

Development of diverse biodiversity patch

Goal

Provide special and various habitats

Short description of the measure

The development of species-rich patches and its connection with the surrounding can increase the biodiversity considerably within a short time.

A diverse biodiversity patch consists of:

- Native (dwarf) shrubs with insect-attracting flowers (providing pollen and nectar) as well as aromatic herbs such as thyme, rosemary, oregano and others
- Wood and stone piles for the creation of habitat especially for reptiles, amphibians, spiders and insects (e.g. wild bees, ichneumonids as natural antagonists of pests)
- Wild flower mixtures surrounding the island

The biodiversity patch can also be complemented with elements like nesting aids for wild bees, birds and/or bats, planting of trees, perches or other vertical structures.

The patches measure at least 20 m² and must not be overgrown completely as bare soil parts are also important for many birds, small mammals, microorganisms and seeds of wild plants.

The outstanding feature of this measure is the connection of different elements and structures providing food and nesting places in vicinity for various species.




To support the positive effects of the biodiversity patch, areas must not be sprayed with pesticides and driftage should be hindered.



Pic. 1: Example of a biodiversity patch

Connectivity of patches by hedges and vegetation strips

The effectiveness of a patch can be improved by connecting spots through hedges and/or margins considerably. The connection within patches but also with surrounding areas makes those sites to important step stones. The connection is ideally established through strips of 2 m width, which run between the biodiversity patches and are vegetated with local wild shrubs and herbs.

Quality elements of soundly implemented biodiversity measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biodiversity patch should measure at least 20 m² ▪ Consist of at least 3 different elements (see description above) ▪ Is not overgrown completely ▪ Connected with other landscape elements
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	<p>Biodiversity patches provide protection and refuge for insects, hare and partridges during agricultural work on the field.</p>
	 <p>Especially thermophile species like wild bees, butterflies and amphibians benefit from the habitats. Beneficial animals such as ichneumonids, forest bees, flower flies among others are thereby promoted.</p> <p>They also serve as step stones and connect open countries for butterflies, grasshoppers and other insects</p>
	 <p>Birds such as red-backed shrike, brown linnet and partridge have a forage ground in these structures.</p>
	 <p>Reptiles find a refuge in these patches, mainly in the stone piles.</p>
Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	Woody linear features, such as shrubs and lines of trees help to reduce wind and water borne soil erosion, particularly where running along contours, and reduce the risk of landslides in steep terrain.
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of biodiversity patches
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.delinat.com/charta.html ▪ Promotion of biodiversity in fruit plantations – NABU; REWE and Lake Constance Foundation, 2015

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.

Editor: LIFE Food & Biodiversity; Lake Constance Foundation

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