

## Sweden: Allotment site Dalkarlsleden in Skellefteå

### Creating an arboretum, a unique initiative in the North of Sweden

In Dalkarlsleden allotment association they have three large grass covered areas on their leased land. The areas used to be cut, like lawns, several times a year, and in a few years back one member suggested that they ought to create a more living environment for insects and birds on one of the lawns (5000 m<sup>2</sup>).

In the end, they decided they wanted to create an arboretum on this lawn. A garden designer made a plan and suggested suitable trees and shrubs. This is in the north of Sweden, so the trees and shrubs need to survive the winters there.

To finance the project they also applied and were granted a loan for 10 000 euro in 2020 from the Allotment Federation's "Loan Fund", from where member associations can apply for loans to finance investments for the common good for the association, such as storage sheds, meeting house, sanitary facilities, fences etc.



*Bee hotel in the arboretum*

In 2021 the arboretum was planted by the members, with a total of 34 trees and 16 shrubs of 30 different varieties. It was all inaugurated on Aug 28th, the Allotment Garden Day (as proclaimed by the Swedish Allotment Federation). Ulrica Otterling, Secretary General, was there and helped plant the final tree. This also became a wonderful finale of the Swedish Federation's 100th Anniversary and the Federation's tree planting campaign connected to the jubilee.

**The allotment site Dalkarlsleden received the International Federation's diploma for innovative projects.**



*Several of the allotment holders opened their gardens on Aug 28th.*



*Planting a tree is the best thing you can do in your garden to promote biodiversity.*