

## CATEGORY 1: MUNICIPAL GREEN AREAS – ECOLOGICALLY DESIGNED AND CULTIVATED



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### **NATURAL AND HERB VILLAGE IRSCHEN, MUNICIPALITY OF IRSCHEN (AT, 1992 – 2019) EDIBLE HERB VILLAGE IRSCHEN**

The edible Herb Village Irschen is a village project in Carinthia with 130 participants, which looks back on a history of almost thirty years, run by the Municipality and the Marketing Association of the Herb Village. On a total area of approx. 33 km<sup>2</sup>, more than 300 small house and farm gardens make the specific subject of healing and wild plants, as well as garden herbs experienceable in a mountain altitude of the Alps. As many as 517 plant species, 42 of which are healing herbs and 115 national healing plants, have been proven in a study by the Vienna University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. They are refined in tea mixtures, plant juices, oils, herb and flower salts, as well as other gourmet and health products, thereby raising the population's awareness for sharing traditional knowledge. Additionally other culinary activities, information days, workshops and guided tours make a contribution, such as the involvement of the kindergarten and primary school with the herb school garden and other public school gardens, such as the so-called Narrow-Herb-Pass. The latter are exclusively populated by near-natural and climate-adapted plants and herbs. The small-surface gardens are as well as the steep natural meadows, cared for by numerous small farms and house garden owners. This guarantees a great biological diversity of plants of all kinds, which have grown on meadows, in gardens and forests for centuries.




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