

## World Environment Day 2023

World Environment Day is celebrated annually on 5 June and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment. It was established in 1972 by the United Nations at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, that had resulted from discussions on the integration of human interactions and the environment. One year later, in 1973 the first World Environment Day was held with the theme "Only One Earth".

World Environment Day 2023 is a reminder that people's actions on plastic pollution matters („Beat Plastic Pollution“).

Further information on this year's events and campaigns can be found at <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

### Solutions to Plastic Pollution #BeatPlasticPollution

Plastic avoidance can be achieved in almost all areas of life with simple solutions. We allotment gardeners can also make an important contribution.

If plastic remains in nature, it does not decompose there and persists - larger pieces of plastic become sources of danger for animals, microplastic finds its way into the material cycles of all ecosystems, where it is broken down even more and thus nanoplastics are created which can even penetrate the cells of living beings.

**Allotment gardeners in particular should observe and implement the following points:**

- plastic-free seed pots
- buy plastic-free plants (plant market, seed exchanges)
- buy high quality tools and use them for a long time
- use alternative materials (local wood, clay, stone, metal, bamboo, reed, jute, hemp, coconut fibre, wool, straw and compostable paper)
- keep organic waste plastic-free!
- reuse, exchange or return flower pots
- refresh potting soil with compost instead of buying new
- produce fertiliser from kitchen waste
- propagate seeds by yourself
- mulch instead of film against weeds

Let's do our bit for the environment and against plastic pollution!

*References:*

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day>

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global>

<https://www.umweltberatung.at/plastikfrei-gaertnern>