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State Horticultural College and Research Institute
Heidelberg, Germany (LVG)
What is the State Horticultural College and Research Institute Heidelberg (LVG)?

The LVG is a state research institute and college, working for Baden-Württemberg’s Ministry of Rural Areas and Consumer Protection. It is both a research center for environmentally friendly landscaping and horticultural production and a training college for professional gardeners, arborist or tree workers.

The main aims of the research are developing and testing new ecologically sustainable methods in ornamental plant and vegetable production, arboriculture and landscaping. The Institute offers consultation services regarding product choice and sustainability.

What are the research aims of the LVG?

- We work on an area of 0.6 ha of greenhouses and plastic tunnels and 3 ha of open land.
- We develop production strategies and schemes for modern ornamental plant and vegetable growers. Additionally, we generate concepts for retail and cost calculation.
- We carry out research on climate control, plant nutrition, biological pest and disease management. Furthermore, we develop and investigate alternatives to chemical plant growth regulation.
- Growers profit from our support in their choice of cultivars.
- We guarantee an independent comparison of cultivars.
- Thanks to our research, horticultural retailers can profit from sales arguments and support with professional marketing.
- Our research in landscaping concentrates on water management in public and private areas and testing perennials for use in public areas.
- We conduct research on trees and their needs in urban surroundings.

What kind of further education is available at the LVG?

- Qualification as “Meister” (1200h) for landscapers and ornamental plant growers (the “Meister” is a higher degree following an apprenticeship)
- Qualification as “Meister” (600h) for landscapers and ornamental plant and vegetable growers
- Qualification as “Fachagrarwirt Baumpflege und Baumsanierung” (600h) for arborists (a higher degree following an apprenticeship or sufficient practical experience in arboriculture)
- Qualification as European Tree Worker (ETW) and European Tree Technician (ETT)
- Qualification as “FLL” Certified Tree Inspector
- Rope Climbing Courses (Two levels: SKT A, SKT B)

International projects at LVG

Leonardo da Vinci Projects
- 2006 - 2009 LEONARDO - Projekt: „European Arboriculture Online”

Interreg-Projects
- 2012 – 2014 Interreg IV: LEGEM Bio Rhin; Prospects for the regional cultivation and sale of organic vegetables in the region of Upper Rhine Rift with the topic "Development Potential of the Regional Demand?"
- 2003 – 2006 BoGO INTERREG III A: "Quality and Environmental Production of Vegetables and Fruits in the Region of Lake Constance"

Partnership
- Partnerships with Agricultural Faculties all over the world
- Since the year 2000, 2-4 students from South America come to the LVG once a year to work as interns.

Organization of Technical Visits
- We organize excursions for international groups who are interested in technical visits to horticultural institutes and other companies.