ZINNEPOT ASBL

Self-picking charter

Season 2027

At a glance

- I only harvest the vegetables announced in the newsletter or marked with a red flag.
- I pick for my own use, vegetables to eat fresh.
- I only walk on the paths, never on the crops.
- I close the gate and the padlock when I leave.
- I do not drink the field's water or use it to wash vegetables.

The self-picking project of the Zinnepot association (ASBL) was born in 2026, when the Courtileke association moved to Kraainem and handed over to us a plot of exceptional quality, ideal for growing tasty and healthy vegetables.

The growers of the Champ du Zinnepot work according to the principles of agroecology and living-soil market gardening: they treat the soil gently, enrich it naturally with plenty of organic matter and use no synthetic products. To look after the crops, they rely above all on prevention and on a balanced ecosystem.

We aim for organic certification in 2027 and give pride of place to old varieties, grown only from non-hybrid seeds.

A community-supported farming project

The Champ du Zinnepot is inspired by Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). By subscribing, each member directly supports the growers and guarantees them a fair income. In return, members get a share of the season's vegetable production, shared fairly with the other members.

The rewards and the risks of the harvests are shared by all. This solidarity, between members and with the growers, lets the growers focus calmly on their work.

Self-picking rests on one essential principle: trust. Everyone commits to following the rules of this charter, with the other members who share the field in mind.

The team and its pay

The team is made up of Armel (full time) and Jacques (half time). During the season, seasonal workers and volunteers join them and take part in the life of the field.

The project runs without structural subsidies: it relies mainly on the members' support and the sale of the harvests. In time, this income should allow the growers to pay themselves.

Members who wish to help are welcome, with no obligation at all: the field opens to volunteers every Wednesday and Friday (sowing, planting, weeding…), for two hours or the whole day.

Other crops

The growers also grow flowers and a few soft fruits (raspberries, blackberries, strawberries). Grown mainly to support biodiversity on the plot, they may be picked by members from time to time, with no guaranteed quantity.

Seedlings are also for sale, so you can keep gardening at home.

How self-picking works

a. Principle

Each member harvests vegetables for their own use, to eat fresh.

So that everyone gets a fair share of the harvest, you may not give vegetables away, make preserves or build up stocks, or pick for large family meals or gatherings with friends, unless an abundance is explicitly announced.

b. First visit

At the start of the season, the growers organise a group welcome tour to show you the field and how to harvest. The date is announced in the newsletter.

If you join during the season, a grower shows you around the field on your first visit: arrange a time by e-mail or WhatsApp.

c. Vegetables open for harvest

Every two weeks, members receive a newsletter, in the WhatsApp group or by e-mail depending on the option chosen when registering. It lists the vegetables open for harvest, the recommended quantities where relevant and other practical information. The link to join the WhatsApp group is sent by e-mail at the start of the season.

Apart from the beds marked with a red flag (see below), only the vegetables listed in the newsletter may be harvested. A vegetable that is not listed may not be picked, even if it looks ripe or ready: only the growers know whether it still needs to grow or is being kept for later.

Sometimes the growers harvest more of a vegetable than needed. They may then leave it in the stock area, next to the container, where members can help themselves. As these vegetables are not announced in the newsletter, they are never guaranteed to be available.

On the field, a board near the container, in the middle of the plot, shows the list of vegetables open for harvest, any quantity limits and remarks, and a map of the numbered plots.

A red flag in front of a bed marks vegetables that need to go as soon as possible: they may always be harvested, with no quantity limit, even if they are not in the newsletter.

d. Quantities

The growers commit to producing enough vegetables to cover the members' needs during the warm season and to offer as many harvests as possible in winter. They still depend on the weather and on pests: if a crop yields less than planned, they do their best to offer alternatives and keep enough variety throughout the season.

Each week, the vegetables and fruit open for harvest are always worth at least what you would get in an organic shop for the price of a subscription, that is about € 10 per week.

Space is limited, so every square metre has to be used well: 1 m² holds only two cauliflowers… or up to 180 carrots! Some vegetables, such as broccoli and cauliflower, are therefore only offered at certain times of the year.

For some vegetables, a recommended quantity (per subscription, per week or per crop) is given in the newsletter and on the board. When no quantity is given, everyone judges what they can reasonably harvest, keeping in mind that the vegetables are shared with all the members.

e. Harvesting and tools

Before the season starts, you will receive the list of vegetables grown, with their harvest periods and tips for eating and storing them. Harvest instructions are posted in front of each bed, and knives and other tools are available on site.

