

## RESOLUTION # 16

### HORTICULTURAL THERAPY

1           **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture recognizes that people benefit  
2 from plants, both passively and actively, and that no one should be denied the benefits of  
3 working with, growing and harvesting plants; and

4           **WHEREAS**, Horticultural Therapy (HT) has beneficially impacted the lives of  
5 countless residents of the Garden State; and

6           **WHEREAS**, HT is recognized as a practical and viable treatment which uses plants  
7 and customized gardening activities to provide wide-ranging benefits for people in  
8 therapeutic, vocational and wellness programs; and

9           **WHEREAS**, HT programs provide new growth opportunities for the agricultural  
10 producers of New Jersey to bring their goods to market, while exposing the benefits of  
11 agriculture and gardening to a community that is currently disconnected from the farm and  
12 nursery industries; and

13           **WHEREAS**, the third full week in March is designated to be "Horticultural Therapy  
14 Week" in New Jersey, with the first observance being in 2016 and observed every year since  
15 then; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the United States Congress also has recognized HT as a viable tool in  
17 helping to provide treatment; and

18           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey HT practitioners have been invited to consult in the  
19 development of a text book that will teach practices and principles of Horticultural Therapy  
20 and will be used by various colleges and universities; and

21           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is a prominent leader of raising awareness of Horticultural  
22 Therapy through a published peer review article, "The Seed of 'National Horticultural  
23 Therapy Week' and Roots of New Jersey Agriculture" in the Journal of Therapeutic  
24 Horticulture of the American Horticultural Therapy Association in October 2017.

25                   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 103<sup>rd</sup> State  
26                   Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 7-8, 2018, do  
27                   hereby direct the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, through its various entities, to  
28                   promote Horticultural Therapy as an integral part of consumer horticulture as recognized by  
29                   the USDA, and to encourage the continued growth of these valuable programs as outlets for  
30                   New Jersey agricultural products and as a service to the communities who use them.

31                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we continue to support the mission and goals of  
32                   Horticultural Therapy and recognize the positive impact HT has had on the citizens of New  
33                   Jersey and the state's agricultural industry.