

# MEADOW ORCHARD

## STREUOBSTWIESE



### What is a Streuobstwiese (meadow orchard)?

A Streuobstwiese is a meadow on which different variety of fruit and different types of fruit grow. The fruit trees have a tall trunk and a large, round treetop.

In old Streuobstwiesen, not all trees are the same age - they have different age classes and growth forms. Old, regional fruit types can often be found on Streuobstwiesen.

### Where else does the fruit come from?

If the fruit does not grow in the Streuobstwiese, it usually comes from orchards. Many fruit trees of the same variety (monoculture) grow close to each other along long corridors.

These trees do not have a large, round treetop, but rather look like a column. Care and harvesting are easy in the monoculture and machine-based.

### How is the Streuobstwiese cared for?

A Streuobstwiese is managed in a natural way and usually **does not require any chemical or synthetic pesticides**. Grasses and flowers grow on the area between the fruit trees. These meadow areas are either mowed 2-3 times a year or grazed gently.

### Why is the Streuobstwiese threatened?

The cultivation of the Streuobstwiese is much more complex than with orchards. The variety of fruit and the different types of fruit also grow and ripen at different times. That is why not all of the fruit can be harvested at the same time. So work is done on the different trees all year round. In addition, the trees grow much taller on the orchard meadow.

High ladders or special vehicles are required for care and harvest. The Streuobstwiese needs a lot of work and is therefore often replaced by orchards or other use of the area (pasture, fields, etc.).

Streuobstwiesen are also being abandoned through the expansion of roads, commercial and residential areas.

### Who lives in the Streuobstwiese?

Up to **5,000 plant and animal species** live there.

Here you can not only watch birds, bees and butterflies.

You will also find a variety of grasses and flowers. Old Streuobstwiesen are among the most species-rich habitats in Central Europe.

### The advantages of the orchard meadow

#### economic

- Fruit growing and sales
- Preservation of old fruit species
- Use of the meadow as fodder production, pasture
- Preservation of old breeds of livestock
- Bees pasture - sale of honey
- Selling wood when a tree needs to be felled

#### ecologic

- Valuable habitat for animals and plants
- stepping stone between the living spaces
- Structuring the landscape
- Careful cultivation - mostly without synthetic fertilizers
- Preservation of biodiversity - also important with regard to climate change
- Protection against erosion

#### social

- Preservation of traditional forms of management and knowledge
- Formative for the landscape
  - Creates identity
- Creates cultural references to the environment (through products, Buildings, etc.)
- Preservation of the cultural landscape - also important for tourism

