

Protected plots for wild herbs

Goal

Support of wild herbs

Short description of the measure

A protected plot for wild herbs is a plot that shows an outstanding species inventory of wild herbs which needs to be protected on long term in order to conserve the plant association by contractual agreement or legal framework. The plots should be protected as long as possible; at least 10 years or even better around 25 years.

A combination of measures is needed to sustain a species rich area or to support rare species of wild herbs, which includes (among others):

- No harrow on at least 50 % of the field
- Minor crop density or drill gaps on at least 20 % of the field
- At least 2 years of winter cereal in 5 years without catch crop
- Maximum 2 years without conventional tillage



Pic. 1: Protected field in Bavaria, Germany. Rare wild herbs can be seen within a light cereal field.

Quality elements of soundly implemented biodiversity measures

- Presence of threatened wild herbs
- Conservation and increase of species within present plant association: presence of wild herbs

Effects on biodiversity



Large scale support of rare, endangered **wild herbs**

(ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)



Insects and field birds are benefiting from an increased herb flora likewise

Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface of protected wild herb plots (ha)
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.schutzaecker.de/?start.en www.lal-bw.de/pb/,Lde/Startseite/Unsere+Themen/Ackerwildkraetaecker www.bluehende-landschaft.de/fix/doc/NBL-40-Ackerwildkr%E4uter-1113.pdf BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e.V. – Ackerwildkräuter fördern – Infos und Tipps für die landwirtschaftliche Praxis BfN-Skript 351 – Ackerwildkrautschutz – Eine Bibliographie

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for product and quality managers of companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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