

**FRIENDS OF THE EAST BRUNSWICK
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

501c-3 nonprofit organization

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**What's Growing in Your Garden? Learn About Invasive Plants and Their Impact
on Our Environment at the East Brunswick Public Library, Oct 18**

You may not know it, but some of those beautiful trees and plants growing around us could spell trouble for the ecological balance and health of our outdoor environment. According to the Native Plant Society of New Jersey, invasive plants can reduce biological diversity, decrease available food and nesting areas and are a \$130 billion problem in the U.S.

Learn about invasive plants, the problems they cause and what's being done to combat them in the next Option Green program at the East Brunswick Public Library at 7 p.m., Wednesday Oct. 18. This in-person program will also be viewable online by going to [this link](#). The library is located at 2 Jean Walling Civic Center off Ryders Lane.

Hubert Ling, PhD., of the Native Plant Society of N.J. will discuss what government and scientists are doing to counter the spread of invasive plants and what individuals can do to help.

Dr. Ling's presentation will cover some of the common invasives found in New Jersey and alternative, noninvasive native replacements for them. He also will provide an introduction to the unique world of native plants and show how you can add novelty and interest to your garden.

According to the Native Plant Society of N.J., "an informed public will make N.J. better by encouraging local and national government officials to seek solutions to the invasive plant crisis."

Dr. Ling is a former president and current member of the board of the Native Plant Society of N.J. and also is its horticulture chair. He holds a Ph.D. in biology from Wayne State University and degrees from Brown University and Queens College. He was an Associate Professor of biology for over 25 years at the County College of Morris and an Associate Professor at the University of Delaware.

The Option Green lecture series is sponsored by [the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission](#) in partnership with the East Brunswick Public Library. This program on invasive plants is co-sponsored by the Highland Park Chapter of the Native Plant Society of N.J.

Founded in 1985, the Native Plant Society of N.J. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the appreciation, protection and study of the native flora of the state. For more information about the organization, visit npsnj.org.

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