

Hortus Alkmaar – Source of natural health

Hortus Alkmaar is a garden that unites nature and health. Cultivating plants with medicinal qualities has been its focus for decennia. With expert care and attention, herbs grow here in a natural, ecological, and rich biodiverse environment.

With more than 800 plant species Hortus Alkmaar is one of the biggest specialised and certified medicinal herb gardens in the Netherlands and is leading in Europe. Notably, the majority of its species are original.

The numerous possibilities for cooperation include:

- Provision of fresh or dried herbs for homeopathy and phytotherapy;
- Provision of plants and seeds for education and research centres;
- Design and maintenance of experimental and natural gardens;
- Advising on nature projects and biodiversity;
- Workshops and courses;
- Receiving guests and giving tours.

The extensive collection of medicinal plants is used for, among other things, the preparation of natural medicine. Simultaneously the garden is used for scientific research, education, and the experience of herbs and their beneficial effects on health.

Medicinal herbs

At Hortus Alkmaar plant knowledge is combined with cultivation. In 1982, the two-hectare garden was created for the production of raw material for the Dutch pharmaceutical company VSM. The garden now combines an extensive collection of medicinal herbs with a wealth of plant knowledge.

Over 800 separate species

The collection of medicinal plants contains over 800 species. This makes Hortus Alkmaar the biggest in the Netherlands. Until the end of 2011 the collection was used exclusively for the preparation of homeopathic and botanical medicine. Ever since, the plants are also used for other purposes, such as natural cosmetics, colouring agents, fragrances and flavourings.

Expertise in cultivation

Staff at Hortus Alkmaar have extensive experience with plant production, varying from a few ounces to many dozens of kilos (most species) to hundreds of kilos for species such as marigold, poison ivy or comfrey. Production can be tailored to the needs of the customer.

Partner in scientific research

Hortus Alkmaar is partner in several scientific research projects including the Evergreen-project of Greenport NHN, which is aimed at identifying the components of plants and determining their medicinal qualities.

Expert advice

At your request our experts can advise on garden development plans. They will consider the biotopes and ecological site conditions such as sunlight, shade, and humidity.

Customized delivery

At advance notice, cultivations can be included in our planning on request. Requests received in winter can normally be honoured during the subsequent summer.

Guaranteed quality

Hortus Alkmaar uses the quality system KOS, in which organic cultivation is documented. The sowing and harvest parameters are recorded according to the regulations on organic cultivation included in European and Dutch law, as well as the Skal regulations. Internal audits in line with GACP guidelines occur regularly.

Organic cultivation

Our medicinal herbs are produced organically in a near-natural environment. Only for big orders we set up designated production fields. Cultivation of our plants involves minimal tillage, ensuring optimal soil fertility. Harvesting requires great care and therefore is mostly done manually.

Skal-certified

All garden plots are certified organic according to relevant regulations. Central to this is that the organic production and the indications on the product are in line with established requirements and that these are reviewed. In the Netherlands, surveillance is in the hands of an independent organisation called Skal Biocontrole. Hortus Alkmaar's Skal registration number is NL-BIO-01.

In line with EMA guidelines

To ensure optimal quality, Hortus Alkmaar observes the EMA (European Medicines Agency) guidelines for 'Good Agricultural and Collection Practices' (GACP). The GACP include guidelines for clean soil, traceability of the starting material, determination of authenticity and recording process parameters for sowing, harvesting, and drying.

Seeds

Hortus Alkmaar owns a collection of hundreds of different seeds, including many rare species that are difficult to obtain. The complete overview can be found on the website www.hortusalkmaar.nl

Soil investigation 2012

Engineering firm Oranjewoud B.V. conducted a soil investigation in 2012 according to the Dutch Standardisation Institute (NEN 5740). Results did not significantly differ from those of 1995 and 2002. The measured values do not affect the validity of the permit allowing the above-mentioned activities on the property.

Hortus Alkmaar, a reliable partner

- Over 800 plant species;
- Provision of fresh, vacuum sealed, or dried plants;
- Eco-certified by Skal-Bio controle;
- Seeds of over 500 plants available;
- Special cultivations possible on request;
- Rare species of seeds and plants available.

Excellent access

Hortus Alkmaar is located on industrial area Beverkoog, beside Alkmaar's ring road. Nestled between buildings is the unique garden, part of an ecological connecting zone. Hortus Alkmaar has a spacious parking lot (free of charge).

Hortus Alkmaar
Berenkoog 37
1822 BH Alkmaar
072-5669639
info@hortusalkmaar.nl
www.hortusalkmaar.nl