

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 "Bond van Volkstuinders – Ons Buiten (BVV–Ons Buiten)" from Amsterdam for the honorary diploma for an ecological gardening. The AVVN believes BVV – Ons Buiten meets the criteria set in the "Regulation on the criteria of a diploma for an ecological gardening".

The branch Ons Buiten of the association Bond van Volkstuinders Amsterdam was founded in 1922 and has its present leisure garden site (20 hectares and 448 gardens) since 1927.

Since the nineties the BVV-Ons Buiten started with a more ecological management of their garden site. In 2000 the branch was rewarded with the Dutch quality mark for ecological management of their site with 3 stars. The next years the branch worked hard on further improvement of the ecological management and in 2009 they were awarded with the maximum of 4 stars.

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). BVV–Ons Buiten meets these strict criteria of the AVVN and is one of the few leisure garden sites in The Netherlands, which achieved the maximum of four stars. BVV–Ons Buiten has signed a contract with the AVVN in which they declare the will comply with the strict rules of the AVVN.



The gardening at BVV-Ons Buiten is also in accordance with the Office brochure "An ecological approach to allotment cultivation".

4.2 Special projects on ecological gardening, developed by BVV-Ons Buiten are:

- o special marshy bank, dry stone walling, garden for butterflies, vegetation roofs, special pool for several animals, fences of branches and twigs, solitary islands especially for plants and animals
- o nature education route
- o botanical garden
- o information signs (explanation ecological projects)
- o special flower boxes for disabled people
- o bee hives
- o many trees have name signs
- o in a showcase flowering plants are shown
- o many benches on the garden site are made of recycled materials
- o special ecological management of the site for example phased mowing
- o nesting facilities for insects and birds
- o stimulation of member gardeners to plant indigenous plants
- o stimulation of member gardeners to compost the garden waste

Since 2003 the site is part of the Provincial Ecological Main Structure because of its special nature value.

Each month the garden members are informed on ecological subjects through the magazine Ons Buiten Kontakt.

4.3 The percentage of gardeners that effectively apply the criteria fixed under 4.1 is approximately 85%.

We hereby send you a few photos of BVV-Ons Buiten.

We hope BVV-Ons Buiten will be rewarded with the honorary diploma of the Office.

AVVN

C. Zijdeveld,
chairman



