



# FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE

des Jardins Familiaux

association sans but lucratif

1926-2021  
95 ans

Regroupement des fédérations européennes des jardins familiaux  
Membre d'Europa Nostra  
Statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe  
Statut d'observateur auprès de l'UNEA



**Call from the Fédération Internationale des Jardins Familiaux and its affiliated federations upon all allotment gardeners at the occasion of the World Bee Day on 20th May 2022**



World Bee Day was celebrated for the first time in 2018. It can be traced back to the Slovenian World Bee Day initiative, which was launched in 2014.

The date of 20<sup>th</sup> May was chosen because it was the birthday of Anton Janša, Slovenian master beekeeper under Maria Theresa. In the course of his work, Janša became a respected expert on bees and is considered a pioneer of beekeeping.

### **Why are bees so important for us?**

Without bees, we would have a massive food problem, as around 75% of our food crops rely on bees for pollination.

But not only our nutrition, also our health would be affected without bees, as the pollination of medicinally used plants would not be given either.

### **Why are bees so threatened?**

There are many reasons for bee mortality and it is probably the interplay of many factors that has caused the situation to deteriorate so drastically in recent years. One reason is the excessive agriculture in monocultures, which deprives the bees of food. Even the edges of fields are no longer provided with flowering plants. The use of pesticides in agriculture also kills not only the pests it controls, but also beneficial insects such as bees. Another problem is found in cities, where bees no longer find food, but only sealed surfaces and tidy concrete deserts instead of flowering meadows and diverse gardens. This also leads to wild bees no longer finding nesting sites.

### **What can we allotment gardeners do?**

Our allotment gardens are often located in the middle of densely built-up urban areas, the best prerequisite for actively supporting and promoting bees.

- ✓ Let us plant wild flowers and herbs to provide food for bees and other beneficial organisms!
- ✓ Let's (continue to) not use pesticides!
- ✓ Let's create nesting sites with dead wood, dry stone walls and open ground to provide suitable nesting sites for wild bees as well!

It doesn't take much to make your own contribution to supporting bees and other beneficial insects. And quite incidentally, with these relatively simple measures we also increase the biodiversity in our allotment gardens at the same time and thus contribute to keeping our cities liveable. Our allotment gardens remain places of biodiversity, retreats for animals and plants of all kinds and thus secure their high status in society.

The Fédération Internationale and its member federations call on all 2 million allotment garden families who are part of this federation to contribute together to the preservation and promotion of bees, beneficial insects of all kinds and in general to the preservation of biodiversity in allotment gardens and thus to maintain an environment worth living in for our children and our children's children.