



1. Lower Austria

Lower Austria is the biggest region of Austria around Vienna. The total area total is 19.186 km² and the total of inhabitants is 1.611.981. St. Pölten is the regional capital.



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Situation Parks and Gardens

- 2.000 years of garden-history in Lower Austria
- About 140 show gardens within the campaign of „Natur im Garten“
- 35 thereof are members of “Garden Platform” (both touristic attractions with gardens and some private gardens)
- show gardens are based on ecological gardening
- very different garden types (historic monastery and palace gardens, modern show gardens, private gardens, public parks, kitchen gardens...)



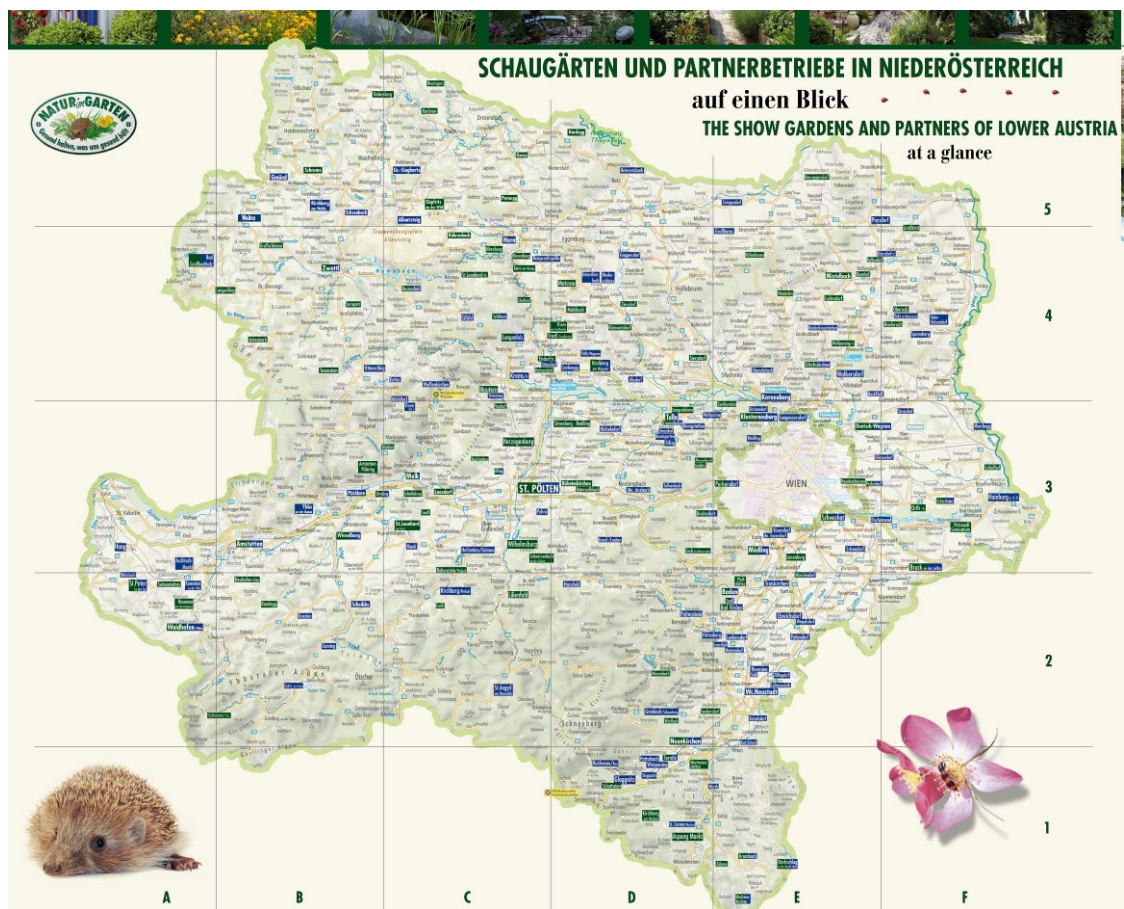
Garden tourism

- about 3 million visitors
- 61% female / 39% male visitors
- about 78% visitors at the age of 40+
- marketing cooperation with tourist board of Lower Austria
- Lower Austrian Tourism Award 2010 for product and service innovation

- new since 2011: main campaign „garden-summer“ in cooperation with hotels and local restaurants
- policymakers support – gardens are perceived as an important part of the regional tourism.

