

ORCHARD AS A BIOTOPE

A number of diverse biotopes have disappeared or are gradually being destroyed in the existing landscape. Some, unfortunately, have no alternative, unlike the forest steppe, fairly common in the past, which could at least partly be replaced by fruit orchards. Particularly through the use of high-stature fruit trees and regular, expert maintenance, we can create a unique open-forest biotope that can provide habitat for a wide range of species of flora and fauna. Key is mowing the herbaceous layer where it receives sufficient sunlight under the tree canopy in a mosaic pattern, and preserving dead or dying tree trunks and strong branches that have been exposed to the sun.

Old or dead wood can also be found in the woods, and rich plant foliage in meadows, but orchards are unique in that they can connect these two biotopes together. Due to their structural diversity, in orchards we can find forest species, meadow species, and forest-steppe species that usually avoid shady forests and meadows without shade.



ORCHARD AS A RECREATIONAL SPACE

In recent years, the need for short-term recreation areas among inhabitants of urban areas has increased the demand for accessible small, green spaces. Ordinary municipal parks might seem too artificial and might impose various restrictions on visitors, while forests are often farther from urban areas and less accessible due to dense undergrowth. Fruit orchards, on the other hand, offer free and complete access throughout the year.

The recreational potential of orchards is vast. Walking paths are the most common, but orchards can also be used by runners or cyclists, and for day trips by schools and kindergartens. They are ideal gathering spots and picnic areas, where friends can sit on benches or blankets in the shade. Orchards also have educational value, providing instant evidence of the changing seasons. Otherwise there are few places in the city where one can clearly see vegetation transition from dormancy to blooming, and from fully green to fruit-bearing.



ORCHARD AS A LANDSCAPE FEATURE

The spring landscape, full of flowering blackthorn bushes and rows of cherry trees along winding paths, is undoubtedly scenic. The flowering of fruit trees and shrubs awakens the earth from its winter sleep, brightening a colorless landscape. In cities, the blossoms contrast sharply with the urban gray and provide a romantic complement to the clay-tile roofs. The leaves of cherry and pear trees turning color in autumn, meanwhile, provides a background of interesting shades.

Orchards, with their painstakingly planted rows of trees, can match nicely with the layout of windows on nearby houses, or the rectangular symmetry of adjacent buildings. On the other hand, it is not unpleasing to see the regular checkerboard of orchards standing out in the open, letting us know they were created by human hand. In fertile years, a closer look into the tops of pear and apple trees can surprise us with a bounty of colorful fruits.



