



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2020

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**Huntsville Botanical Garden
Approved for Arboretum
Accreditation**



HUNTSVILLE, Alabama— Huntsville Botanical Garden has been awarded Level II accreditation by [ArbNet](#) and is now recognized in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world’s tree-focused public gardens. The ArbNet program is sponsored and coordinated by the [Morton Arboretum](#) in cooperation with the [American Public Gardens Association](#) and [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#). It is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards, including planning, governance, number of species, staff or volunteer support, education and public programming, and tree science research and conservation.

ArbNet offers four levels of accreditation that acknowledge arboreta and public gardens at different stages of development, capacity, and professionalism. In order to achieve Level II accreditation, Huntsville Botanical Garden was required to meet the following criteria:

- Have at least 100 species, varieties, or cultivars of trees and woody plants.
- Employ staff whose responsibilities specifically include management of the plant collections.
- Have enhanced public education programs related to trees, such as tree identification, ecology, or conservation.
- Have a documented collections policy that describes the development and professional management of the trees and plants in its collections.

Huntsville Botanical Garden contains over 10,000 woody plants, including 376 tree species, 1,094 shrub species, and 3,155 species and cultivars of herbaceous perennials. The Garden’s ornamental plant collections emphasize the following: maples, camellias, dogwoods, hydrangea, holly, crape myrtle, magnolias, rhododendron (with an emphasis on native azaleas), and trillium of eastern North America.

"ArbNet international accreditation connects Huntsville Botanical Garden to a global collaboration that shares tree collections information to advance education, management, science, and conservation," says Niki Sothers, Director of Horticulture at Huntsville Botanical Garden. "We’re pleased to be



recognized for our diverse plant collections, quality record keeping, and land management practices, and will continue to work toward higher levels of professional standards."

Upcoming tree programs at the Garden:

[Winter Tree Identification](#) (March 1, 2020)

[Tree Selection for Landscapes](#) (March 29, 2020)

For complete information, visit hsvbg.org.

About the Huntsville Botanical Garden

The 112-acre Huntsville Botanical Garden is open year-round and contains a diverse ecosystem of meadows, upland and bottomland forest, and wetlands, as well as a variety of specialty gardens and native plant collections. The Mathews Nature Trail contains the largest accredited trillium collection in the U.S. and the Anderson Education Center is home to the nation's largest open-air butterfly house. The Native Plants Teaching Garden is a public space that highlights the way local plants, soil, pollinators, and birds create distinct communities and how they interact to form a diverse, sustainable, and attractive landscape. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Garden is a member of the American Public Gardens Association, the North American Plant Collections Consortium, and the American Horticultural Society. For more information, visit www.hsvbg.org.