

Henry Kuppen Biography 2020

Henry Kuppen (1964), is arboricultural consultant from the Netherlands. He started his education in forestry and began his professional career as a tree surgeon at Copijn Tree Surgeons in 1983. In 1989 he won the Dutch national tree climbing championship. In 1994 he started his own arboricultural company in the south of the Netherlands with trees in the urban environment as working field. Based on his passion for culture influenced pleached tree monuments he then also started a pleached tree nursery. Therefore he specialised himself in pruning and forming historical shaped trees and has often been involved in the restoration of these monuments.

Out of a necessary need for practical solutions to manage oak processionary moth, he has developed since 1994 various methods and management considerations to reduce oak processionary moth till reasonable levels. Based on this knowledge and increasing numbers of pest and diseases in trees he developed protocols, registration systems and integrated pest management based on acceptance levels and impact consequences for several tree related pest and diseases.

As the accent of his daily work was moving more to company management instead of arboriculture he sold his company in 2013 and moved his career to consultancy. With over 35 years of professional experience in managing trees in the urban environment he is active as director of Terra Nostra, Knowledge Centre for Trees and Soils. As director he is an innovator and develops solutions for (practical) management and policy related issues for trees in an urban environment. He specializes on effects of climate change on trees, integrated management of pest and diseases in trees, and since years he promotes the use of tree species diversity in the Netherlands.

Henry is also active by supporting Dutch government on Oak Processionary Moth management and can often be found with this subject on national television and in newspapers. Besides being director he is part of many national initiatives around trees like the introduction of i-Tree in the Netherlands in 2019. He is also working as a teacher, is supervisor at the EAC, writes articles, is columnist and frequently publishes his thoughts about trees in blogs. As accomplished public speaker, he is sharing his knowledge by giving talks and workshops to other professionals around the world. His presentations will always be inspired by how we approach trees where he is trying to represent the voice of the tree.