

We care for the future

Throughout the World every day 120 animal- and plant species are lost forever. This is a very great loss for humanity. Nearly always people are at the cause of this loss. Therefore, it is our duty to stop it. The allotment gardeners have already started to work to achieve this aim a long time ago. Simply by the choice of the plants and the lay-out of the ground taken on lease, we make a precious contribution to the safeguarding of the diversity of nature and this even if our gardens are small.

Plants, which disappear from our gardens, our parks or public green spaces, are normally lost forever, because on a professional level i.e. in horticulture, in nurseries and in agriculture only a relatively small range of species are cultivated. Meanwhile there exist many initiatives by which the allotment gardeners want to show how to contribute to the protection of biodiversity. Among them there are for example: courses, visits of allotment gardens with an exchange of experiences or seed exchange markets.

In the regional federation Aue/Stollberg (National federation of Saxony) the ladies dealing with gardening advice have been carrying out since more than 2 years a project concerning a seed exchange market. The idea is simple and easy. Every interested person can bring a certain number of seeds packed in a small bag with a label. In exchange they get seeds of other species free of costs, which they possibly had been trying to find without success up to now or they might find something completely new, which up to now was unknown to them.

The exchange market is well organised and laid out clearly. On walls with plastic films you find the bags in small pockets marked with colours and sorted according to the different kinds. Highlight of this exchange market are seeds that are put at the disposal by botanic gardens, with which the initiator of this exchange market has regular contacts. With such ideas one can contribute a little bit to safeguarding our biodiversity.

Lothar Fritzsch

Vice-president of the allotment federation of Saxony

And there are more similar activities in other federations.

Series to be continued