2. Activities for environment and landscape development with Nature in the Garden Initiative

This map shows all partner – companies and show - gardens at a glance. As you can see actually it is a narrow net of all over lower Austria.



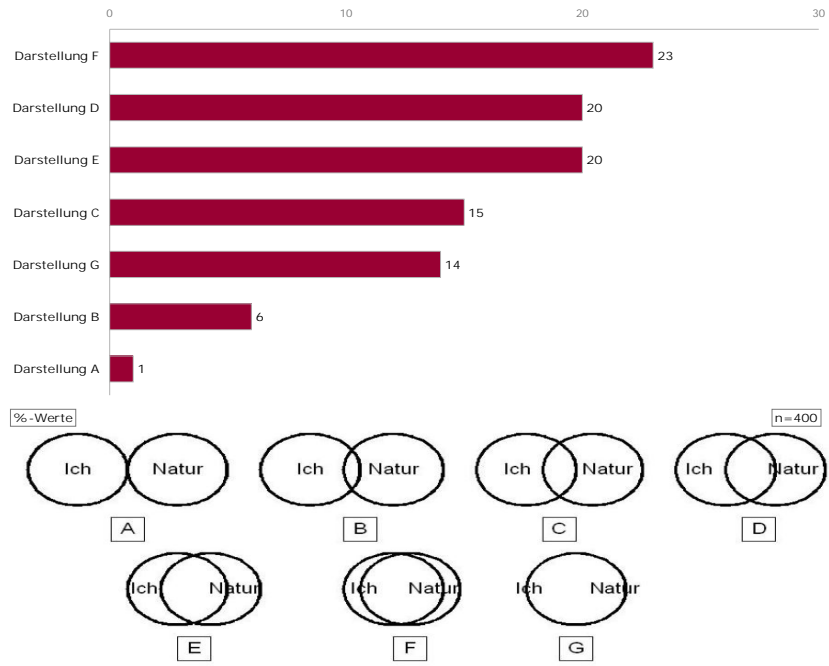
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To get an overview of the behaviour of the Lower Austria's garden owners are carried out several interesting studies about this theme.

A study by Sophie Karmasin shows for 13 years, the habits and needs of the Lower Austrian garden owners, the actual state of the gardens and the acceptance at the population.

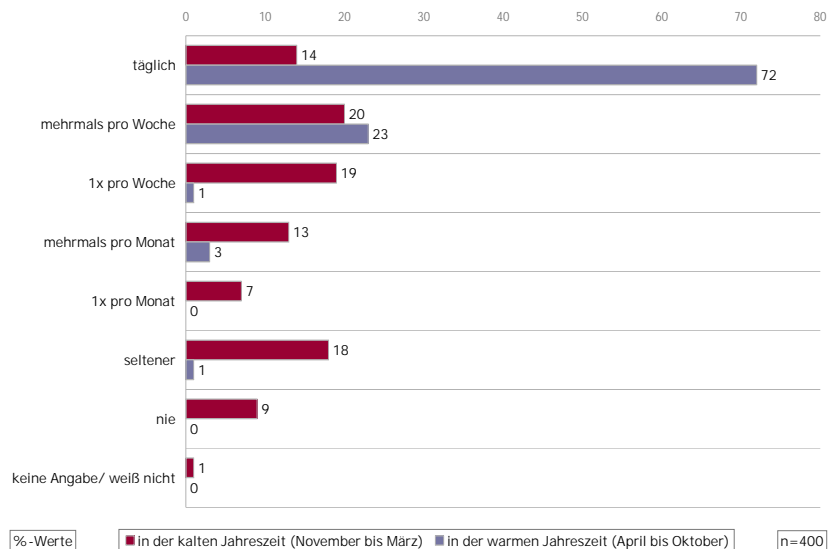
A short summary of these results gives a good insight into the current situation of Lower Austria's gardens and the Nature in the Garden – Action.

