

ARCHE NOAH

Our work for seed diversity



Vegetables, fruits and crops nourish us, keep us healthy, provide well-being and enjoyment. We preserve their diversity.

Thousands of varieties for a good future



Amazing diversity – developed over generations
It was just a few thousand years ago that humans came up with the idea of no longer relying exclusively on hunting and gathering. Through well-considered selection an impressive diversity of cultivated plants emerged around the globe. Our ancestors cultivated drought-resistant millets, fast and slow germinating potatoes, cereals, fine vegetables, pungent spices, and sweet fruits.

We save valuable, rare and endangered cultivated plants. We support their development, and bring them back to gardens, fields and plates.

This treasure is threatened
Of the approximately 6,000 known food plant species, only 80 provide 95 percent of the world's calorie supply today. That is why we collect and conserve the wealth of cultivated plants. 5,500 varieties are stored in the ARCHE NOAH seed archive. More than a thousand trees grow in our orchards. Politically, we stand up for a sustainable food system: for diverse seeds and against patents on life.

Together for diverse food
With our 17,000 members and supporters, we are increasing our resilience to the climate crisis. Heat and drought-resistant varieties in the form of open pollinated, organic seeds help us to do this. ARCHE NOAH is the strong, independent voice for cultivated plant diversity and for a sustainable agricultural and food system.



30 themed plots, fascinating guided tours, culinary delights in the garden restaurant. Welcome to our garden!

Our garden

Built on tradition, growing for the future



Experience the diversity of the ARCHE NOAH garden with all your senses!

Unique variety – wonderful ambience

In the baroque ARCHE NOAH garden, a unique variety of cultivated plants thrive in a wonderful ambience. Local varieties created by farmers and gardeners over generations stand next to curiosities such as tuberous zest and yacón. In our garden diversity remains alive. And it should find its way back into your garden and onto your plate!

Look over our shoulder!

ARCHE NOAH seeds are open pollinated, which allows you to save your own seeds, keeping the variety true to type. In our garden we will show you how the varieties we conserve are cultivated and their seeds are saved. For example you can see beetroot plants in their second year. We wait until the plant proudly bears its seeds on its blossom, then it is time to harvest the seeds. With us you can learn about historical cultivated plants and hear their stories, such as the red orache or root chervil, which today have been replaced by spinach and carrot. And we answer your questions during a guided tour of the garden.

ARCHE NOAH in the annual cycle

Lettuce, tomatoes, purple salsify, beans, and much more. In the February of each year, the seed archive hands over the seeds of hundreds of varieties to our garden team. At the time of flowering, we make sure that the varieties do not cross with each other. In late summer and autumn is the seed harvest. Only the most beautiful seed bearers will refresh our archive. Fully ripe peppers, cucumbers and aubergines are “gutted”. After a short fermentation the seeds are seperated from the rest of the fruit. In winter there is also a lot to do until the fresh, cleaned seed is returned to the archive, where it is stored safely.

Tried and tested and precious to take home

A visit to the ARCHE NOAH shop will round off your visit. The range of seeds is large. Many specialities are available from our two product lines – “Tried and tested for the home garden” and “Treasures from the seed archive” – as well your favorite plants, young trees and reference books.



Your visit to the ARCHE NOAH garden:

- Get to know ARCHE NOAH diversity
- Garden tours
- Culinary pleasure in the garden kitchen
- Seedlings, seeds and books in the store

My seed, your seed!

Protecting diversity for our future

The value of diversity
Agricultural land with greater diversity produces higher yields. Bees and bumblebees pollinate fruit trees and other crops. Ichneumon wasps eat insects that would otherwise ravage the field. Huge monocultures are poorer in diversity – also of useful creatures.





Diversity creates resilience
In order to produce food for all in the long term we need diversity. We need locally adapted, resource-conserving organic seeds that thrive without pesticides and synthetic fertilisers. This way we can cope with hotter and drier summers.



The right to seed
The fundamental right of farmers and hobby gardeners to harvest, use, exchange and sell the seeds from their harvest is indispensable to secure our future food security – and is enshrined in international human rights law. "Seed sovereignty" means that farmers and gardeners have access to seeds that are open-pollinated and can adapt to local conditions, to become more resilient to climate change. Whoever controls seeds, controls our food supply.



Without diversity of varieties and species – especially without organic seeds adapted to local conditions – there can be no adaptation to increasingly hot and drier summers.



ARCHE NOAH promise
If you plant ARCHE NOAH open-pollinated seeds, plants with the same characteristics as as those of the parent plant will grow, again and again. Vegetables from the supermarket are are mostly hybrid varieties – bred for maximum yield only in the first year and unsuitable for further cultivation. At ARCHE NOAH you have the guarantee:
If you collect seeds from the ripe fruits, you will get the same tasty cucumbers, tomatoes or peppers.





