



OFFICE INTERNATIONAL

du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux

association sans but lucratif

1926-2016
90 ans

Regroupement des fédérations européennes des jardins familiaux
Membre d'Europa Nostra
Statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

20 rue de Bragance, L-1255 Luxembourg



The Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux and the affiliated federations call upon all allotment gardeners to take part in the Week without pesticides organised from 20th till 30th March 2019.



Association Agricole
Ligue Luxembourgeoise du
Coin de Terre et du Foyer



Week without pesticides 2019

The consequences of chemical control in agriculture and in our gardens are well-known to us; this via countless campaigns, news articles, etc. The period of effectiveness of the chemical products is limited and thus they have to be reused yearly and sometimes several times a year. These products offer no durable solution for future agricultural or gardening models.

The yearly treatments and curative actions to kill all plagues and diseases result in possible resistance. This can be compared to the resistance of bacteria in medicine, which have nearly become indestructible due to a random use of antibiotics.

The Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux and its members wish to promote alternatives during the week without pesticides 2019. This week is symbolic and is an ideal moment to start changing our habits. The alternatives might not always give the wished for results in the first year, but in the long run they will. Also less perfect looking fruit and vegetables are healthy, because they have been produced in a sustainable way.

Nature rules!

Gardeners have to think with/like nature. One of the ground rules is ‘survival of the fittest’.

Choose resistant plants which have a natural resistance against diseases, e.g. Sarpo Mira potato that is resistant against the potato pest.

Often the wild or older races are interesting as throughout the years they have built up their resistance by natural selection. They are often smaller and less pretty, but keep longer and have a better taste compared to the F1-hybrids from the store. Moreover, from these old and wild races you can harvest the seeds for next year, something which is impossible with the F1-hybrids.

Appeal to the allotment gardeners and gardeners

Positive shift

Gather friends and use them! Do so literally by organizing a ‘crowd weeding’ where you remove the weeds in a group. Another option is to use insects to control the population of other insects and plagues. Organise your garden to welcome them, offer shelter, food abundance, etc.

We all know the ladybird, but have you heard of these useful garden friends:

- linopodes mite (vs. spider mite and thrips)

- nematodes (vs. snails and caterpillar)
- ichneumon-fly (vs. aphids)
- lacewing (vs. whitefly) ?

If you don't know them yet, be sure to check them out!

Get your hands dirty.

If you don't like this passive approach and you are a hands-on kind of person, there are mechanical techniques that can be used:

- burning
- steam
- nets
- scratch-brushing
- manual weeding
- manually picking bugs (snails)
- traps (e.g. Pheromone traps for moths or beer traps for snails)

Plan!

Our last advice, but as a gardener we advise you to start with this one, have a good garden plan!

Crop rotation in the vegetable garden is a start. Take soil samples every three years and fertilise as advised. These steps will give you a solid base and healthy plants, and healthy plants are less likely to get ill.

Appeal to the federations

The Dutch, Flemish and Swedish federations have already initiated special projects and created a quality mark for gardening without pesticides

Please check if similar activities can also be launched by your federation.

Help your associations and their members to change to another way of gardening and maintaining their garden sites.