



Field report and recommendations from Kornburg

Information and photos:
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The planned flower bed at the Merian House was unfortunately not feasible in practice this summer. Hardly any seed sprouted on the thoroughly prepared sandy soil due to the extreme dryness and heat.

Second attempt to plant a Merian-Flower-Meadow in autumn 2022

After the summer heat the rainfall was sufficient, the working group put in new plants and everyone hopes that the "Merian-Meadow" will bloom abundantly in spring 2023. We are relying completely on regional wild perennials and wild herbs with many tiny fragrant blossoms.

Climate change is unfortunately a harsh reality. If you still want to defy it to some extent, here are a few tips for your own flowerbeds: Choose particularly resistant native perennial species that are exactly suited to the local weather and soil conditions.

To do this, look around in your natural environment. In the sandy areas of Nuremberg, for example, the following have proved successful, even without watering:

Mullein (*Verbascum spec.*),
Blueweed Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*),
Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*),
Clary Sage (*Salvia sclarea*),
Stone Crop (*Sedum spec.*),
Rue (*Ruta graveolens*),
Globe Thistle (*Echinops*),
Wild Rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*),
Soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*).

These are all also frequently visited by insects and butterflies.



The work went on in autumn 2022.

Additional useful tips:

- Plant shrubs and perennials fairly densely and sunk into slight hollows so that moisture is retained longer in the root area.
- Mulch with existing material collected from pruning.
- Place borders and paths of field stones between the plants so that the soil dries out less quickly.
- If possible, collect rainwater and water plants occasionally during dry periods. It is better to water once heavily than several times lightly.
- In private gardens, the – at least partial – conversion of lawns into blooming meadows is becoming increasingly crucial for the preservation of bio-diversity in our region, because it is easier to water there if need be.
- In addition, every balcony lushly transformed into a tiny jungle with herbs and other native plants contributes to cooling the façade of the building and the rooms behind it - all of this must soon be intensively promoted.

Nuremberg's plans for the Bavarian State Garden Show 2030 as an "Urban Garden Show" are the perfect setting for such projects.