

RESOLUTION # 30

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY

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

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

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

11 **WHEREAS**, in May 2015, the Governor signed into law SJR12/AJR13,
12 designating the third full week in March to be “Horticultural Therapy Week” in New
13 Jersey, with the first observance being in 2016; and

14 **WHEREAS**, HT has received recognition from the Hunterdon, Somerset and
15 Bergen County Boards of Agriculture via proclamations in March 2015.

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 101st
17 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 10-
18 11, 2016, do hereby direct the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, through its various
19 entities, to promote Horticultural Therapy as an integral part of consumer horticulture as
20 recognized by the USDA, and to encourage the continued growth of these valuable
21 programs as outlets for New Jersey agricultural products and as a service to the
22 communities who use them.