

# HORTUS OFFICINARUM

promoting biodynamic seeds of medicinal plants



HORTUS OFFICINARUM is a non-profit organization committed to the diversity, quality preservation and improvement of medicinal plant seeds in biodynamic cultivation.

## **SEEDS: A VALUABLE CULTURAL GOOD**

The diversity of cultivated fruit, cereals, vegetables and herbs has developed over thousands of years. This treasure of mankind is faced with an existential threat as the power of seed disposition becomes more and more concentrated in the hands of a few companies. Economic interests dictate a systematic depletion of seed varieties.

Nowadays medicinal plants are particularly threatened in their diversity and uniqueness. Similar to food crop varieties, traditional medicinal plant seed is challenged by hybrids and by varieties specifically bred for boosted drug components. In addition, strict administrative regulations on medicinal plants impede their access to the market.

Thus there is a strong call for alternative breeding approaches which respect the intrinsic nature of plants and are suitable for organic and biodynamic practitioners.



*Calendula officinalis*

## **WHY SEEDS ARE ESSENTIAL**

Plant seeds carry the essence of their origin. Effects of the progenitor's growing and cultivation conditions can be discovered down to their genetic configuration. Experience shows that biodynamic cultivation and particularly the consequent use of the preparations stimulates the plants to be more receptive to the effects of the cosmos and of human attention. Such subtle qualities may subsequently find their reflection in the remedies and care products made from such plants.



## HOW WE WORK

HORTUS OFFICINARUM is a non-profit organization founded in 2008, committed to the diversity, quality preservation and improvement of medicinal plant seeds in biodynamic cultivation.

HORTUS OFFICINARUM is a network uniting long-standing experience of medicinal plant growers and breeders, defining selection criteria, supporting seed production on farms and organizing their distribution.

Comprehensive documentation of the «biography» of the seeds used in our selections is a further important task of our association. This is all the more important as complementary medicine (mainly anthroposophical medicine, homeopathy, TCM, Phytotherapy) is faced with increasing regulatory requirements concerning the quality and traceability of raw materials.

Our seed quality stands for a minimum of three generations of biodynamic or organic seed care with appropriate selection.

HORTUS OFFICINARUM is also engaged in various projects on behalf of the conservation of genetic resources. These efforts are generously supported by the Federal Government of Switzerland (cf. [www.bdn.ch](http://www.bdn.ch)).

*Solanum dulcamara* (fruits)

## SEEDS ARE A CULTURAL GOOD – GET ENGAGED WITH HORTUS OFFICINARUM

To get more information or to apply for membership, please contact us.

### CONTACT

Zinnhagweg 8  
CH - 4144 Arlesheim  
kontakt@hortus-officinarum.org  
www.hortus-officinarum.org

### DONATIONS

In Switzerland the association is recognized as being of public utility. If you wish to support us financially here are our bank details:

Recipient: HORTUS OFFICINARUM  
Account: PC 85-376923-5  
IBAN: CH96 0900 0000 8537 6923 5  
BIC: POFICHBEXXX

### MEMBERSHIP

As an individual, NGO or company you can become a member of our association. The annual fee is as follows:

50 CHF privat individuals

250 CHF associations, NGOs

500 CHF companies

### COMITÉ

Bernhard Ehrmann (Eckwälden, D)  
Andreas Ellenberger (Rheinfelden, CH)  
Christof Hatebur (Basel, CH)  
Nicole Söll (Arlesheim, CH)  
Michael Straub (Mutlangen, D)  
Klaus Winter (Magstadt, D)  
Amadeus Zschunke (Rheinau, CH)



*Ononis spinosa*