

DUTCH NOMINATION DIPLOMA FOR AN ECOLOGICAL GARDENING IN THE ASSOCIATIONS

The Netherlands, April 28th 2010



The Dutch National Society, AVVN, would like to nominate its association "Eigen Arbeid" from The Hague for the honorary diploma for an ecological gardening. The AVVN believes Eigen Arbeid meets the criteria set in the "Regulation on the criteria of a diploma for an ecological gardening".

The criteria:

4.1 Ten years ago the AVVN has developed together with several nature conservation organizations a national quality mark for associations, which meet strict criteria on ecological gardening. Associations that meet the criteria can get a quality mark with one, two, three or four stars (best). Eigen Arbeid meets these strict criteria of the AVVN and is the second association in The Netherlands, which achieved the maximum of four stars. Eigen Arbeid has signed a contract with the AVVN in which they declare they will comply with the strict rules of the AVVN. Eigen Arbeid achieved this within the short period of 30 months thanks to very hard work. A remarkable achievement!



The gardening at Eigen Arbeid is also in accordance with the Office brochure "An ecological approach to allotment cultivation".

- 4.2 The past few years Eigen Arbeid has organised several lectures, courses and has several experimental plots on subject related to ecological gardening. Some examples are:
- courses/workshops on: making compost, dry stone walling, making fences of branches and twigs, making a pond for toads,
 - several discussion meetings for garden members about ecological gardening and related subjects,
 - course "ecological garden products" in their own garden shop,
 - several lectures on ecological gardening,
 - experimental plots: special pond for toads; fences of branches and twigs; special hives for solitary bees, a large insect hotel, a butterfly garden, an ecological bank, a potager, a rock and peat garden, hedgehog stairs,
 - creating trees for woodpeckers,
 - nature education route,
 - use of biological paint
 - use of green electric power
 - a photo exposition on ecological gardening and nature
 - an orchard with old standard fruit trees
 - cottage gardens
 - herb garden
 - wetland
 - special education for children
 - digital newsletter for the garden members
 - and many more, these are only a few examples of the things Eigen Arbeid developed.

4.3 The percentage of gardeners that effectively apply the criteria fixed under 4.1 is approximately 95%. This percentage was reached within 30 months!

We hereby send you a few photos of Eigen Arbeid.

We hope Eigen Arbeid will be rewarded with the honorary diploma of the Office.

AVVN

C. Zijdeveld,
chairman



