

## CATEGORY 3: URBAN GARDENING – CREATIVE GARDENING IN THE CITY



© Fischer-Colbrie, Kalous

### **AUSTRIAN HORTICULTURE ASSOCIATION (AT, 2014–2019) TOWER OF BIODIVERSITY**

The diversity of wild animals, which is essential for an ecological balance, is endangered in cultural landscapes, particularly through the loss of natural habitats. Deadwood, untilled ground areas, dry stone walls, stones or „wild edges“ are no longer available in a sufficient quantity. Since the diversity of wild animals is endangered, it is indispensable for responsible garden owners to create living spaces for as many different animal species as possible. With the „Tower of Biodiversity“, Dr. Peter Fischer-Colbrie of the Austrian Horticulture Association has taken up this issue and developed a possibility to create a living space for more than one hundred different species on no more than one square metre of land. The tower has already grown in Vienna from 2,50 m to 3,20 m in the Flower Gardens of Hirschstetten, in the Augarten and in the Hans-Moser-Park in Hietzing. Also at the headquarters of Rewe and at DIE GARTEN TULLN, there is a tower of biodiversity originating from the cooperation with the Austrian Horticulture Association. Its amazing diversity is attributable to a sophisticated design with small-structured nesting and breeding possibilities. Private initiatives in Schwerin and Carinthia, as well as frequent enquiries for brochures for private gardens, schools and other educational institutions suggest that more towers have been built in the meantime.

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