

**Allotments: Extremely valuable – grossly underestimated – shockingly unknown**

The image of allotments is perhaps not always positive. A first impression may be misleading. A simplified image underestimates too often the value of the allotment movement.

In reality the allotments are in many ways valuable for society, nature, environment and for the personal development.

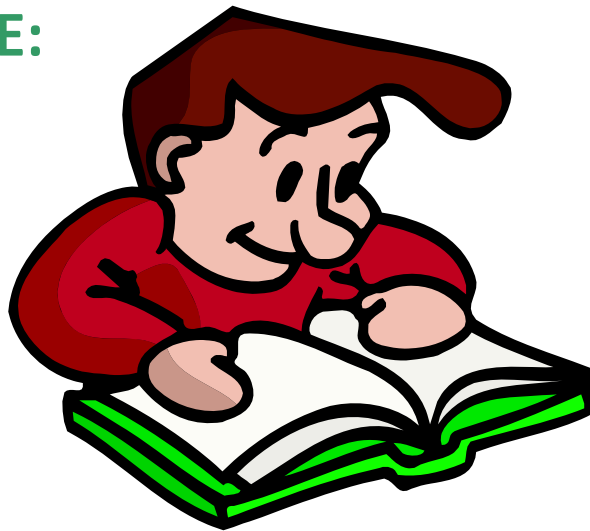
As appendix you find an insight in the subject: „The Knowledge of the allotment gardeners”, worked out by Chris ZIJDEVELD, President of the AVVN (the Dutch allotment garden federation) and former president of the International Office.

More subjects will follow.



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## KNOWLEDGE:



There is an amazing amount of knowledge with allotment gardeners. One of the surprising outcomes of a study in the UK- focussing on professional farmers and to allotment gardeners- was that the total knowledge about food production from plants of allotment gardeners by far exceeded that of professional farmers. Afterwards this is easy to explain because most professional farmers are specialised in only one to three crops and allotment gardeners do “everything”. But there is much more:



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In an allotment in Leipzig (Germany) named after Karl Förster - the gardeners have made and maintain together a long walking road through the allotment where all over the year at least some plants have flowers.



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It is easy to understand how much knowledge they need to have and how determined they must be to keep it alive.



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Many associations and federations of allotment gardens put an enormous effort in nature education – here an information picture about butterflies.



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This is an example of a presentation room for nature education in Reichenbach, where the German organisation for young gardeners participates in.





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On many allotments attention is given to sharing knowledge about garden and nature with youngsters. This one is in the Kleingartenverein Eilenburger Strasse in Torgau. In Germany there are “Green Classrooms” on many allotments.



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In this Green Classroom the main focus is on learning about herbs and how to use them.





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An example of bird information in an observation room in the Netherlands. Here on the allotment site Stadspark in Groningen.