



**ORCHARD
NETWORK**



Between meadows, trees and delicious products

Orchard Day 2025: Numerous hosts invite you to celebrate

Whole Europe will be celebrating European Orchard Day on Friday 25 April 2025 and the following weekend. The theme of the hands-on and adventure day is the orchard picnic. Orchard enthusiasts will show why a trip to the meadow is worthwhile for young and old.

From Great Britain South Tyrol, from Transylvania to the Atlantic. The [European Orchard Day](#) takes across Europe every year on the last Friday in April. This year, on the weekend around 25 April 2025, orchard enthusiasts from all over Europe organise a wide variety of activities related to the intangible cultural heritage of orchards, with a focus on orchard picnics. Every local event helps to publicise the importance of our orchards. But the most important thing is, of course, the orchard heroes who do great things - whether in the meadow, in the winery or in the association.

A cordial invitation to all interested parties

364 days and one public holiday. All over Europe. Whether in bloom in spring or at harvest time - a meadow orchard is a very special place. On Orchard Day, we show this to all those who don't know it yet. We celebrate the flowering meadows, the delicacies, the cultural heritage and the diversity throughout Europe. With and without knowledge are cordially invited to experience the diverse activities. There is something for every age group.

A blooming day that combines diversity, Orchard and Europe

Large fruit trees of many species and varieties grow in rows and at irregular intervals in the orchards. They are home to a large number of animal and plant species, some of which are endangered. The meadows are a cultural landscape created by man and only survive through cultivation. Our traditional knowledge of tree care, fruit processing and much more is the fertile soil of orchard cultivation. In many places in Europe, orchards characterise regions and culture. But the number of fruit trees is dwindling. Orchard Day shines a spotlight on the beauty of flowering orchards across Europe and the regional products that are created from the fruit.

Who is behind Orchard Day?

In many European countries, there are people with a great passion for orchards. Hochstamm Deutschland e.V., ARGE Orchard Österreich, the UK Orchard Network and BirdLife Europe are jointly organising Orchard Day for the fourth time. The mission is clear: to get Orchard into everyone's heads and mouths and enthusiasm for this intangible cultural heritage. We can share our enthusiasm online on 25 April: [#streuobstueberall](#) [#orchardseverywhere](#) and discover other exciting campaigns: streuobstueberall.com



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Background information

ARGE Streuobst Österreich e.V.

Since 2000, the ARGE Streuobst (Orchard Working Group) has been working to preserve and restore orchards throughout Austria. A number of renowned scientists and proponents from various institutions, as well as private individuals, are working intensively to achieve the association's goals. The ARGE Streuobst is structured as a non-profit organization, works on a voluntary basis and is financed by membership fees, donations and project funding. The ARGE Streuobst has been successful in promoting traditional orchard management and the conservation of fruit genetic resources by organizing events, participating in research projects, issuing publications, setting up working groups, and creating position papers on traditional orchard management and the conservation of fruit genetic resources. www.argestreuobst.at

BirdLife Europe

BirdLife Europe and Central Asia is one of the six regional offices of BirdLife International. BirdLife International is a global partnership of independent national conservation organizations with a large membership in 120 countries. BirdLife International is committed to conserving wild birds, their habitats and global biodiversity. BirdLife Europe has an international team of staff responsible for nature conservation, science, policy, fundraising, communications, etc. The staff support the 48 BirdLife partners in Europe and Central Asia. Through its unique local to global approach and partnership with national nature conservation organizations, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia provides long-term solutions that benefit nature and people. In Germany, NABU is one of the oldest and, with more than 875,000 members and supporters, one of the largest national partner organizations of BirdLife. www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/

Hochstamm Deutschland e.V.

Hochstamm Deutschland e.V. is a non-profit organization that works to preserve orchard meadows throughout Germany. The Hochstamm Deutschland initiative is supported by orchard initiatives, municipalities, associations, and private individuals. The aim of the association is to support orchard meadow enthusiasts in preserving the remaining stock and to provide ideas for its further development – through networking, exchange, and participation. Hochstamm Deutschland, together with over 1.3 million supporters, has succeeded in getting orchard farming included in the nationwide directory of Germany's intangible cultural heritage. This has increased public awareness of orchard farming. As a follow-up to this success, the international "Orchard Day" was launched by various initiators. It takes place annually on the last Friday in April. www.hochstamm-deutschland.de

UK Orchard Network

The UK Orchard Network is a collaboration of organizations in the UK that work together to actively promote the preservation of fruit trees and their varieties and in their many forms; as individual trees, traditional orchards and fruit gardens, and to preserve the biodiversity of the orchard habitat. The network aims to reverse the decline in biodiversity in orchard meadows and wildlife in the British Isles, promote a broader understanding of the value of traditional orchards and our traditional varieties for the benefit of wildlife, people and our heritage, build strong relationships between interested organizations, promote best practices in management, provide advice and support for the preservation, maintenance and planting of orchard areas, and serve as a point of contact for policy development and government agencies. www.orchardnetwork.org.uk



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Intangible cultural heritage

Intangible cultural heritage are cultural expressions that are directly supported by human knowledge and passed on and developed from generation to generation. Intangible cultural heritage is not tangible, but tied to the people and kept alive by the commitment of its supporters.

Orchard landscapes, such as fields, meadows or avenues with tall fruit trees with large crowns, have emerged from an agricultural-cultural development and are thus directly linked to human knowledge. The creation, management and maintenance of orchards, the breeding of fruit varieties and the harvesting and processing of the fruit are based on extensive knowledge and experience in dealing with nature. In addition to cultural expressions such as harvest festivals and rituals, special techniques for the care of orchard trees, for example, have been developed and refined over centuries. The cultural characteristics of orchards correspond to the UNESCO criteria in the following points: knowledge and customs related to nature and the universe, traditional craftsmanship, customs, rituals and festivals.

In 2021, the application, which was supported by over 1.3 million supporters, was accepted and traditional orchard management was included in the nationwide directory of intangible cultural heritage. Austria achieved the same in 2023.



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