

Dr. Richard Olsen
Director, National Arboretum



With two horticultural degrees from NC State and a third from the University of Georgia, Dr. Richard Olsen's career spans genetics, specimen development and administration.

Recognized as a leader in public horticulture, Dr. Olsen was named Director of the US National Arboretum (USNA) in 2015. Prior to his promotion at the USNA, earlier he was a research geneticist and the Arboretum's lead scientist where he focused on developing pest and disease-resistant urban landscape trees. This important work – including travel around the world to find and develop new plants for commercialization in the U.S. – continues to benefit America's nursery and landscape industry.