Have you made your personal contribution?

2020 is the year of plant health

Without plants there is no life. They do not only produce vital oxygen, but they also provide the basis for nutrition, supply important raw materials and contribute to biological diversity. Therefore, it is all the more important to protect the plant world and to take preventive measures to insure its health. The United Nations general assembly has declared 2020 to be the International Year of Plant health in order to sensitise society to the enormous value of plants and raise awareness of their importance. The campaign focuses in particular on avoiding the spread of pests and diseases that endanger plants in a globalised world with its international flow of goods.

Leisure gardeners also want healthy plants and yields. Allotment gardeners have known and practiced this for decades: There are no marketing regulations for the cultivation of food and vegetables for personal use. A certain degree of manual work is gladly accepted, maximum yields are not requested and defects in the plants' and fruit's external quality are more easily accepted.

The integrated crop protection offers a modern concept for this. It combines biological, biotechnical, plant breeding or cultivation techniques in such a way that the use of chemical synthetic pesticides is no longer necessary. This is also how it is formulated by the "sectors-specific" guidelines for integrated plant protection in the home and allotment garden sector, which was elaborated by the "Kasseler Runde", an association of various players from the home and allotment garden sector, which also include the federation of German allotment gardeners (BDG). The guideline promotes conscious and responsible plant protection in private gardens and provides the framework for sustainable gardening. The guideline can be viewed on the BDG website: http://bit.ly/leitlinie-bdg.

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N. B.: The Swiss allotment federation is official partner of the International Year of plant health.