

Not only for German allotment gardeners!

BDG publishes position paper on the ecological upgrading of allotment gardens

The task of a precautionary and sustainability-oriented environmental policy is to maintain the functional capacity and efficiency of the resources soil, water and air to the full extent and to increase them if possible. This task concerns everyone and cannot be postponed with reference to global requirements and efforts. The “AG Fachberatung” has therefore drawn up a position paper that provides allotment gardeners with easy-to-implement measures that can be implemented in their own environment.

The paper contains, among other things, advice on cultivation in the allotment garden. Natural care and fertilisation of the soil for the sustainable preservation of the natural soil layers and targeted fertilisation without chemicals play an important role. Measures such as the application of green manure plants and natural mulch



serve to promote soil life, which in turn provides valuable humus and supplies the soil with nutrients in a natural way. Composting also supports the natural cycle economy in the allotment garden, provides the soil with important plant nutrients, revitalises the soil and improves the water supply. Another key to success in vegetable cultivation, apart from an adapted crop rotation, is the selection of robust and hardy varieties as well as an ideal crop rotation concept. Since it is much easier to live with pests and diseases in an allotment garden than in commercial cultivation, plant protection products should be avoided altogether.

But not only horticultural aspects are the topic. There is also an appeal to the moral obligation of one's own actions. Peat-free gardening, for example, is an important contribution to the protection of peatlands and the climate. Therefore, gardeners should only use peat-free growing cultivation substrates.

The German allotment federation's (BDG) “AG Fachberatung” is an association of people who are committed to providing expert advice on allotment garden sites within their national federation and who support the federal federation in terms of expert advice. The position paper "Measures for the ecological upgrading of allotment gardens" aims above all at a permanent and area-wide implementation of the measures, the realisation of which will enable each of the approximately 5 million allotment garden users nationwide to make a decisive

contribution to the protection of natural habitats and the environmentally sound management of allotment gardens.

The complete position paper is available at <https://kleingartenbund.de/de/bundesverband/positionspapiere/>.

Sandra von Rekowski, BDG

Photo: T. Wagner