One of the largest private collections in Europe

Seeds are as fundamental to human life as soil, sun and water. That is why ARCHE NOAH safeguards and conserves 6,000 endangered crops – vegetables, cereals, legumes and fruit – in one of the largest private collections in Europe and one of the few that operates under controlled organic conditions. We store this valuable material both dried and deep-frozen at –18 degrees. And we ensure regular cultivation to ensure the seeds will germinate. However, we do not only conserve seeds, but also tubers and plants. We conserve over 160 varieties of potatoes. The fruit collection includes more than 1,100 trees and 170 berry varieties.



Apart from their adaptation to the changing climate the plants are conserved as far as possible as they have come to us. The goal: the conservation of their entire genetic potential. In parallel we bring valuable varieties from our archive through crossing and selection into a more suitable state for horticultural cultivation.



The most beautiful jewels of a treasure that has been given to all of humankind.



We must find the tree first, and cultivate the variety in several meadows to save it for future generations.

Which tree will you plant?

Each variety a treasure

'Himbeerapfel', 'Ananasmarille', or 'Butterbirne' – we give a home to hundreds of rare varieties.

Apple, pear, plum, cherry, apricot – hundreds of old varieties

Each of our old fruit varieties has an individual taste, texture and look. We have more than 4,200 trees registered in our database together with their variety and location. Alongside the 'Himbeerapfel', 'Ananasmarille' and 'Butterbirne', we are working to preserve the diversity of flavours. We can help you to find a variety that you like.

Preserving hundreds of fruit varieties

Our fruit collection is spread far and wide. Some grow on our own land, others are organically grown by volunteer fruit variety guardians. Our goal: five trees of each variety planted at different locations. This ensures that the variety in question will survive the next few decades. In twelve conservation meadows, we have more than 1,100 trees spread over several locations in eastern Austria. This reduces the risk of a variety being lost, for example due to external shocks such as storms or diseases.

Fruit inventory Austria

How many varieties of fruit still exist in Austria? We are looking for the answer in the project "Obst-Inventur Österreich". The estimates for apples alone range from 800 to 2,000 varieties! We are analysing the "genetic fingerprint" of all trees and comparing the results with international databases. This way, we can accurately identify all varieties and perhaps previously unknown treasures.

We determine your fruit variety

You would like to know which fruit tree is growing in your garden? Send us some fruits and we will tell you! This requires a lot of knowledge and and experience. We have both. You can find more information on this service on our website. At ARCHE NOAH there are also many berry fruits: white monthly strawberries, yellow raspberries… Our garden shop in Schiltern invites you to sweet journeys of discovery.







Protect diversity

75 percent is already destroyed

Dramatic loss
According to the FAO, in the past 100 years, we have lost 75 percent of agricultural crop diversity. And this loss continues.

The "Big Four" on the global seed market
Only four companies – Bayer, Corteva, Syngenta and BASF – already control more than 50 percent of the global seed market. This creates dangerous dependencies.

Species loss in agriculture

Of the approximately 6,000 known food plant species, only 80 species provide 95 percent of the world's calorie supply from plants. The half of all plant-based calories worldwide comes from just three species: rice, corn and wheat. Our agriculture urgently needs more diversity, more species and varieties adapted to local conditions!

Every day crops die out forever

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were 3,000 to 5,000 apple varieties. How many can you find in the supermarket today? In the USA, 95 percent of cabbage varieties, 94 percent of pea varieties and 81 percent of tomato varieties have already been lost. In India rice diversity has declined since the 1950s from 30,000 to just 50 varieties.

Diversity is the key to agriculture and food security

It is negligent not to prevent the loss of these treasures. Diversity is the best insurance against the climate crisis. Without heterogeneous varieties diversity of the food supply suffers, and the cultural heritage of plant breeding is threatened. Diversity helps allergy sufferers. Last but not least the loss of colors, shapes and flavors is in itself already an unbelievable damage.

Securing our good life for the future together!

For the agriculture of the future

Time is of the essence.
Genetically uniform, stable varieties for industrial agriculture are crowding out the traditionally proven seed supply. Synthetic substances are replacing fiber and dye plants. To escape this trap, we need a clear change of course.

Who controls the seed controls agriculture and food

It's a battle between industry interests and our commitment to resilient agricultural ecosystems. Large corporations are applying for patents on conventionally bred seeds, plants and food, even though such patents are prohibited. BASF, Bayer, Carlsberg, Corteva, Heineken or Syngenta are obtaining exclusive rights to tomatoes, melons, lettuce, barley and beer – to the detriment of us all.