23 percent of the Lower Austrian gardeners feel very connected with nature, as shown in Figure F.



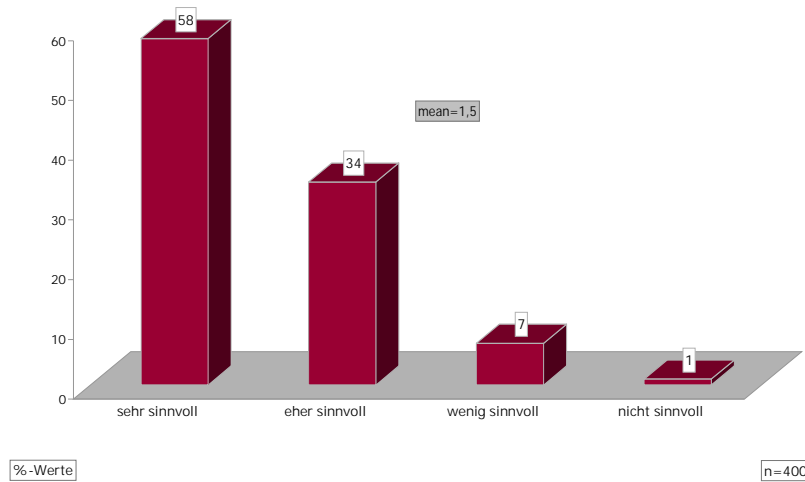
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72 per cent of garden owners were every day in the warm season in their garden.



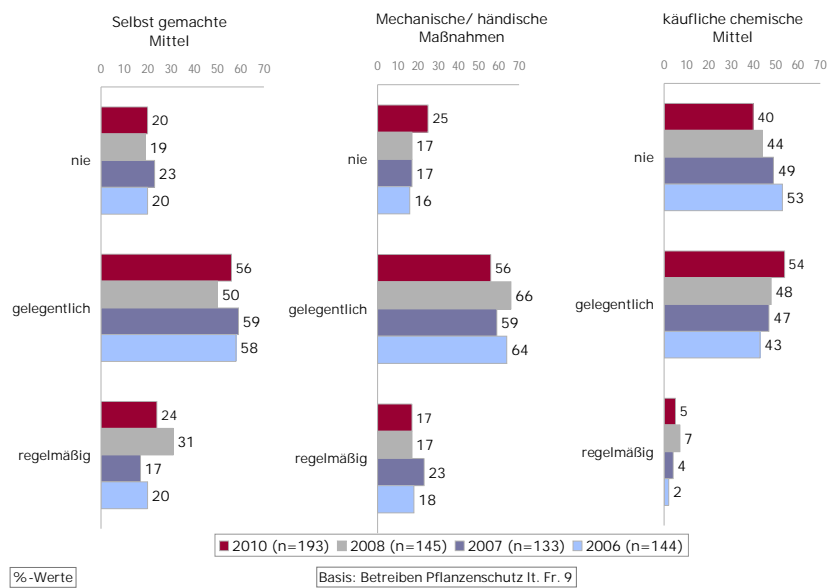
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58 percent of the Lower Austrians are in favour of the usefulness of a natural garden.



