinators, and biodiversity. We hope you and other vendors will support that effort by providing only native and non-invasive plants for shoppers at the 2024 Garden Jubilee.

The Tree Board was created by City Council in 1992 to help educate the public on the economic, ecological, and aesthetic benefits of trees in order to maintain a healthy tree canopy in our town. In an urban environment, we know that healthy trees are influenced and intertwined with the landscape. The home gardener is a partner in helping create a functional and sustainable urban ecosystem. (over)

Thank you for your consideration and support. For more information and/or to discuss this request, please contact Tree Board member Glenn Lange at 317-945-7056 or via email at silverwalkers16@outlook.com. He will be happy to discuss ideas, suggestions, and concerns.

Hendersonville Tree Board members --

Mac Brackett, Chairman

Will Coffee

Mary Davis

Becca Doll, ISA Certified Arborist

Glenn Lange, TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist

Joe Peiso

Janet Thew

Debbie Roundtree, City Council Liaison