

## **A round thing - the Federal Allotment Garden Act celebrates its 40th anniversary**

The Federal Allotment Garden Law (BKleingG), as the foundation of the nationwide allotment garden movement, has laid down the uniform framework conditions for allotment gardens in Germany since it came into force on 1 April 1983.

The regulations for allotment gardening in Germany have now been in place for 40 years. In particular, the protection against dismissal ensures green cities in the sense of environmental justice. And social justice is reflected in the favourable conditions for leasing an allotment garden. The rent for an allotment garden is also moderate, based on the local rent for commercial fruit and vegetable cultivation. This makes allotment gardening a comparatively inexpensive hobby. In addition, the BKleingG guarantees that allotment gardeners receive permanent leases that cannot simply be terminated.



In addition to all these advantages for tenants, they are also required to observe a few rules when managing their allotment gardens. These rules are not the strictest and they are not difficult to observe. They include, among other things, the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, which is a must for the use of an allotment garden in the sense of allotment gardening. As a rule, you also have to keep to the maximum area of 24m<sup>2</sup> that can be built over and simple equipment for the arbour - because permanent living is not allowed here, as the focus is clearly on gardening.

The sum of the provisions of the BKleingG and the rules made locally in federations and associations fulfil their purposes and are ultimately to the benefit of all. About 13,500 non-profit allotment garden associations, 500 city, district, county and regional federations and 20 regional federations ensure that allotment garden sites are a permanent part of the public green space system. They give the allotment gardening community the good feeling of having found in their allotment gardens a safe place of permanent existence where people can feel free and fully enjoy and live out the benefits of one of the most popular hobbies nationwide. Thus, with a great deal of commitment and heart and soul, fruit and vegetables of all kinds are grown in hundreds of thousands of allotment gardens to provide for themselves. The protection of the BKleingG also makes it possible for the large allotment community to make a lasting contribution to climate resilience and biodiversity on more than 44,000 ha of land in the country, both in urban and rural areas. Ultimately, each individual contributes to the preservation and continuation of allotment gardens in our towns and cities despite increasing competition for land use. So use and enjoy the freedoms that the federal allotment garden law has offered you for over 40 years.

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*Image: BDG*