



Insect friendly balcony and container planting

What is it about?

Potted plantings can be enhanced with insect-friendly alternatives to ornamental annuals such as geranium and petunia.

Recommendations for balcony and container planting

Use native perennials instead of annual ornamental flowers. If possible, use plants of regional origin and organic cultivation. (Low) sowings from regional seeds are also suitable.

Many culinary herbs - rosemary, thyme, lavender, savory, sage, oregano, lemon balm, basil and peppermint - are valuable nectar and pollen donors.



Background

Balconies or terraces can be valuable refuges for insects, provided suitable plants are chosen and nesting sites are provided.

Exotic plants and/or plants with double flowers often provide little or no food (pollen and nectar) for insects.



Further recommendations

Domestic perennials are not sensitive to frosts, so the wintering of the plants is not problematic. At temperatures below -5 °C for several days, the tubs should be moved close to the house and, if necessary, protected with old blankets / coconut mats (prevention of frost blasting of the tubs, as well as freezing of the roots). Even in winter, the tubs should be watered from time to time (when the temperature is above zero).

Use peat-free soil. Good potting soil for native wild perennials is easy to mix yourself: half sand, half humus/compost.

Terraces and balconies stocked with pots and tubs can be enriched with nesting aids and/or small watering holes to make this habitat even more insect-friendly.



For further reading: Species lists for shade and sun balconies: www.nabu.de/umwelt-und-ressourcen/oekologisch-leben/balkon-und-garten/grundlagen/balkon/26158.html

Species list for potted plants in sunny locations: naturgartenplaner.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/wildblumen-fuer-sonnige-toepfe.pdf

Species list for potted plants in shady locations: naturgartenplaner.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/wildblumen-fuer-schattige-toepfe.pdf

Sources: <https://naturgartenplaner.de/wildpflanzen-im-topf/>