

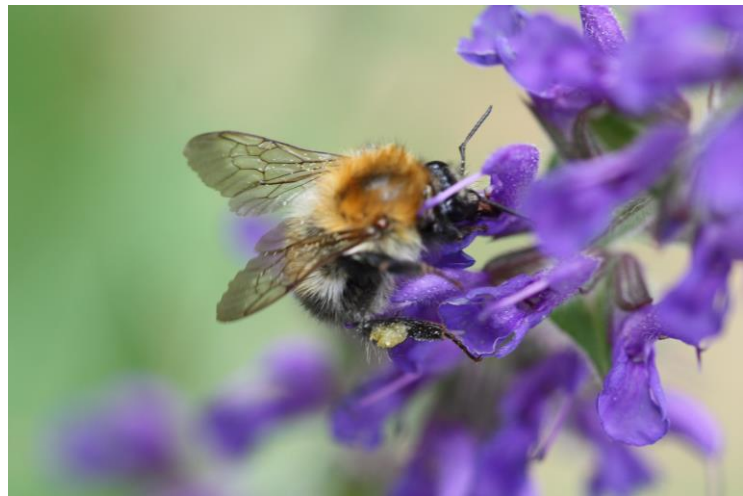
## **Why the world bee day is a good UN decision**

*For the first time the United Nations (UN) proclaimed May 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 world bee day. The bee day, which is organised this year for the second time is meant to remind people of how many plants around the world depend on pollination by bees and many other insects. This is not only important for good functioning eco-systems, but also much of the human diet worldwide depends on it. Allotment gardeners also benefit from bumble bees, bees, overflies and co. This is why they are doing something to prevent the disappearance of insects.*

The world bee day goes back to the longstanding initiative of Slovenian beekeepers. Last year 115 of the 139 member states of the United Nations voted in favour, including all European Union member states and major global weights, such as the USA, Canada, China, Russia, India, Brazil and Australia.

Every year on May 20<sup>th</sup>

numerous events and actions remind us now of how many plants worldwide depend on pollination by bees and other insects. This is not only important for good functioning eco-systems, but also much of the human diet depends on it. Many fruit products, especially fruit and seeds (both fruit and vegetables) only grow after a successful fertilisation – due to the pollination of the flowers by insects. Other plants, such as cereal grasses are pollinated by the wind. According to the world council of biological diversity, every year bees and other insects pollinate plants worldwide giving fruit worth up to approximately 500 billion Euros.



## **Bees in the garden**

Already in 2011 was the call of the German allotment garden federation „Bring the bees back to the gardens“. At that time, there was the first evidence that the bee populations in Germany were declining. Whether by putting up bee hives or through targeted aids for wild bees – it was necessary to support the endangered animals.

Since then a lot has happened: Beekeeping is actively supported in most allotment gardens both in Germany and all over Europe. Free plots are reserved for bee hives and beekeeper knowledge is passed on by the associations' expert gardening advisers. For the care of honey bees a little special knowledge is

needed. The settlement of bumble bees and solitary bees, however, is easy and possible in any garden.

### **Allotments as insect oases**

With special flowering gardens many associations today transform allotment sites into insect oases, supplemented by a very diverse offer of nesting aids. May is the best time to set up such insect hotels. Those who additionally provide a sufficient food supply with native flowering plants and fruit trees have already done a lot for the friends with six legs. Incidentally: honey and wild bees feel very comfortable in cities! Even on the balcony it is possible to support them with forage plants and a small bee hotel (available at the **hardware** store or garden centre).

More knowledge and tips on wild and honey bees can be found on the website of the BDG under:

[www.kleingarten-bund.de/de/service/publikationen/broschueren/](http://www.kleingarten-bund.de/de/service/publikationen/broschueren/)

[www.kleingarten-bund.de/de/service/publikationen/gruene-schrift/](http://www.kleingarten-bund.de/de/service/publikationen/gruene-schrift/)

respectively on the websites of the other federations

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