



European Orchard Day 2023

Heroes wanted for European Orchard Day

Whether at blossom in spring or harvest in autumn – traditional orchards are very special places every day of the year. And yet these ecologically and culturally valuable orchards have had their existence threatened for decades. European Orchard Day, around 28th April, sees Europe celebrate this treasure of nature, the tasty delicacies, and the people behind them. All orchard heroes are called upon to show why their work is important, which special products can be enjoyed on a permanent basis and why a commitment to the orchards is worthwhile.

Take part, celebrate, protect

Just as Valentine's Day honours love, the European Orchard Day honours orchards. All over Europe, people are passionately committed to their care and continued existence as a source of food with a close, healthy connection to the earth and the environment, for the preservation of the threatened ecosystems they maintain, the landscape of meadows and trees, preservation of heritage varieties and traditions, and to continue the harvest. All this can be experienced by young and old on European Orchard Day. No matter whether as association, initiative, company or private individual, everyone can do something on for European Orchard Day: invite people to take part and enjoy the biodiverse, bountiful and beautiful orchards; product tastings; informative walks and talks; picnics and celebrations; advice and guidance. List your actions and find participating orchards on the web page <https://orchardseverywhere.com/en/>. All Ambassadors for European Orchard Day are encouraged to promote it on Instagram, newspaper articles, local posters, or word of mouth in your communities. Suggested text and images are available free of charge for this purpose.

Why a day of celebration?

The motto on Orchard Day is in line with the [United Nation Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\)](#): Conserve Together - Orchards and Nature Recovery. With this motto and the hashtag #GenerationRestoration, we call for a stop to the progressive deterioration and loss of this ecosystem. In addition to biodiversity, the European Orchard Day also focuses on the orchard culture and the connectedness of Europe. But the most important thing is, of course, the orchard heroes who do great things - whether in the orchard with the fruit press or in the kitchen.

The European Orchard Day is organised by the association [Hochstamm Deutschland e.V.](#) from Germany. Active support is provided by the [UK Orchard Network](#) from the United Kingdom, the [ARGE Streuobst](#) from Austria and [BirdLife Europe](#) from Brussels.

398 words



Background information Organisers

UK Orchard Network

The UK Orchard Network is a partnership of organisations across the British Isles working together to actively promote the conservation of orchard trees and their varieties and in their many forms; as individual trees, traditional, orchard meadows and orchards and to conserve the biodiversity of the orchard habitat. The Network aims to reverse the decline in orchard and wildlife biodiversity in the British Isles; promote a wider understanding of the value of orchards and traditional varieties for the benefit of wildlife, people and heritage; build strong relationships between interested organisations; promote best practice in management; advise and assist in the conservation, maintenance and planting of orchards; and act as a focal point for policy development and government agencies. www.orchardnetwork.org.uk

Hochstamm Deutschland e.V.

Hochstamm Deutschland e.V. is a non-profit, nationwide association that campaigns for the preservation of meadow orchards. Hochstamm Deutschland is backed by Orchard initiatives, local authorities, associations and private individuals. The aim of the association is to support orchard enthusiasts in preserving the remaining orchards and to provide ideas for their further development - through networking, exchange and participation. Hochstamm Deutschland, together with more than 1.3 million supporters, managed to get orchard cultivation listed in the Federal Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Germany. This has brought orchard cultivation increasingly into the public spotlight. Following this success, the European Orchard Day was established by various initiators. It takes place annually on the last Friday in April. www.hochstamm-deutschland.de

ARGE Streuobst Österreich e.V.

Since the year 2000, ARGE Streuobst has been concerned with the conservation and renewal of Orchard stands throughout Austria. A number of renowned scientists and proponents from various institutions as well as private interested parties work intensively to achieve the association's goals. ARGE Streuobst is structured as a non-profit association, works on a voluntary basis and is financed by membership fees, donations and project funding. By organising events, participating in research projects, issuing publications, setting up working groups and preparing position papers on Orchard cultivation and the conservation of fruit genetic resources, ARGE Streuobst achieves success and offers the prospect of promoting Orchard cultivation and the conservation of fruit genetic resources. www.argestreuobst.at

BirdLife Europe

BirdLife Europe and Central Asia is one of the six regional offices of BirdLife International. BirdLife International is a global Partnership of autonomous, national non-governmental conservation organisations, with a large grassroots membership in 120 countries and territories. BirdLife International's mission is to conserve wild birds, their habitats and global biodiversity. BirdLife Europe has an international team of permanent staff responsible for conservation, science, policy, advocacy, capacity building, fundraising, communications, finance and administration. The staff is supporting the 48 European and Central Asian BirdLife Partners. Through its unique local to global approach and partnership of national conservation organizations, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia delivers long-term conservation solutions for the benefit of nature and people. With its more than 875,000 members and supporters, in Germany NABU is one of the oldest and biggest national partner organisations of BirdLife. www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/



ORCHARD
NETWORK

Intangible Cultural Heritage

Intangible cultural heritages are cultural expressions that are directly supported by human knowledge and are passed on and developed from generation to generation. Intangible cultural heritage is not tangible but is bound to people and kept alive by the commitment of its bearers.

Orchard landscapes in the form of fields, meadows or avenues with tall, large-crowned fruit trees have emerged from agricultural and cultural development and are thus directly linked to human knowledge. The planting, cultivation and care of orchards, the cultivation of fruit varieties and the harvesting and processing of fruit are based on extensive empirical knowledge in dealing with nature. In addition to cultural expressions such as harvest festivals and rituals, special handicraft techniques, e.g. for the care of orchard trees, have been developed and refined over centuries. The cultural characteristics of orchards are consistent with the UNESCO criteria in the following respects: Knowledge and customs related to nature and the universe, traditional craft techniques, customs, rituals and festivals.

The idea of adding scattered orchards to the list of intangible cultural heritage originated in Baden-Württemberg in 2015. In 2021, the application, which was joined by over 1.3 million supporters, was approved and scattered fruit cultivation was included in the nationwide register of intangible cultural heritage by the German UNESCO-Commission.

The association is supported in its nationwide cultural heritage campaign with funding from the Federal Programme for Rural Development (BULE).

PHOTOS for free use (hochstamm-deutschland.de/streuobst-aktuell/presse)



"Logo European Orchard Day"

The Day of the Orchard takes place annually on the last Friday in April. It is a Europe-wide day of participation and action around the intangible cultural heritage "orchard cultivation".



„Bees and beekeeper“

Large fruit trees of many species and varieties, for example apple, walnut or olive trees, take root in the orchard meadows. A high number of partly endangered animal and plant species are at home there.

Source: Andrea Letsch



„Blossom“

In many places in Europe, orchards characterize entire natural and cultural landscapes, but the population of fruit trees is dwindling.

Source: Manfred Wolf



„Birds“

In keeping with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), the focus of Orchard Day is on biodiversity.

Source: Rudolf Schneider

Contact Hochstamm Deutschland e.V.

Office c/o neuland+ GmbH & Co KG
Hornungshof 3-4, 74575 Schrozberg

Hannes Bürckmann & Sophia Philipp

Tel.: 07936 / 99 05 20

Mobile: 0172 / 712 65 97

kontakt@hochstamm-deutschland.de

www.hochstamm-deutschland.de

Association headquarters:

Niedenbach 13, 72229 Rohrdorf

Chairperson: Martina Hörmann

Register of Associations: VR 723 737

Register court: Stuttgart