



BENEFITS OF ENERGY FROM WILD PLANTS

Mixtures of different wild plant species are an alternative to maize in the production of biogas, not only because they are wildlife-friendly, but also because they are economically interesting. There are many advantages.

ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

- Perennial mixtures of wild plants provide nutrition and shelter to wildlife in both summer and winter.
- Longer flowering periods and larger flowering areas improve food supplies for insects (e.g. wild bees).
- The variety of blossoms enhance the landscape and increase the recreational value of a region.
- Later harvesting reduces the danger of mowing losses among ground breeding birds and other young animals.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Wild plants mixtures are eminently suitable as a permanent crop (ca. 5 years) and therefore do not require annual soil processing or sowing.
- In contrast to classical energy plants, for the most part no mineral fertilisation or chemical pesticides are required.
- Thanks to the year-round soil cover, soil erosion on sloped terrain and along surface watercourses is counteracted and the humus balance is improved.



Do you wish to be part of the network "Lebensraum Feldflur" or would you like to plant your own wild energy plants? If so, please contact us at:

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Energy from Wild Plants

Politics, Consultation, Practice





WILD PLANTS ARE STEPPING ON THE GAS!

Because of national and international energy policies, farmers are currently encouraged to cultivate biomass crops for energy generation. Today, every fifth hectare of agricultural land is being used to grow renewable raw materials, a considerable proportion of which is being used to generate energy from biomass. Regionally, this has led to restrictions in the crop rotation in landscapes and to massive disadvantages for biodiversity in rural areas. Through the project "Energy from Wild Plants" the network "Lebensraum Feldflur" in Germany aims to link biogas generation from biomass more closely with the objectives of protecting species, nature and the environment. The partners have set themselves the goal of establishing mixtures of different wild plant species in agricultural areas. This is deemed to be as both ecologically necessary and an economically viable supplement to conventional energy plants.



RESPONSIBILITY AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AGRICULTURE!

Voluntary programmes for farmers in nature conservation such as the Agri-Environmental Measures cofinanced by the EU or contractual nature conservation programmes financed by the individual German states are important instruments in Germany for conserving biological diversity in rural landscapes.

The Renewable Energies Act (EEG 2012) has in Germany also intervened regarding the cultivation of energy plants: it restricts the use of maize and cereals in new biogas plants to a maximum of 60 percent mass. At the same time the use of ecologically sensible substrates is rewarded with higher feed-in tariffs of an additional two cent per kilowatt hour. Wild plants can therefore expand the spectrum of energy plants.



PRACTICAL ADVICE AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT

By the end of 2015 the project "Energy from Wild Plants" should lead to the planting of wild plant mixtures as models for generating energy in various different federal states. The participating farmers and the operators of biogas facilities will be advised intensively by the project partners. This will allow a determination of the yield potential under practical conditions and the development of medium-term planting and processing recommendations for increasing the yield. The project places emphasis on targeted public relations work and political commitment in order to establish wild plants as an alternative to conventional energy plants in agricultural practices. The project "Energy from Wild Plants" is being funded by the project partners.