



Ryc. 1. Schrebergarten colony in Dresden (germanyiswunderbar.com 2015: www)



Ryc. 2. Schrebergarten allotment (hogart UG 2015: www)

## The history of urban gardening in Germany

- since the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the form of allotment gardens called Schrebergärten located in nearly every city
  - small garden plots that can be bought or rented on the outskirts of urban areas for very little money
  - place for planting mor to meet friends and family
  - mostly organized into associations
  - very popular so there is often a waiting list for plot assignment and purchase
- Schrebergärten were build up in 1865 from the Leipzig Doctor Mortiz Schreber and his colleague Ernst Innozene Hauschild. They build an outdoor area for children of factory workers to spend time playing outside and later a teacher use these gardens to teach children about plants and farming
- Schrebergärten went out of style for several decades (e.g. because of supermarket shopping)
- but now the DIY (do it yourself) has come back into style and a lot of people are interested in urban garden plots again

(Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH 2014: www)

Allotment Gardens: classical, formalised Structures; since 1860s; for leisure and subsistence, strict regulations

Community Gardens: modern, very variable Structures; since 1990s; for subsistence with social/political motivations; no general regulations

Guerrilla Gardening: on public/private space; since 1990s; political motivations; illegal/without permission

*Ryc. 3. Forms of Urban Gardening in Germany (BMVBS 2008, Rosol 2006, Appel et al. 2011; Sondermann/Steffenhagen 2013)*



*Ryc. 4. Special mounting boxes from “Neuland” in Köln, “o’pflanzt is “ is a non-profit association in Munich (flickr 2015: www)*

## Philosophy and motivation

- “from survival to leisure”
- the increasing economisation of the society and a higher uncertainty of the job market result in trends like re-grounding and autonomy
- the most often cited motivations is community (diverse ages and backgrounds)
- for many it is a political act to create noncommercial community space (self-organized, decentralized practices)
- public versus the private sphere (urban gardening as a way of converting private property)
- space to grow their own (less contaminated) ingredients
- because of effects of climate change and population growth urban gardeners want to seek out creative solutions to the problem of food production  
(Borgstedt 2011; Müller 2011; Peach 2011; Werner 2011; Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH 2014: www)

## Urban gardening in Germany today

- there are several forms of urban gardening (Ryc. 3)
- urban gardens hold a high potential in combining environmental and social aspects  
(Martens et al. 2014; Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH 2014: www)



Ryc. 5. Prinzessinnengarten in Berlin



Ryc. 6. "Inselgrün" in Stuttgart and "KÄIF-chair"

## Examples

- **Mundraub.org** provides a database of trees whose fruit is free to be harvested by anyone
- **Allemende-Kontor** in Berlin is an initiative with a community garden project installed on Tempelhofer Feld
- **ECF Farmsystems GmbH** Berlin created urban container farms that combine fish and tomato production in and on repurposed shipping containers
- Project **"Inselgrün"** in Stuttgart is a public park on top of a parking garage
- **Prinzessinnengarten** in Berlin is a community garden in which also lectures on health and environmentally conscious lifestyle are held
- **"KÄIF-chair"** from Radek Vogt is a chair which has a small attachment box at the top and bottom
- **"Neuland"** in Köln is a project with special mounting boxes for fruits and vegetables
- **"o'pflanzt is"** is a non-profit association in Munich which provides public area for urban farming. A peculiarity of this community gardens represents a kind of exchange market for surplus agricultural products as well as the idea of regional currencies
- **"Internationale Stadtteilgärten e.V."** in Hanover keeps some community gardens for the integration of migrants  
(Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH 2014: www; GREENALITY MOVEMENT 2015: www; Internationale StadtteilGärten Hannover e.V. 2015: www)



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