

Why is a biodiversity officer important?

The preservation of biodiversity in our gardens is becoming more and more important for the environment surrounding us, especially the urban environment, and that is why the central federation of allotment gardeners in Austria has now for the first time installed a biodiversity officer in the person of one of our allotment gardeners, Mr Florian Binder.

The topic of biodiversity in allotment gardens should not only consist of headlines, but should also be filled with life, and therefore *Florian Binder*, a trained gardener and landscape planner, has since recently been taking care of the valuable habitats in our allotment gardens. According to recent studies, these habitats are home to a great many species, especially endangered ones. Our gardens are not designated as nature reserves, but, as some studies show, they are often last refuges especially for insects and birds.

In order to continue to ensure biodiversity in our gardens and to be able to guarantee comprehensive education and information to interested parties, the central federation has created this new contact point, which is to gradually take on a central role together with the expert advisers. In the future, these advisers are to have an impact in their respective federal states and/or districts and are to be available as contact persons when interested allotment gardeners, but also outsiders, have questions on the subject of species protection. It is also our declared aim that in the long term, together with our biodiversity officer, we will strive for networking with the most diverse authorities on this subject as well as joint actions with organisations from the field of environmental sciences.

