



MATJAŽ MASTNAK

Invasive Trees and Shrubs in Slovenia and Species for Their Replacement

The European Union is gradually expanding its list of non-native plant species which, due to their invasiveness, pose a threat to native vegetation, habitats and human health. Species on the list may not be cultivated, traded, propagated, or disposed of in nature.

Slovenia is expected to publish a national list of invasive plant species in the coming years. How can gardeners and landscape architects prepare for changes in regulations regarding ornamental plants?

As a partner in the LIFE OrnamentallAS project, Arboretum Volčji Potok encourages professionals in the green sector to participate in shaping lists of safe, potentially risky, and invasive species. Only shared expertise can guide the development of sustainable alternatives to invasive

ornamentals.

About the lecturer: Matjaž Mastnak, a forestry engineer, has worked at Arboretum Volčji Potok for over 30 years and recently took on its leadership. A specialist in ornamental woody plants, he is particularly passionate about roses. Thanks to his work, the rose garden has become one of the most recognizable in this part of Europe. He is an active promoter of horticulture and a prolific author, lecturer, and teacher. He joined the LIFE OrnamentallAS project with the belief that horticulture must collaborate closely with nature conservation.



URŠKA KRANJC

Conditions, Restrictions and Other Factors in Designing Plantings in Public Open Space

Current spatial legislation requires designers to consider conditions set by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning concerning nature conservation. These conditions help prevent and manage the harmful impacts of invasive ornamental non-native plants.

Due to the wide range of contexts in which plantings are evaluated, it is important to more clearly understand how regulations influence species selection and design decisions.

About the lecturer:

Urška Kranjc is a licensed landscape architect and spatial planner at LUZ d.d., working as a project manager. Her work spans urban and natural landscape design, urban planning, nature conservation, and public engagement.

She specializes in designing public spaces, particularly green areas of different types and scales, with a strong focus on play areas and recreational environments.



BERNARDA STRGAR

Contemporary Criteria for Selecting Non-Native Perennials in Planting Designs

In many countries, non-native perennials are widely used in urban plantings due to their ability to create diverse landscape aesthetics. They appear in roadside plantings, parks, resilient mixed beds, dry gardens, rain gardens and more.

Some species grow rapidly and can outcompete others if not correctly placed or maintained. The lecture will discuss the advantages of fast-growing perennials, their placement, and key factors influencing the long-term success of perennial plantings.

About the lecturer:

Bernarda Strgar, a biologist and trained garden designer, has managed a perennial nursery for 26 years, cultivating over 900 perennial species and varieties. She collaborates with educational institutions, publishes widely, and appears on radio and TV programs. She designs and maintains gardens and public green spaces across Slovenia and regularly attends international conferences. She is a member of ISU and Perenne and contributes to ZPORS symposium planning.



THOMAS ROTH

New Trees and Shrubs in New Substrate – The Climate Tree and Shrubs Grove in Vienna

Climate change presents major challenges for gardens and urban green spaces. Thomas Roth studies drought-resistant trees and shrubs essential for climate-resilient ecosystems.

His presentation draws on recent HBLFA research, exploring adaptation mechanisms, ecological benefits, and invasive risks of climate-resilient species. The session will highlight innovative approaches to sustainable green urban development.

About the lecturer:

Thomas Roth is a landscape architect and expert in woody plant use and planting techniques in Vienna. Since 2006 he has taught at HBLFA Schönbrunn and manages a forest-themed trail and research garden used for testing tree species and design methods.

The lecture will be held in English, followed by a brief summary.