

# Interesting research projects on perennials in The Netherlands

## Perennials important for improving biodiversity in cities

The year 2010 has been proclaimed the year of biodiversity by the United Nations. The main reason for this was to raise the awareness of the importance of biodiversity. More and more species of our flora and fauna worldwide are under threat or disappearing, mainly due to advanced urbanization, industrialization and large scale agricultural practices.

Especially urbanization is not just a threat, it also offers new possibilities. Rich and varied greenery in the city is not only appreciated by citizens, but it can also significantly contribute to the increase of biodiversity. Urban greenery offers a home and a food source to many kinds of insects, birds and other animals. An additional positive effect is, that it brings nature closer to the people. The creation of high quality greenery in the city in combination with good management and the right species choice of trees, shrubs and perennials is essential.

To encourage greener and more bio-diverse cities Applied Plant Research (PPO), together with Plant Publicity Holland (PPH), issued a (Dutch) brochure: "Biodiversiteit in tuin en plantsoen" ("Biodiversity in gardens and parks"). The brochure gives examples to green space managers, landscapers and policy makers as information and inspiration. The brochure provides background information on biodiversity in the city, and there are useful tables of plant species that attract bees, butterflies or birds. The brochure also provides tips about certain types of plantings and examples of creative initiatives of municipalities to stimulate biodiversity. The data are based on years of experience in many research.

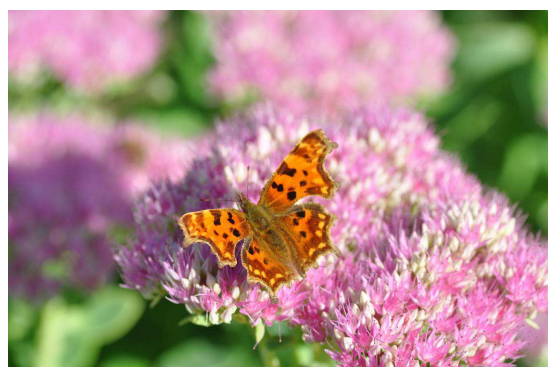
Literature for more information (in Dutch):

Hoffman, M.H.A. (2010): *Met flora meer fauna de stad in trekken* – Tuin en Landschap 26, p. 25-29

Hoffman, M.H.A. (2010): *Biodiversiteit in tuin en plantsoen* - Brochure edited by Plant Publicity Holland, 19 p. (online available at: <http://edepot.wur.nl/154296>)



Left: Perennials are very important to stimulate biodiversity in our parks and gardens



Left: Plant diversity stimulates biodiversity  
Right: *Sedum spectabile* attracts butterflies

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