

Harvesting in the city

Self-sufficiency through urban vegetable gardens

Green spaces in cities have long been used for self-sufficiency. In addition to growing fruit and vegetables, small animals could also be kept here. The yield was supplemented by additional purchases or bartering. At the end of the 19th century, urban self-sufficiency declined with the emergence of general stores.

In times of food shortages, as was the case during both world wars, urban green spaces were once again used more intensively for home cultivation. The US 'Marshall Plan' for the reconstruction of the German economy also included vegetable gardens for self-sufficiency in new development areas from 1948 onwards.

After the German agricultural sector had recovered from the effects of the war and the supply situation had stabilised through imports, urban vegetable gardens once again faded into the background.