

## Worrying about the future

### The National Garden Experiment in the Netherlands

In September 2016, AVVN launched a new project entitled the National Garden Experiment (Nationale Proeftuin). The project involves a non-commercial, generally accessible seed exchange, on the website [www.denationaleproeftuin.nl](http://www.denationaleproeftuin.nl), via which garden enthusiasts can offer and obtain plant seeds, free of charge. Via the National Garden Experiment, we aim to help promote biodiversity in gardens.

Biodiversity ensures a healthy natural system and allotment gardeners are the ideal partners to strengthen biodiversity by exchanging seeds. Promoting biodiversity is essential in the face of the decline in genetic plant variety. Due to large-scale agriculture and the food processing industry, more than 90% of calorie intake today is provided by just 30 crops. Variation between crop varieties is also declining. Nonetheless, it is essential that traditional diversity be maintained. We should give nature more space to develop, by preserving and extending our green heritage. Via the National Garden Experiment, we can inspire garden enthusiasts to experiment. It doesn't take much; even a flower tray is enough.

For this digital marketplace, we developed a new website which is fully open to the public; in addition to allotment gardeners, anyone with a front garden, back garden or balcony can join in.

There are a number of rules of play. Seeds must not be sold via the website; only exchanged or given away. Seeds must all originate from the participant's own crop or own garden. To prevent the undesirable spread of diseases, only healthy material must be offered.

Anyone offering seeds or plant material simply places their own advertisement on the website. We encourage them to also give tips on the plant's needs such as location and soil, and the plant's characteristics such as colour, height and flowering season. Information about the added natural value of the plant, for example whether it attracts butterflies or bees, is also useful.

Anyone visiting the site and interested in a particular seed simply sends an envelope containing a stamped and addressed reply envelope to the provider, stating the seeds they wish to receive. By bringing supply and demand together in this way, we hope to boost the vitality of nature in the Netherlands and make the world an even prettier place.

To be followed

## DE ZAADRUILBEURS

Biodiversiteit: gratis zaad en goede raad door je eigen zaden te ruilen met anderen!

Welkom op deze Ideeële zaadruilbeurs van Nederland. Hier kunt u gratis zaden aanbieden en aanvragen.

Zelfgekweekt, en daardoor biodivers zaad afkomstig van hobbytuiniers en plantenliefhebbers zoals uzelf. Soms zeldzaam, soms niet. Per bloembak en per vierkante meter kunt u Nederland biologisch weer rijker maken. Help de natuur zichzelf te helpen, en geniet ervan!

## De Nationale Proeftuin

Met de zaadruilbeurs van "De Nationale Proeftuin" wil het AVVN Nederlanders actief betrekken bij het onderwerp biodiversiteit. Op deze website kunnen particulieren hun eigen, zelfgekweekte 'gratis zaad' aanbieden, of aanvragen.

## Nieuwe advertenties



AVVN

AVVN WEBPORTAL

PIEPERSTEK

AVVN NATIONALE PROEFTUIN



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Zoek door de website.



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