

Compendium on how to organize an organic labyrinth

(Leitfaden zur Erstellung eines ökologischen Feldlabyrinthes)

Thesis at the Department of Agricultural Engineering

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Summary

The advancement of a conventional maze to an organic labyrinth can be worthwhile from different points of view. In addition to the eventuality of an auxiliary income that kind of facility might offer the chance to point out the advantages and merits of organic farming in a persuasive way and to get through to people that otherwise hardly would be interested in the topics of healthy food and a sane environment. A decision concerning the target group and the orientation of subjects for the nature trails should be taken at the beginning of the project. A handy name that is easy to remember is quite useful. As to the matter of nature trails and areas of experience, it is important to create a reference to nature by sharpening the senses and by introducing interactive knowledge transfer and playful elements. Wherever it is possible, the maze should consist of a combination of different types of plants. Especially hemp is favourable because of the jungle effect, its fragrance and the fact that it is a rather unknown plant. It should be cultivated in a quantity that makes the marketing profitable. The economical success of the enterprise can be augmented by accompanying proposals like a restoration and a self service flower picking field as well as by additional events besides the regular business hours. If a careful selection of the location is assumed with the competitive situation taken into account and an interesting and fancy design of the field is put into effect as well as an adequate publicity it is possible to realise a revenue of more than 10 000 € within a period of eight to ten weeks. If the necessary capital investment to establish the facility is handled with economic expert knowledge linked to an intense personal commitment a noteworthy profit can be expected.