



# 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



The Fédération Internationale des Jardins Familiaux and the affiliated federations call upon all allotment gardeners to take part in the Week without pesticides organised from 20th till 30th March 2022.



## **Week without pesticides 2022**

### **What is this good for?**

This is a question that some allotment gardeners may ask the executive committees and officials of allotment garden associations. It has been common practice for decades to use pesticides to kill off unwelcome pests and weeds.

So why stop now?

The answer is simple: **because it is high time!!**

Countless studies show that the insect population has drastically declined in recent years. One reason for this is the still widespread use of pesticides.

### **Why is the use of pesticides bad?**

In order to understand why it is better to avoid using pesticides, one must understand what they are in the first place. Generally speaking, pesticides are poison against animal pests, diseases, weeds and the like. The main problem here is the use of synthetic chemical agents, such as those often used in conventional agriculture, but also in some allotment gardens. Herbicides, insecticides and molluscicides are probably most frequently used in allotment gardens.

The problem is that these poisons do not only affect the organism to be controlled, but also the environment.

There are several studies that show that the application of pesticides in particular causes lasting damage to ecosystems, destroys important habitats and drastically decimates entire groups of insects. However, not only important pollinators such as bees, bumblebees, butterflies, etc. are harmed. By spreading the toxins far beyond the actual place of use, soil and water organisms also suffer from the negative effects of the toxins. This is because it is a myth that pesticides remain confined to the space where they are applied. Due to the further distribution of pesticides by means of drift, evaporation and leaching the active substances can still be detected even in the most remote areas of the earth.

So how high is the probability that the food we eat every day is also contaminated? The answer is probably clear....

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

Now voices may be raised that, among other things, conventional agriculture is "to blame" for the misery and that the allotment gardeners are of no consequence anyway. This may be true. However, we all have a responsibility for our planet and we have to work together to preserve it for future generations.

We allotment gardeners have an important role to play in the maintenance of urban green spaces and, therefore, have an obligation to do this in a way that is close to nature. Who, if not we, have the necessary knowledge in our ranks to turn our gardens into natural oases in which there is room for all forms of biodiversity and in which all species have their right to exist?

Finally, it should be noted that we allotment gardeners are a force not to be underestimated. After all, more than 2 million allotment garden families are united in the "Fédération Internationale". So let us work together to make our gardens a natural example for others.