

## May 22<sup>nd</sup> – International Day of Biological Diversity

May 22<sup>nd</sup> is celebrated worldwide as the International Day of Biological Diversity. This commemorative day was established by the United Nations in 1993 and marks the signing of the



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

Convention on Biological Diversity. The aim of this day is to raise awareness of the value and importance of biodiversity. This is because the loss of biological diversity threatens not only individual species, but entire ecosystems and thus our very basis of life. The day of action is intended to encourage people to engage with the issue and support concrete measures to protect biodiversity. It aims not only to draw attention to the problems, but also to highlight perspectives and solutions. Biodiversity is more than just an ecological term – it is an expression of our responsibility towards life on Earth.



Biodiversity also plays a central role in cities, although it is often underestimated there. Urban areas offer a surprising number of habitats for plants and animals – from green roofs to small parks and, of course, in our allotments. A diverse urban environment helps improve air quality, regulates the climate, and provides space for people to relax. Biodiversity ensures a healthier and more liveable environment, especially in densely populated areas. Insects, birds, and microorganisms are not only beautiful to observe, but also fulfill important functions in the ecological balance. Cities that focus on

nature-oriented design create refuges for animals and promote better coexistence between humans and nature. Biodiversity in cities is not a luxury, but a necessity for sustainable urban development.

Allotment gardeners can do a lot for biodiversity in their own gardens. Even small changes, such as planting wildflower meadows or setting up an insect hotel, can have a big impact. Consciously avoiding chemical pesticides and peat-based soil also helps to protect species. Planting native trees, shrubs, and flowering plants creates valuable food sources and habitats for many animal species. Composting and leaving leaf piles on the ground over winter also helps small animals and insects. Structural diversity—a mixture of tall and short plants, open spaces, and shady corners—makes gardens particularly attractive to different species. With a little patience, attention, and love for nature, every small garden can become a little oasis of biodiversity.

It is essential to communicate the importance of biological diversity if we want to achieve long-term success. Biodiversity must not only be taught, but also consciously exemplified – in schools, associations, families, and neighbourhoods. Opportunities to get involved are needed: festivals, workshops, community gardens, or walks with nature guides can inspire people to take an interest in the topic. Such events create a sense of community and lower the threshold for getting involved. At the same time, it is important to make successes visible – for example, through information boards or reports on species that have been reintroduced. However, the consequences of a lack of diversity must also be discussed honestly in order to raise awareness of the problem. Only if biodiversity is understood as a common good can we preserve it together.



We allotment gardeners play an extremely important role here and have a responsibility that we must fulfill.