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| **Andreas Niepel** |
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| Andreas Niepel is a gardener, phytotherapist, systemic coach, registered garden therapist with the IGGT and since 1992 head of the garden therapy department, VAMED Clinic, Hattingen, a specialized clinic for neurological rehabilitation.  He also runs a planning and consulting office, which has been involved in various therapeutic garden projects in the field of rehabilitation and care.  Andreas is a co-partner of "Gärten helfen Leben" (Gardens help life), the institute for garden therapy, which provides further education courses in garden therapy in German-speaking countries and worldwide, currently in Poland and northern Iraq. In 2002 in Bad Lippspringe with the Bildungsstätte Gartenbau Grünberg, he initiated the 1st German "Garden & Therapy" Congress as well as organising the Grünberg Garden Therapy Days, an annual fixture since then. In 2005 with Silke Emmrich he published the first German garden reference book on therapeutic gardening (Garten und Therapie- Wege zur Barrierefreiheit from Eugen Ulmer books) and in 2007 in the publishing house the first therapeutic reference book on this topic (Gartentherapie, Hrsg: Deutscher Verband der Ergotherapeuten, Schulz – Kirchner books). Also with Schulz – Kirchner books he published Praxisbuch Gartentherapie (2009) in collaboration with Thomas Pfister and Praxishandbuch Gartentherapie (2020) with Gabriele Vef- Georg. Andreas has published several other books and papers with various collaborators including an integrative treatment concept for people with neurocognitive disorders. He’s working on a book about the positive effects of gardening on mental health, to be published in May 2022.  Andreas Niepel has experience of working in a variety of settings including several internships at the NYU Langone Medical Centre in New York among other institutions in the USA and has taught for years on the Greenspace & Health module, University of Applied Sciences Wädenswil, Switzerland. He was significantly involved in the development of the first German-language continuing education courses and degree programs in garden therapy and green care HTW Saarland, Danube University Krems (Austria) and Gärten helfen Leben , Cologne and teaches there.  Andreas Niepel is an advisor for the Kuratorium Deutsche Altershilfe and a member of the editorial board of Green Care magazine. He was on the scientific advisory board of the BDG for many years, covering gardens and health.  Since 2009 he’s been president of the umbrella organization for garden therapy, the International Society Garden Therapy (IGGT). |