

Resolution of the Swiss allotment garden federation

(translation)

Allotment gardens unite people

People from different age groups and from many different nations meet in the allotment gardens. Young children discover the growing and ripening of flowers and vegetables. Elderly people enjoy this second home as a quiet place of relaxation surrounded by nature and open air. Friendship does not only exist between young and old, but allotment gardeners from different nations and cultures also meet in the allotment gardens and have a chat.

This diversity and solidarity is appreciated and encouraged by many hardened allotment gardeners. Might be that in earlier days allotment gardening was sometimes marked by jealousy and competition. It must however be underlined that this behaviour has nearly totally disappeared from the gardens today. On the contrary all the gardeners are happy when nature is growing and blooming everywhere, when there is a possibility to chat and when the garden has nearly become a second home. Gardening keeps you in good shape and strengthens your mobility. Fresh air strengthens body, spirit and soul.

For all these and many more reasons, the Swiss allotment garden federation with its 24.000 affiliated members, who mostly garden in a nature friendly way and make a significant contribution to the protection of biodiversity, requests all communal and cantonal planning authorities as well as and the political authorities on all levels:

- to immediately stop additional losses of allotment garden sites and plots and to prevent new losses for the future with a sincere conviction
- to effectively support the allotment garden movement and its beneficial work for the whole society
- to actively encourage the creation of allotment garden sites with their positive effects for the population, the residential areas, nature and sustainable development
- to create attractive general conditions for voluntary work of high quality
- to recognise the efforts and the proven merits of the allotment garden associations all over Switzerland as far as the integration of citizens from many nations is concerned
- to recognise that regular work in the fresh air and the consumption of fresh vegetables, fruit and berries stimulate good health.

This resolution was approved during the general assembly of the Swiss allotment garden federation on 21st May 2011.

Wädenswil, 21st May 2011

