

Insect protection and allotment gardens belong together

Allotment gardens do not only provide important ecosystems services for people, but they are above all an extremely important habitat for flower-pollinating insects. The current draft concerning the law concerning “the protection of insect diversity in Germany” in short “insect protection law” – now offers the opportunity to protect both: insects and their important habitat i.e. allotment garden areas.



This is so because the draft bill stipulates amendments to the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG): Thus paragraph §I BNatSchG requires among others, “open spaces in populated areas and areas close to settlement, including their components, such as parks, large-scale green spaces and green corridors (.....)” to be preserved. At the same time, these open spaces are to be created “where they are not sufficiently available”.

Within the framework of the consultation of the federations, the BDG (German allotment federation) is lobbying the Ministry of the environment, which is in charge of the law, for an explicit mention of “allotment gardens in the sense of the federal allotment garden law” in connection with the new version of the §I BNatSchG and will also follow the parliamentary legislative procedure.

In pursuing this goal, the BDG knows that it has expert allies with great nature conservation expertise at its side. In its statement the BUND e.V. is also demanding for “allotment gardens in the sense of the Federal Allotment Garden Law” to be taken into account in the BNatSchG. There is nothing to be added to the technical assessment of the BUND’s statement. “Allotment gardens are valuable and appreciated biotopes for insect species (...). Allotment gardens are partly hotspots for rare insect species and should be given special attention in the protection and expansion of those areas”.

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The European allotment gardeners’ wish this process great success and offer their support. This legal consideration would be a further proof of the importance of allotment gardens in urban areas.