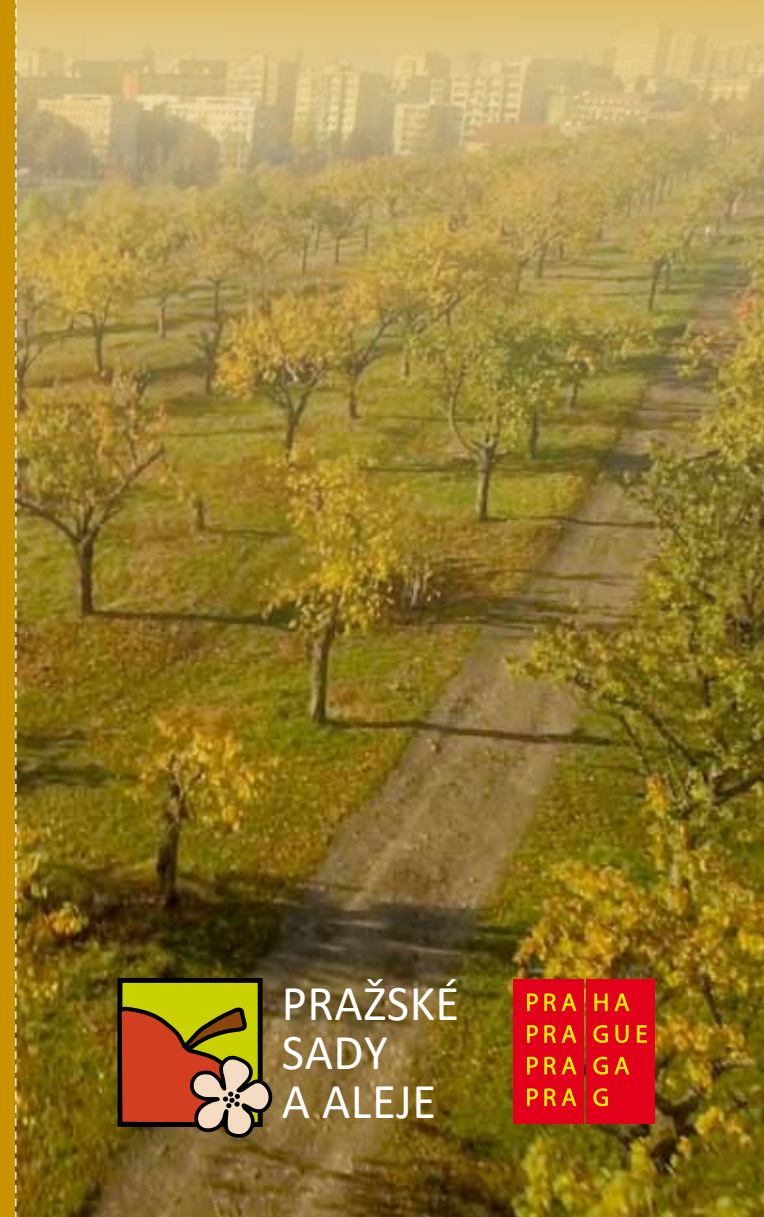
ORCHARD AS A CULTURAL VALUE

The care devoted to the orchard over several generations of farmers pays back, especially at harvest time. These days only a few varieties of fruit are used, most of them very similar in taste, and the original diversity is disappearing. Fruits are not only for direct and immediate consumption, as some might believe. In the past, nearly everything from the fruit harvest was made use of in some way. Plums were boiled to make plum jam. Apples were dried and processed. Various cakes, marmalades, distilled brandies, and ciders were made. For different purposes, different varieties were used.

To this day, part of the harvest is reserved for processing, and some traditional methods have even enjoyed a slight renaissance. The former levels of fruit usage are far from being reached, however. By planting older varieties we also help preserve traditional forms of fruit processing, which keeps part of our history alive. This is why we plant mainly varieties grown during the period of the First Republic, the Austrian monarchy, or even earlier, and Prague is slowly becoming a large gene pool.



