

## Green infrastructure AT HOME

It is interesting how we like to see colourful meadows in bloom, but at home in the garden we want a green golf course lawn without a single daisy or flowering clover cut to a height of 3 cm. In some places abroad, the "NO MOW MAY" campaign takes place in May. The main purpose of the campaign is to encourage people to let spring flowers bloom in their garden before they are cut. Dandelions, daisies, oxeye daisies... Many people see these plants as weeds, but they are an important food source for some pollinators.

If we mow the grass as late as possible, the spring plants will be able to flower and provide honey for pollinators.

WE'RE NOT MOWING NOW,  
TO FEED THE POLLINATORS  
SOMEHOW.

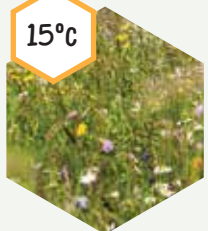
Don't mow too low or too often, as this will prevent the plants from drying out in the summer and help them to recover and re-bloom.

The height of the grass can have a significant effect on the soil temperature and microclimate of the surrounding area. Soils with low grass cuttings are more exposed to the sun's rays, so they overheat and dry out in the hot summer months, and the grass dries out.

On the other hand, taller grass that is not cut so low protects the soil from direct sunlight. This means the soil warms less, retains more moisture and keeps temperatures lower. At the same time, taller grass provides more biodiversity and habitat for different species.

Leave parts of your grass areas uncut this summer to help pollinators feed and find shelter among the tall flowering grass.

15°C



22°C



30°C



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FRACTAL

**Green Infrastructure** is still limited and poorly connected in the Alpine region's rural and peri-urban areas.

**The FRACTAL project** connects local stakeholders working to implement Green Infrastructure projects and develops educational tools to raise awareness in citizens of all ages, from schoolchildren to adults.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?



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## FOSTERING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

in the Alps



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## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Green urban areas encompass all spaces, no matter how small, that are covered with greenery and plants that are cared for and maintained by people. This includes parks, tree-lined avenues, green roadside areas, ... However, we rarely associate green infrastructure with cultivated meadows, private gardens, or even green, flowering balconies, yet all of this is considered green infrastructure.

We have prepared some tips to help you contribute to environmental sustainability in your own home environment.



## PLANT NATIVE SPECIES IN OUR GARDENS

By planting as many different species as possible, we will not only have a beautiful, colourful garden, but also more biodiversity and more pollinators to help us grow fruit and vegetables.



## GROW FRESH HERBS

at home rather than buying them in packaging, creating unnecessary waste and reducing the transport route for these products. Green infrastructure can be combined with everyday activities such as cooking to contribute to a sustainable lifestyle.



## COLLECT RAINWATER

Install rain barrels or cisterns to collect rainwater from your roof. The collected water can be used for watering your garden, washing your car, or even flushing the toilet, helping to reduce potable water consumption.



## BUILD AN INSECT HOTEL

Help wild pollinators in your garden by building an insect hotel. This will attract various species of pollinators, increasing biodiversity and promoting the health of your garden. With more pollinators, you'll achieve better yields, as insects will assist in pollinating flowers, which in turn accelerates fruit production in your vegetable garden.



## MOW THE LAWN AS LATE AND AS INFREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE

By mowing later and less frequently, spring plants will have the chance to bloom fully, providing nectar for pollinators. Additionally, they will be able to seed. Avoid mowing too low or too often to prevent plants from drying out during summer, making it easier for them to recover and bloom again.



## GREEN YOUR BALCONY

Turn your balcony into a vibrant green space by planting flowers, herbs, or even small vegetables. Not only will this provide food and shelter for pollinators, but it will also create a relaxing natural environment for you to enjoy.



## PLANT A TREE

Trees and shrubs provide shade and are important oxygen producers. They lower the temperature in the hot summer months, are noise dampeners, provide a water source with their large biomass and provide food and habitat for a variety of animals.



## EDUCATE YOURSELF!

Stay informed about environmental issues and share your knowledge with friends, family, and neighbors. Encourage others to adopt sustainable practices and advocate for green initiatives within your community.