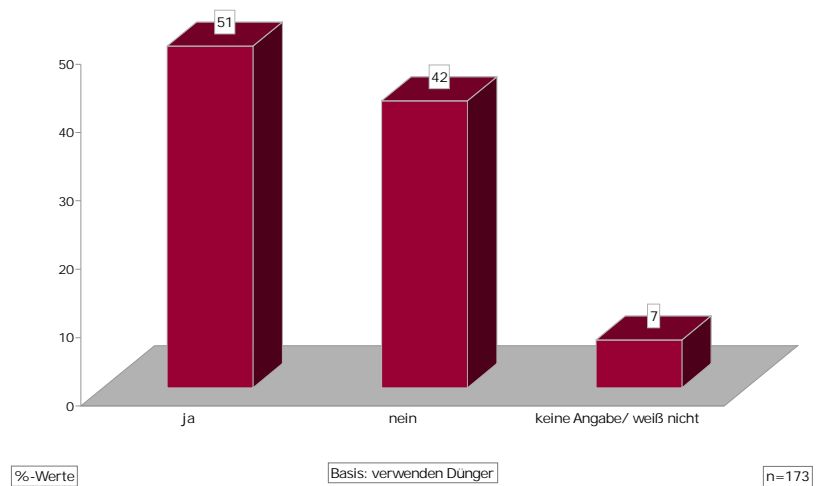
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There is a marked increase in the use of crop protection recorded by mechanical action and a clear trend away from chemical products.



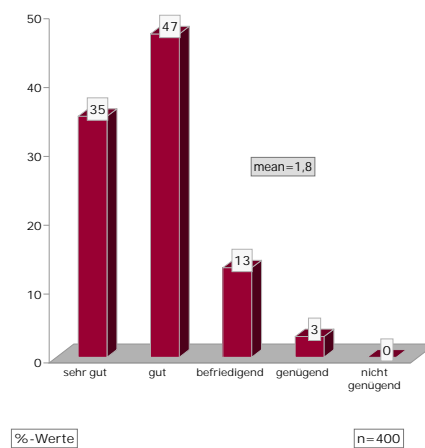
© "Natur im Garten" Sophie Karmasin

A key criterion for the "Nature in the garden - Action" is the use of turf-free products. 51 percent of respondents in Lower Austria (next page) are buying garden products free from turf.



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47 percent of respondents in Lower Austria think that the "Nature in the Garden" is a very good action.



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Lower Austria has an abundance of gardens. At the initiative of "Natur im Garten" a startling variety of gardens reflecting the province's rich gardening tradition have been opened up to visitors and offer tranquility and inspiration in settings as diverse as magnificent palace gardens, idyllic monastic gardens, contemporary garden projects and unusual gardens in private homes. Natural gardens that are managed with love are always also about pleasing people. The Gartensommer Niederösterreich programme in particular offers additional garden enjoyment with its wide range of events from June to August.

“Natur im Garten”

“Natur im Garten” (Nature in the Garden) is an initiative of the province of Lower Austria that aims to make gardens and green spaces more ecological by encouraging people to create and cultivate natural gardens with a rich diversity of plants.

“Natur im Garten” offers a home to environmentally-conscious gardeners and also uses this appealing topic to raise environmental awareness in general.

The initiative was founded in 1999 by Deputy Governor Wolfgang Sobotka.

Principles and Objectives

- No pesticides, no chemical, synthetic fertilizers and no peat are key criteria
- Rich variety of indigenous, regionally typical and ecologically-valuable plants
- Encouragement of beneficial insects and ecologically-valuable garden elements
- Recycling by means of composting, mulching and the use of rainwater
- Use of robust varieties which are resistant to diseases and pests
- Rich variety of plants in locations to which they are best suited
- Home-grown herbs, fruit and vegetables.