PRAGUE FRUIT ORCHARDS AND ALLEYS

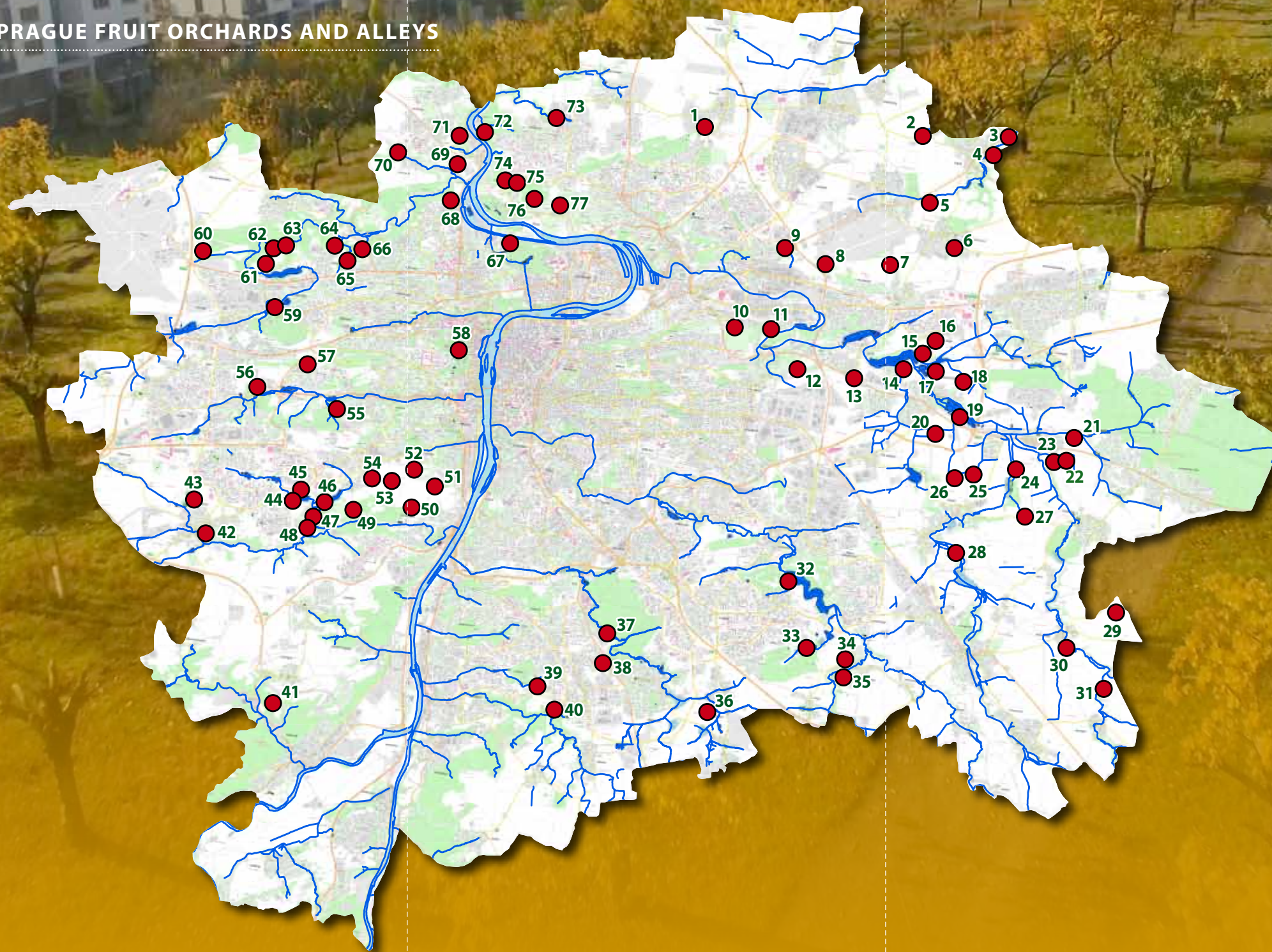


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PRAGUE FRUIT ORCHARDS AND ALLEYS



OVERVIEW OF LOCATIONS

1. Pod dáblickou hvězdárnou
2. Ctěnické prameniště
3. Svatokřížská kaple
4. Biocentrum U Vinoře
5. Na zadních
6. Rádiovka
7. Na třech honech
8. Cihelna v bažantnici
9. Klíčovské sady
10. Vrch Třešňovka
11. Hrušně na Rokytce
12. Tábor
13. Kyje
14. Na Čihadlech
15. Za Luhem
16. Čeněk
17. V Ráji
18. Oblouk
19. U Počernického rybníka
20. Zalomená
21. Za Hospodou
22. Sad V Panenkách
23. U Stacha
24. Lítožnice
25. Na korunce
26. V křížcích
27. U Hájku
28. Výsadba RN Říčanka
29. U vrby
30. Dolnice
31. Nedvězí
32. Hájecká a Hostivařský lesopark
33. Milíčovský sad a stromořadí
34. Štít
35. Stadla
36. Šeberovské sady a stromořadí
37. Ovocné výsadby u IKEMu
38. Akcíz
39. Ovocné výsadby V Hrobech
40. Nad Modřanskou roklí
41. Na Radotínských skalách
42. Klánovic zahrada
43. Řepora
44. Arboretum
45. Albrechtův vrch
46. Hemrovy skály
47. U hájenky
48. Opatřilka
49. Na Punčoše
50. U nové cesty
51. Dívčí hrady
52. U hřbitova
53. Na Rovinách
54. Kaštánka
55. Cibulka
56. Ovocné sady nad Kalvárií
57. Nad stanicí metra Motol
58. Petřínské sady
59. U Hvězdy
60. Zlodějka
61. Třešňovka pod Kozákovou skálou
62. Přírodní divadlo
63. Nad Džbánem
64. Na Krutci
65. Sad na Červeném vrchu
66. Vokovická třešňovka
67. U Malé říčky
68. Baba
69. Na propasti
70. Housle
71. Sedlecké sady
72. Podhoří
73. Čimické údolí
74. Palírka
75. Salabka
76. Havránka
77. U lisu



Fruit orchards and alleys in the city fulfil more than just a production function. Equally important are their roles as biotopes, recreational spaces, landscape features, and their value culturally.

ORCHARDS IN NUMBERS

The Environmental Protection Department of the City Hall of Prague manages 77 locations within the city that contain a total of 68 fruit orchards, covering 113 hectares; 42 separate alleys of fruit trees, with a total length of 17 km; and, in 15 cases, a scattered planting of fruit trees.

Since 2010, around 53,000 saplings have been planted at these sites. Cherry (39%), apple (25%), pear (13%), and plum (16%) make up the largest percentage of trees planted, and sour cherry (3%) and apricot (2%) the smallest. Individual mulberry, service trees and walnut trees can be also found (2%). Altogether, the locations have more than 200 different varieties of traditional fruit trees.

Published in October 2021 by Environmental Protection Department of City Hall of Prague.

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