

The harvest is in

At least a large part of it, and from my own allotment garden! It is different whether I buy a kilo of tomatoes in the supermarket or walk through the garden and enjoy the ripening fruit. What else? *The seeds come from the delicious tomato I was given last year by the gardener next door, an old tomato variety from the region. The summer was dry and hot, and every few days I had to water the tomatoes thoroughly. I wonder if these water-intensive vegetable plants will be cultivated here in the long term as water becomes increasingly scarce. I wonder what the gardening advisor at the association has to say about this?*



A story that could be continued endlessly and is reflected in most of the plants in the garden. It is clear from this that the harvest we reap is far greater than a kilo of tomatoes and contains a wealth of experience and lifelong learning. Moreover, growing one's own horticultural produce brings a rich harvest not only on an individual level. The 44,000 hectares of allotment gardens organised through the BDG and more than 900,000 allotment gardeners and their families have an impact far beyond the personal level and also have a huge potential for society as a whole.

For example, with regard to the supply of healthy food, especially when one considers that in Germany only 1% of the professionally used agricultural area is used for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, which corresponds to a self-sufficiency rate of 35.7%. Eating fruit from an allotment garden close to home also protects the climate: instead of chemical additives, long transport routes and heated greenhouses, allotment gardens contain a large number of beneficial organisms, compost and recycled materials. Organic tomatoes produced in this way consume only 35 g CO₂ per kilogram instead of 9.2 kg CO₂ in heated greenhouses. Let's also consider that ecologically managed allotment gardens make the whole city more resilient to the crises of the time, as a rainwater reservoir, climate oasis and recreational. or living space! Already in 2018, a large majority of allotment garden organisations advocated a nature-oriented design of allotment garden sites. Municipalities see a further ecological upgrading of the sites as a central task. Many good examples throughout the country show that allotment gardens will continue to provide an abundant harvest, individually and for society as a whole. Every contribution counts.

Sources:

tinyurl.com/kleingaerten-im-wandel

tinyurl.com/hiddenchampions2

tinyurl.com/klimakillertomaten

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Images:

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