

# The Garden of 100 Scents

## Aroma Garden in Erlangen



**What exudes such intensive fragrances of sage, lavender and eucalyptus was actually supposed to have become a helicopter landing site 20 years ago. But it isn't the downwash from rotor blades that blows across the site at the "Palmsanlage" in Erlangen today; instead, the beguiling scents of the Aroma Garden waft through the air.**



Many years ago, Professor Karl Knobloch of the Institute for Botany and Pharmaceutical Biology at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg had been harboring an idea: To create a garden containing spice and

medicinal plants from the various cultures of the world. Knobloch dreamed of a site on which shrubs, bushes and trees from regions around the entire globe would be able to grow next to one another. Plants that mostly produce highly effective essential oils and that have traditionally served in the production of pharmaceuticals, spices or cosmetics. Both traditional as well as new strains were to thrive side by side – a kind of living textbook that scientists, visitors and neighbors would be able to smell, see and touch.

The concept was well received, a site was found, and in 1979 the first seeds could be sown, the first shrubs planted. After less than two years, in the summer of 1981, Knobloch was then able to present "his" Aroma Garden, the world's first garden of its type, to the public.

Today, this fragrant oasis has long



receiving worldwide recognition for their work. More than 100 plants are vying to out-bloom one another in Erlangen – yet without bothering one another, because each has sufficient space to develop freely. And the numerous visitors to the Aroma Garden – ranging from students to homemakers to nature lovers or cooks – can also develop freely – as they observe and analyze, inhale deeply and simply enjoy themselves to their heart's content.

since become sought-after research terrain. Scientists from the fields of pharmacology, medicine, food and food technology are using it to broaden our knowledge of aromatic plants and essential oils – and