

Allotment gardens received the 2022 Open Gardens award

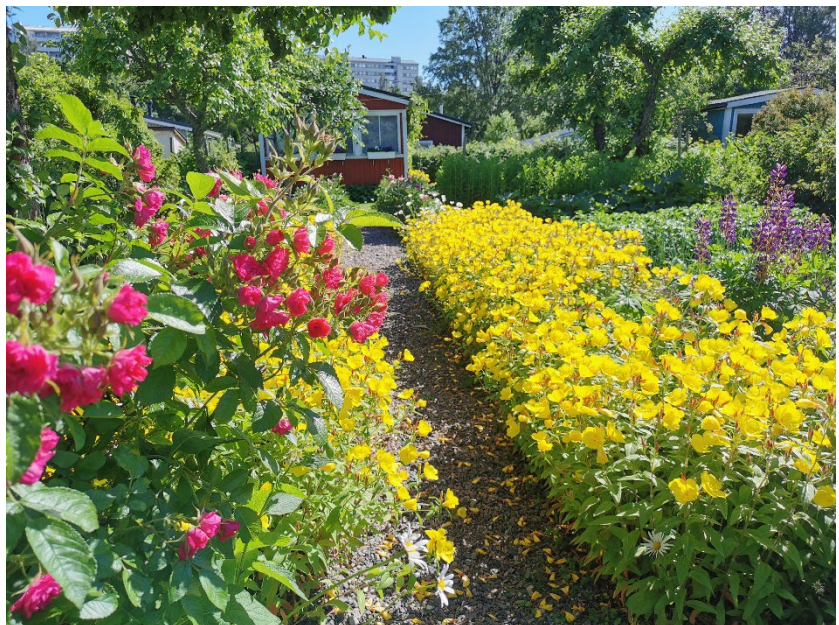
The selection committee of the Finnish Garden Association selected the allotment gardens that participated in the event as recipients of the 2022 Open Gardens award.

Open Gardens is a yearly national event, arranged since 2012. The last event was arranged Aug 7th 2022. On the first Sunday of August, more than 850 garden gates were opened in different parts of Finland. There were private yards, allotment gardens, public attractions and tourist attractions. Interesting sites and excellent summer weather attracted 95 000 enthusiastic visitors to visit the gardens.

The theme of the year, 'Gardens in climate change', was one of the criteria for awarding the honorable mention. 22 allotment gardens from all over Finland took part in the event, and in these you could get to know many different types gardens. These gardens, as part of urban environments, slow down climate change with the help of abundant vegetation and also help to reduce the harmful effects of weather phenomena.

Abundance and diversity

The abundance of vegetation in the allotment gardens supports nature's biodiversity and helps to adapt to the effects of climate change. Old and abundant vegetation connects throughout the growing season, binding the harmful carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Layered vegetation cools and binds plenty of water during rains, for example, preventing problems caused by heavy rains. Allotment gardens provide shelter, living space and food for honeybees, many other insects and birds in urban environments.



In addition, the council's reasoning emphasized the versatility and community spirit of allotment gardens. Several gardens had events during the day such as guided tours, seedling sales and event cafes. Allotment gardens naturally combine the self-cultivation of useful plants with the showiness and abundance of decorative plants. The allotment gardens are open to everyone and serve as refreshing oases also at times other than during the Open Gardens event.

The event is organized by the Finnish Garden Association. The partners of the event are Svenska Trädgårdsförbundet rf, the garden foundations of Maiju and Yrjö Rikala and Ljudmila and Nikolai Borisoff, as well as Kotipuutarha-lehti, Martat and Kekkilä. The event is carried out in cooperation with the European Rendez vous aux Jardins network.