

A1.3.5 ProSpecieRara Sortenfinder and Karte der Vielfalt

Country/Countries: Switzerland (with a German sister organisation)

Organization/Host: Stiftung ProSpecieRara

Website:

<https://www.prospecierara.ch/pflanzen/sortenfinder/>

Year of launch: Foundation established 1982; the online Sortenfinder database was developed subsequently

Development phase: Fully operational tool

Aims and goals: Information/content sharing; Product evaluation/comparison of varieties; Networking, creating linkages among users; Marketing of products (sourcing)

Target audience: Citizens; Home gardeners; Farmers; Customers and consumers

Average monthly users: No data available; the database covers approximately 4,000 varieties

Description:

The Sortenfinder (“variety finder”) is ProSpecieRara’s public online variety database, holding information roughly 4,000 vegetable, ornamental, berry, potato, fruit and cereal varieties. It allows users to search, compare and evaluate rare and historic varieties against specific characteristics, and identifies where seed or planting material for each variety can be obtained. It is complemented by the “Karte der Vielfalt” (map of diversity), which shows where ProSpecieRara-labelled products can be bought across Switzerland and which holdings keep which breeds. Together, the two form an assessment-and-sourcing tool for cultivated agrobiodiversity.



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Key features:

- Searchable catalogue of approximately 4,000 varieties with continuously updated descriptions.
- Targeted search by individual characteristics such as light requirement, flower colour or storage suitability, supporting variety comparison and selection.
- Cultivation and propagation guidance for each variety, downloadable as PDF.
- Identification of commercial suppliers — all ProSpecieRara quality-label holders such as nurseries, seed traders and retail partners — from whom seed or planting material of a given variety can be purchased, flagged as “commercial offer”.
- A separate supply route for the organisation’s supporters, served by volunteer variety custodians through the conservation network.
- “Karte der Vielfalt” interactive map of quality-label holdings and points of sale across Switzerland.
- “Tierische Raritäten” companion platform matching livestock keepers with breeding animals of rare breeds.
- Seasonal seedling markets (April–May) and an autumn plant market, offering over 500 varieties for purchase in person.

User guidance:

Explanatory guidance on how to use the Sortenfinder (in DE/FR/IT) is published at <https://www.prospecierara.de/sortenvielfalt-erhalten/sortenfinder/sortenfinder-infos.html>

Similar apps/tools:

Sementes Vivas e-shop; Sativa Rheinau e-shop; SeedLinked; INCREASE Citizen Science App

