



Flowering shrubs and nesting trees as anchor plants

Description of the measure



The planting rows in an orchard or vineyard offer the possibility of planting a shrub at the beginning and end of each row and at the bracing of hail nets.

Implementation

- At the beginning and/or end of each row instead of a fruit tree or at a distance of just under one meter from the last tree
- Usually rose plants (additional function as indicator plants for disease and pest infestation)
- Alternative: native, low-maintenance, not too vigorous shrubs with non-double flowers and without runners
- No intermediate or main hosts of fire blight or plants that favor pests and pathogens of fruit trees
- Woody plant recommendations: Prunus, buckthorn, privet, wild raspberry, black elderberry, common viburnum, common snowball, honeysuckle or cornelian cherry (the last two not for cherry orchards because of the cherry fruit fly!)
- Wood maintenance during pruning of the plant

Effects on biodiversity

Flowering shrubs provide a wide range of nectar and pollen for numerous insects and, depending on the shrub, fruit as winter food for birds. In addition, breeding opportunities are created in (thorny) copses for free-breeding birds (blackbirds, greenfinches, chaffinches, goldfinches, goldfinches).



Further positive effects

Beneficial organisms are encouraged, which ideally leads to a reduction in the use of pesticides.



Further recommendations

It is helpful to protect the shrub with a wooden stake so that the plant is not injured during soil cultivation. This is not necessary when planting on the bracing of hail nets.

To promote breeding opportunities for free-nesting birds, whorls of branches should be created or existing whorls left in place during pruning.

