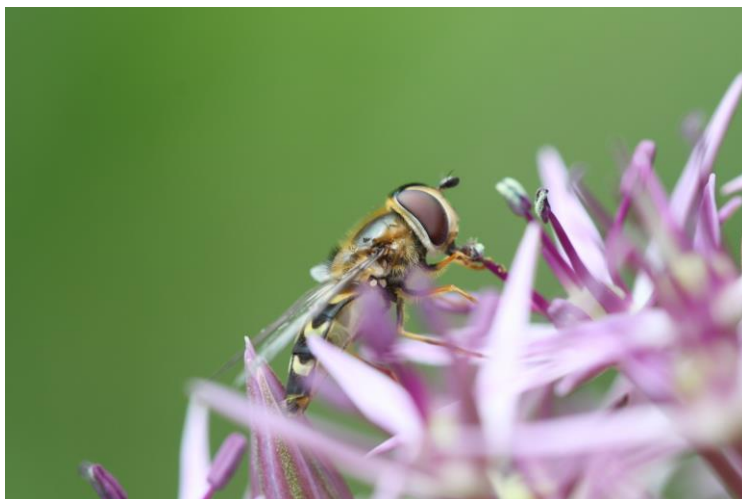


Activity programme for the protection of insects

Nearly three quarters of all animal species in Germany are insects among which you find bees, beetles, butterflies, dragonflies, grasshoppers, ants and flies. Numerous studies have proved that both the total number of insects and the diversity of insect species in Germany have decreased a lot.

In order to stop this decline and to safeguard the diversity of species in the long term, the Federal Government adopted an activity programme for the protection of insects on September 4th, 2019. This programme comprises nine areas of activities, among which are the protection of insects, their habitats and biodiversity. Parts of this programme should be fixed in laws during this legislative period.

Insects contribute very much to biodiversity. In addition to this, many insect species also generate vital ecosystem services, as for example: the pollination of plants, a basis for the nutrition of other insects and animal species, the decomposition of organic mass, the biological control of pests or the maintenance of the soil fertility. The decline of these insects and their ecosystem services has, therefore, direct consequences not only on the environment, but also for us humans.



So, for example, the pollination by insects is essential not only for the maintenance of wild plants, but also for the safeguarding of crop yields and the crop quality of many useful plants. Especially, allotment gardeners know how essential insects are for a successful crop. On a larger scale also agriculture and

horticulture would face enormous economic risks by the decline of the pollination services.

The “Kasseler Runde” (an association of actors from the leisure horticulture sector, among which as well the German allotment federation), aims at accompanying this political process and dialogue for the protection of insects. In fact, private and allotment gardens do not only have a high cultural value: with their structural diversity and their biodiversity they are, especially in urban area essential for the ecosystems and the presence of insects. The federation, as representative of the private and allotment gardeners, can support the activity programme for insect protection with its longstanding gardening expertise.

Thomas Wagner, BDG

This problem is the same throughout Europe. Remember to do your personal contribution to the protection of insects by a nature friendly gardening.