To achieve these goals, the initiative uses the following instruments:

- Information and advice over a telephone hotline, on-site advice, the “Natur im Garten” magazine, brochures, specialist literature and a TV show.
- Training and Advanced Training by the “Natur im Garten Akademie” (Nature in the Garden Academy) for hobby gardeners, multipliers and professionals.
- Demonstration objects and exhibitions in the form of ecologically designed and cultivated show gardens and model projects in public green spaces



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- Partner companies and the Green Market through a network of companies with ecological products and services.
- Subsidies for reference projects and ecological gardening projects in public green spaces
- Awards for natural gardens and partners in the form of plaques, signs and certificates
- Festivities and events to encourage fun, games and entertainment in natural gardens

3. Projects related to ecological gardening and best practice examples

The Garden Plaque



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At the request of the garden owner, gardens that fulfil the most important natural gardening criteria will be awarded "Natur im Garten" Garden Plaque in recognition of sustainable garden management and ecological design.

“Natur im Garten Akademie“ Nature in the Garden Academy
Ecological Gardening: LEARN – EXPERIENCE - UNDERSTAND

The training and advanced training courses offered at the “Natur im Garten” (Nature in the Garden Academy) bring together 10 years of experience in natural gardening. Irrespective of age and previous knowledge, participants will find suitable courses that combine both theory and practice. Practical training in natural gardening, seminars, themed guided tours, workshops and courses – there’s something for everyone! Learn from your own garden to understand environment.

“Die Garten Tulln“ - The Garden Tulln

DIE GARTEN TULLN has been “Natur im Garten” most multi-faceted show garden since 2008. The show garden is the first ecological horticultural show in Europe and has already attracted more than one million visitors. With more than 50 show and themed gardens, the 10-hectare site opens up a fascinating world of natural gardening culture.



© UBU “Natur im Garten”



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Very interesting examples of the GARTEN TULLN are:

Garden Number 3: The Garden in a Changing Climate

Our summer and winter rainfall are becoming poorer. The garden design with suitable plants with drought agreeability is therefore forward-looking, because it facilitates the careful use of precious water resources. The HBLFA Schoenbrunn, Austria's only institution of higher education in the field of horticulture, is working for many years on the selection of suitable shrubs and perennials for the Pannonian climate. They are looking for attractive plants with low water needs. These plants like to grow in well drained, poor soil.

Garden Number 5: Wood Roof Gardens

The greening of roofs is an ecologically valuable balance to built-up area. Especially in urban areas it creates not only new home for flora and fauna, but also a welcome green oasis for the people. In the selection of plants next to the ornamental value and benefits, frost hardiness, drought tolerance and urban air resistance is required

Garden Number 11: The Earthworm Garden

In the Garden Earthworm, the importance of the natural cycle of the natural garden is shown. The use of earthworm humus can feed not only plants but also improve the soil life and soil structure sustainable. The composting of garden and kitchen waste, reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides in the garden. Earthworms help, even if no opportunity exists for a compost heap in the garden. Alfred Grand, the sponsor of the Earthworm Garden also has invented the worm compost box.

This can be also easily placed inside the house or on the balcony. "Earthworm humus is more than just fertilizer!"

Garden Number 14: Vegetable garden thought across

This model garden offers many suggestions for a family of "plant, harvest and enjoy." The heart of the scale in mixed culture vegetable beds are either in the form of crop rotation as a combined module borders or as easy to learn the ABCs of mixed culture. Common and rare herbs, rare vegetables, edible flowers, fruit trees, "vegetable tipi", permaculture area and glazing for heat-sensitive plants just as important as raised beds, compost area and the demonstration of vegetable and winterizing fruit. A garden for all senses. Bon appetite.

4. Nature in the Garden in "HYBRID PARKS"

Our participation to this project mainly focuses on ecological gardening.

"Natur im Garten" is an initiative started and supported by the regional government of Lower Austria to encourage and to consult municipalities and citizens to design, build and maintain parks, public green areas and gardens in an ecological way.

Today, this initiative has more than 10 years experience in the field of ecological gardening (improvement of the biodiversity of gardens, closed loop recycling management or ecologically valuable garden elements). Most visible and important for the development policies in Lower Austria are 139 show gardens, many of them on public grounds and all accessible to the public.

