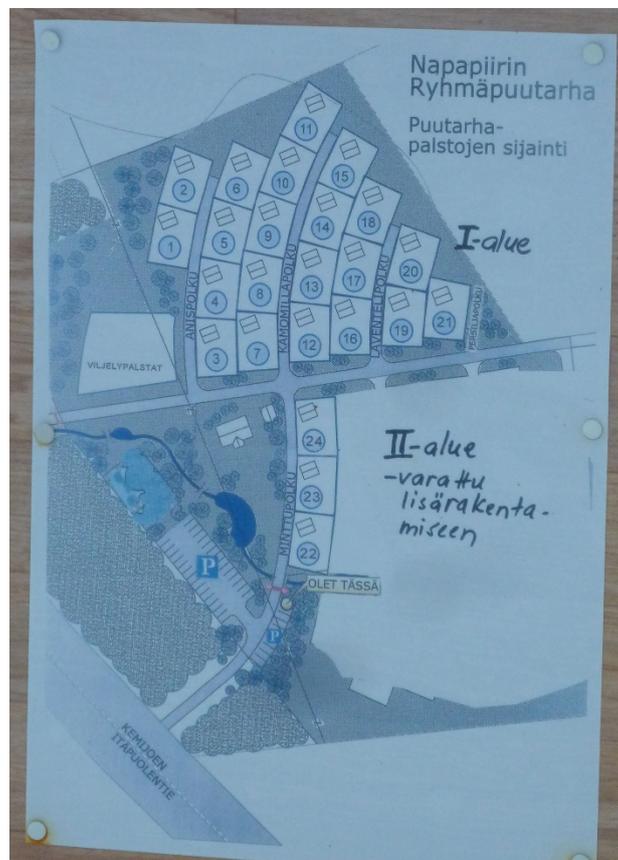


Visit of Napapiirin Ryhmäpuutarha (arctic circle allotments Finlande)

During my stay in Rovaniemi I could, thanks to the Finnish allotment federation, visit the most northern allotments of the world. Edmond and myself were warmly welcomed by Marjukka METSOLA, member of the executive board of the Finnish federation. She is a passionate gardener and photographer. She helped the architect with the layout of the site, when it was created in 2002.



The allotment site, 6 kilometers from the city center, is idyllically situated at the border of a small forest. There are 24 plots (+/- 300 sqm) with very smart cottages. An extension of the site is possible in the future.



The cottages, between 25 and 35 sqm, in the center of the site are painted in yellow to symbolise the sun, the cottages near the forest in red/brown, the cottages near the entrance in blue. According to a Finnish tradition the cottages have/can have a sauna. The gardeners stay in their cottages during the summer.





There are no wooden fences separating the plots, but you could guess under the snow the fruit bushes making the separation. Many, many nestboxes could be seen.





There is a common shed for the tools with an information board. Next to it you also find a large place to sit together and have barbecues when the days will be longer and warmer. We found, however, only lots of snow but the cold was acceptable.





Around a cup of coffee and local specialities Edmond and myself could learn much about the Finnish allotment gardening near the Arctic circle.





I addressed the best wishes on behalf of their colleagues all around Europe and Japan to the Rovaniemi allotment gardeners.



For many information on this allotment gardening you can read the article in Hyphen no. 59.

Malou WEIRICH
Secretary general