Active for better laws

That is why ARCHE NOAH is campaigning for better laws. We work with seed initiatives from all over Europe. In Schiltern, Vienna and Brussels, ARCHE NOAH is a strong voice, so that politics finally promotes seed diversity. Seed law reform must take into account the well-being of farmers and citizens!



ARCHE NOAH advocates for:

- an EU seed law that promotes diversity
- an end to patents on seeds
- the right to use and pass on seeds
- free sale of seeds to hobby gardeners
- local, organic and GMO-free seed production
- resistant agricultural systems without artificial fertilisers and pesticides



To preserve diversity,

we must eat it up!

Joy in food can be a lifeline for endangered crops. With pleasure we can counteract the loss in diversity.

We use only a fraction of the diversity of cultivated plants in our daily cuisine. With the cultivation of old varieties, the voyage of discovery on our plates begins – intense in taste, rich in colors and shapes. Can red-fleshed potatoes be made into French fries? How does a salad taste made with yellow, white or black tomatoes? What can we cook with perennial rye, emmer, or the many root vegetables ranging from white to purple? The greater the demand for old varieties, the more likely it is that they are cultivated, and the more that can be done to to conserve this diversity.

The educational program

With our ARCHE NOAH courses (in German) we pass on our rich knowledge. Knowledge that is fun useful and points to a sustainable future. From "organic balcony gardening" and "fruit tree grafting" to "seed propagation" and "breed your own tomato variety".
www.arche-noah.at/seminare

ARCHE NOAH – a strong network

Our partner farms carry out essential tasks. They propagate ARCHE NOAH seeds and sell seedlings, vegetables or fruit trees. ARCHE NOAH multiplier farms, seed guardians, mentors – the more people are active with us, the stronger diversity takes root.
www.arche-noah.at/netzwerk

Become an ARCHE NOAH member!

Your membership strengthens diversity directly. Your support helps to secure crop diversity and improve the political framework.

You will receive free admission to the ARCHE NOAH garden, three free fruit variety determinations per year, and discounts at our seminars and on our organic seeds and organic young plants. Furthermore, the ARCHE NOAH magazine and online access to the Variety Handbook are free of charge for you.

→ To the online registration

Seed Variety in the ARCHE NOAH Shop



Buy variety for your home! You can get open-pollinated, organic seeds in our online shop or in our garden shop in Schiltern.

www.shop.arche-noah.at

My yearly contribution for diversity:

☐ Ordinary 65 € ☐ Reduced 45 € *

☐ Sponsoring from 100 €

The membership is valid for one calendar year and will be renewed automatically. Please announce resignations by the end of the year! Persons with a regular membership (65 or 45 Euro per year) have the right to vote at general meetings. (* Reduction for pensioners, students and unemployed persons with proof)

Your contact details

First Name, Family Name

Street, Number

Postal Code | City

Birthdate | Phone Number

E-Mail

Direct debit

I authorise ARCHE NOAH to debit the membership fee annually from my bankaccount.
Recipient account: Verein ARCHE NOAH,
BIC: SPKDAT21XXX,
IBAN: AT05 2022 8001 0004 0633

IBAN

BIC

Confirmation of membership and direct debit

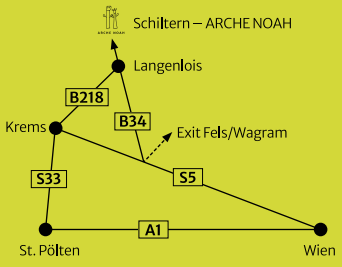
Date, City

Signature

Sow diversity!

Visit us!

The ARCHE NOAH show garden
Obere Straße 40, 3553 Schiltern
May to September:
Fr/Sa/Su/Bank Holidays



On Fridays you can visit us
by public transport!

OPEN-POLLINATED, ORGANIC, PROVEN

Diverse seeds in the garden shop in Schiltern
or online at: shop.arche-noah.at

Verein ARCHE NOAH – Contact us
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9 am to 1 pm on +43 2734 8626 or via
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ARCHE NOAH

Media owner: Verein ARCHE NOAH, Obere Straße 40, A-3553 Schiltern. DVR: 0739936. ZVR: 907994719.
Manufacturer: Druckerei Janetschek GmbH, 3860 Heidenreichstein. Graphic design: Doris Steinböck – www.beast.at. Photos: all Rupert Pessl – except: S. 4–5 (show garden) Volker Plass, S. 4 (people) Waldviertel Tourismus/Studio Kerschbaum, S. 6 (bee) phichak/shutterstock.com, S. 6, 7, 11 (crop clippings) Doris Steinböck, S. 12 (combine harvester) Alf Ribeiro/stock.adobe.com, S. 13 (vegetable harvest) Jacob Lund/stock.adobe.com.