You may also bring your own tools and gloves. Remember to bring bags, baskets or boxes to take your vegetables home.

f. Surplus

When a vegetable stays under a red flag for more than a week, the growers may sell or give it through other channels, giving priority to social aid: the vegetables may for example go to the Haren community centre for its cooking classes.

Rules on the field

On the plot, each member commits to:

- Respect the soil and the crops, walking only on the paths.
- Harvest between sunrise and sunset, any day of the week.
- Follow the harvest instructions and the quantities given.
- Put the tools, knives included, back in their place.
- Leave the greenhouses open or closed, as they found them.
- Keep an eye on their children: parents are responsible for any damage they cause.

Dogs are welcome on the field, but not in the cultivated plots: tie your dog up near the container while you harvest and pick up after it.

The water on site is not drinkable. It is only for irrigation and may not be used to wash vegetables: wash them at home with drinking water.

Getting there

Whenever possible, come on foot or by bike. By car, it is usually easy to park at the start of the rue des Jardins Potagers, opposite the STIB entrance. By public transport, Haren-Sud station is a 500 m walk away and the Biplan stop (bus 80) is right next to the entrance gate.

The entrance gate is locked with a combination padlock so that only members can get in. The code changes from time to time and is given in the newsletter. Please close the gate and the padlock

properly when you leave.

Prevention and reporting

The vegetables of the Champ du Zinnepot are for members who have paid their subscription. Any member may therefore speak to anyone on the field and report any suspected abuse, theft or behaviour that harms the project.

To get to know each other, we invite members to take part in the review meeting and the shared work days, whose dates are announced in the newsletter, and to chat with each other on the field. If you see a situation you cannot handle, contact the growers.

Breaking the charter

If a member does not follow the charter, the growers act step by step: first a reminder of the rules, then a talk with the member. If the problem continues, the growers may decide to end their membership.

Photos

The Zinnepot association does not publish photos of its members, neither on its website nor on social media.

Membership and formalities

Each household freely chooses how many subscriptions it needs, whatever its size. Everyone chooses their price according to their means, in a spirit of solidarity with the growers and with the other members:

- Solidarity price: € 350 / season, or € 9 / week
  A reduced price for small budgets.
- Fair price: € 390 / season, or € 10 / week
  The price that pays the growers a decent wage and keeps the project going.
- Support price: € 430 / season, or € 11 / week
  A price that funds the solidarity subscriptions without cutting the growers' wages.
- Support plus price: € 510 / season, or € 13 / week
  For those who want to support the project even more.

Payment is made in two parts: 50% when registering and 50% at the beginning of August. If the second payment is not received, you will get a reminder, then the growers will talk it over with you to find a solution.

The subscription is a commitment for the whole season: it is not refunded if you stop during the season (moving house, lack of time…). The 14-day right of withdrawal provided by law for online registrations still applies.

If you are away for 3 weeks or more, someone may replace you on the following conditions:

- One and the same household replaces you for the whole period.
- They harvest no more than your subscriptions allow.

- You teach them self-picking before you leave.
- You introduce them to the growers in advance, in person or with a photo.

The 2027 season runs from 22 March to 19 December.

The Zinnepot association accepts no liability for any accident or damage on the field: your own liability (and insurance) applies.

When you register online, you accept the conditions set out in this charter by ticking the box “I have read and accept the self-picking charter”.

Personal data protection

The data you give us (name, e-mail address, phone number, postal address) is only used to manage your subscription and to send you the newsletter and news from the field. It is never sold or passed on to third parties.

Baticrea SC and the Zinnepot association are joint controllers of this data. It is kept during your membership, then for 2 years after your last subscription ends.

If you join the WhatsApp group, your name and phone number are visible to the other members of the group.

You can ask at any time to see, correct or delete your data by writing to zinnepot@gmail.com, our single contact point for these requests. The details (processors, retention periods, right to complain) are on the “Legal notice and privacy” page of www.zinnepot.be.

Contact

- E-mail: zinnepot@gmail.com
- WhatsApp: 0451/01.54.96 (messages only, no calls)
- The field: Rue de Verdun 145-153, 1130 Bruxelles-Haren
- Website: www.zinnepot.be