While all parks and gardens add to the quality of life of citizens and to sustainable local and regional development (with 166 economic partners such as nurseries or garden planners), some gardens or specifically designed areas in parks are of major touristic importance too. This is where the cooperation with the Gartenplattform Niederösterreich, the second partner from

Lower Austria, is based on. Additionally, training courses for the public in some of the gardens have gained international recognition and touristic relevance too. Our activities and services now include a hotline, consulting, books, magazines,

scientific publications, TV Show, events, documentary films and public relation.

These experiences, expertise and knowhow will be a valuable input for the entire partnership. Climate change and reduction of emission of CO2 are important fields for our work in the next years. We are also convinced that international exchange will assist our educational activities. With support from the state we set up an academy to enhance quality in the field of education, which could benefit from the partners knowledge about capacity building and management.

As a founding member of international networks such as "Natur im Garten International", we can support the dissemination and sustainability of the outcomes and results of the project as well.

5. Useful Links

More information about Hybrid Parks and INTERREG IVC
www.hybridparks.eu



[AMT DER NÖ LANDESREGIERUNG](http://www.noel.gv.at/Umwelt/Umweltschutz/Foerderungen/Natur_im_Garten.html)

http://www.noel.gv.at/Umwelt/Umweltschutz/Foerderungen/Natur_im_Garten.html



[AMT DER NÖ LANDESREGIERUNG](http://www.noel.gv.at/Politik-Verwaltung/Landesverwaltung/Amt-der-NOe-Landesregierung/LV_Abt_RU3.html)

http://www.noel.gv.at/Politik-Verwaltung/Landesverwaltung/Amt-der-NOe-Landesregierung/LV_Abt_RU3.html



[ARCHE NOAH](http://www.arche-noah.at/etomite/)

<http://www.arche-noah.at/etomite/>

ARCHE NOAH

[AV-BUCH](http://www.avbuch-shop.at/)



<http://www.avbuch-shop.at/>

[BIOGÄRTNER KARL PLOBERGER](http://www.avbuch-shop.at/)

<http://www.avbuch-shop.at/>



[DAS ÖSTERREICHISCHE UMWELTZEICHEN](http://www.umweltzeichen.at/cms/home233/content.html)

<http://www.umweltzeichen.at/cms/home233/content.html>



[DIE GÄRTEN NIEDERÖSTERREICHS](http://www.diegaerten.at/de/)

<http://www.diegaerten.at/de/>



[DIE GÄRTEN TULLN](http://www.diegartentulln.at/)

<http://www.diegartentulln.at/>



DIE UMWELTBERATUNG

<http://www.umweltberatung.at/start.asp?>



ELSBEERPATEN 2012



<http://www.elsbeerpaten2012.at/>

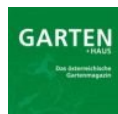
GARTENLEBEN

<http://www.gartenleben.at/>



GARTEN + HAUS

<http://www.garten-haus.at/>



GESUNDES NIEDERÖSTERREICH

<http://www.gesundesnoe.at/>



LANDESVERBAND DER KLEINGÄRTNER NÖ

<http://www.kleingartner-noe.at/>

MESSE TULLN

<http://www.kleingartner-noe.at/>



„NATUR IM GARTEN“ ORF-SHOW

<http://www.kleingartner-noe.at/>

„NATUR IM GARTEN“ SALZBURG

<http://www.naturimgarten.at/salzburg>



„NATUR IM GARTEN“ VORARLBERG

<http://www.naturimgarten.at/p-60578.html>



NATURSCHUTZ

<http://www.naturschutz.at/>



NÖ DORF- UND STADTERNEUERUNG

<http://www.dorf-stadterneuerung.at/content.php?pageld=895>



ÖKOKREIS

<http://www.oekokreis.org/>



ÖSTERREICHISCHE GARTENBAUGESELLSCHAFT

<http://www.oegg.or.at/>



PRIVATE PLOTS

<http://www.privateplots.at/>



RAIFFEISEN LAGERHAUS

<http://www.privateplots.at/>

