

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.

There is a combination of measures which 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

Timeframe

(When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)

- To establish a species-rich flora of wild herbs on big scale, plots are protected and financed for 10–25 years.

How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?

- In order to protect the field, the threatened wild herbs must have been monitored.
- Those wild herbs should still be present
- Or increased within present plant association during the following years



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

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| <p>Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To easier identify the threatened wild herbs, please have also an look to the list of species which can be downloaded at the knowledge pool <p>A protected field of wild herbs is usually initiated by local NGO's or the nature conservation agency, who have noticed at field visits the outstanding species inventory of a certain plot. They contact the farmer and draft a legal framework where the farmer is required to manage the plot under certain restrictions, such as mentioned above. For the yield losses which result from that extensive management the farmer gets a compensation. Usually, the plot is dedicated to that measure for about 10-25 years.</p> |
| <p>Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)</p> | <div data-bbox="406 739 494 884"> </div> <p>Large scale support of rare, endangered wild herbs.</p> <div data-bbox="359 929 526 1064"> </div> <p>Insects and field birds are benefiting from an increased herb flora likewise.</p> |
| <p>Indicator/key data</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface of protected wild herb plots (ha) |
| <p>References</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.schutzaecker.de/?start.en www.lal-bw.de/pb/,Lde/Startseite/Unsere+Themen/Ackerwildkrautaecker 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 auditors of standard organisations and 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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