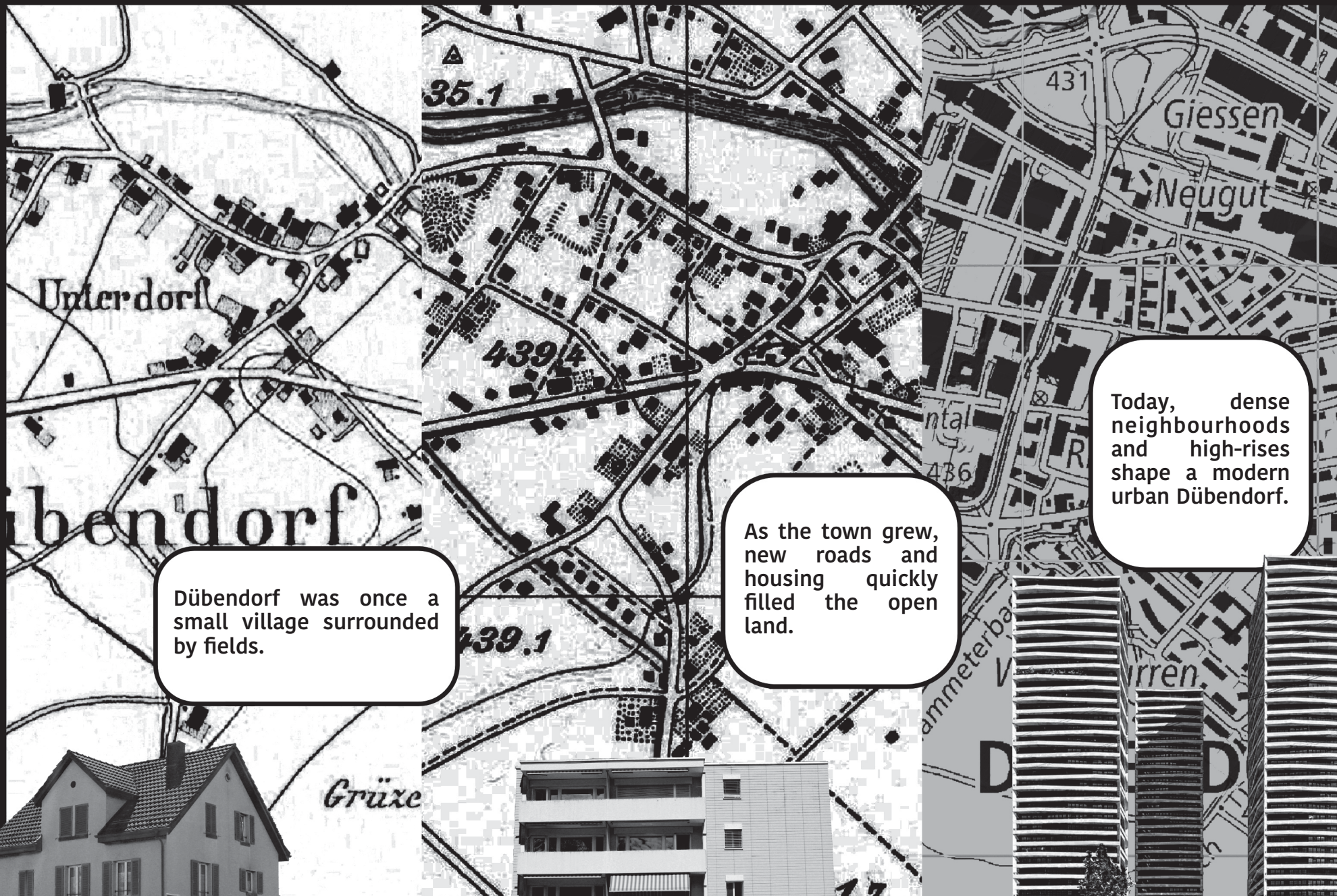


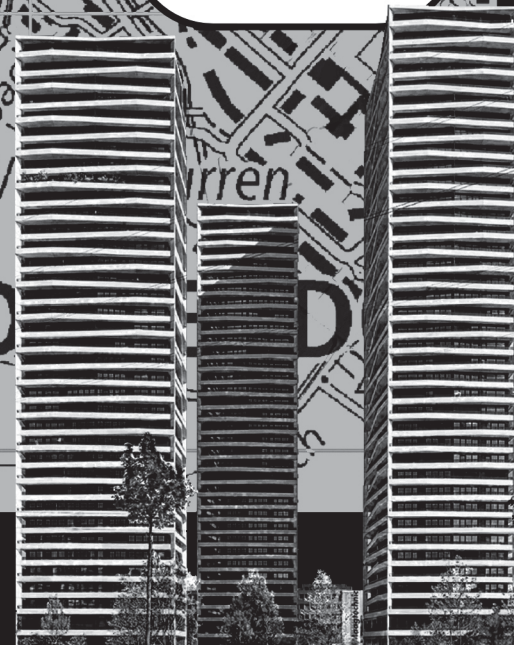
Growing tales
Looking into Dübendorf

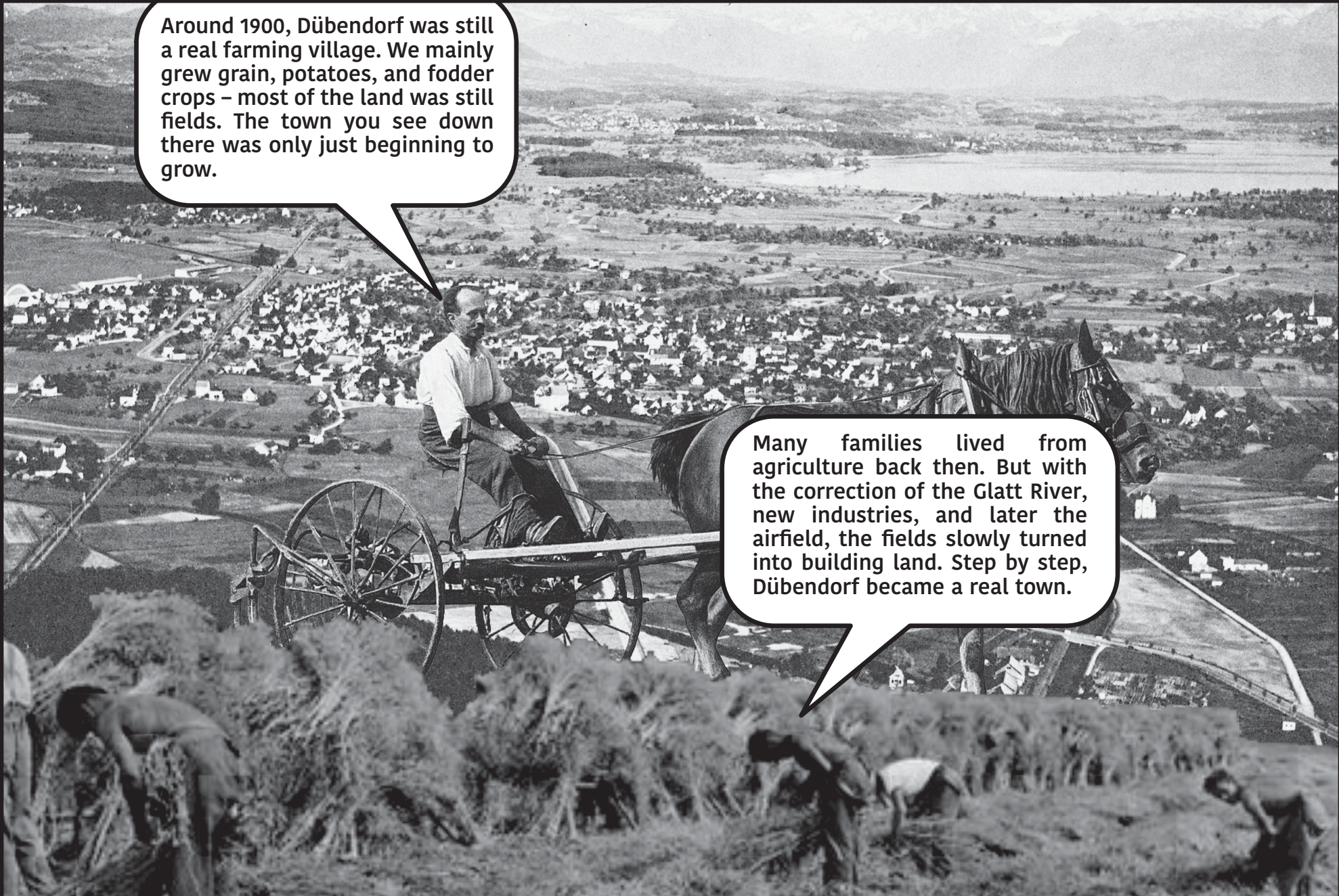


Dübendorf was once a small village surrounded by fields.

As the town grew, new roads and housing quickly filled the open land.

Today, dense neighbourhoods and high-rises shape a modern urban Dübendorf.

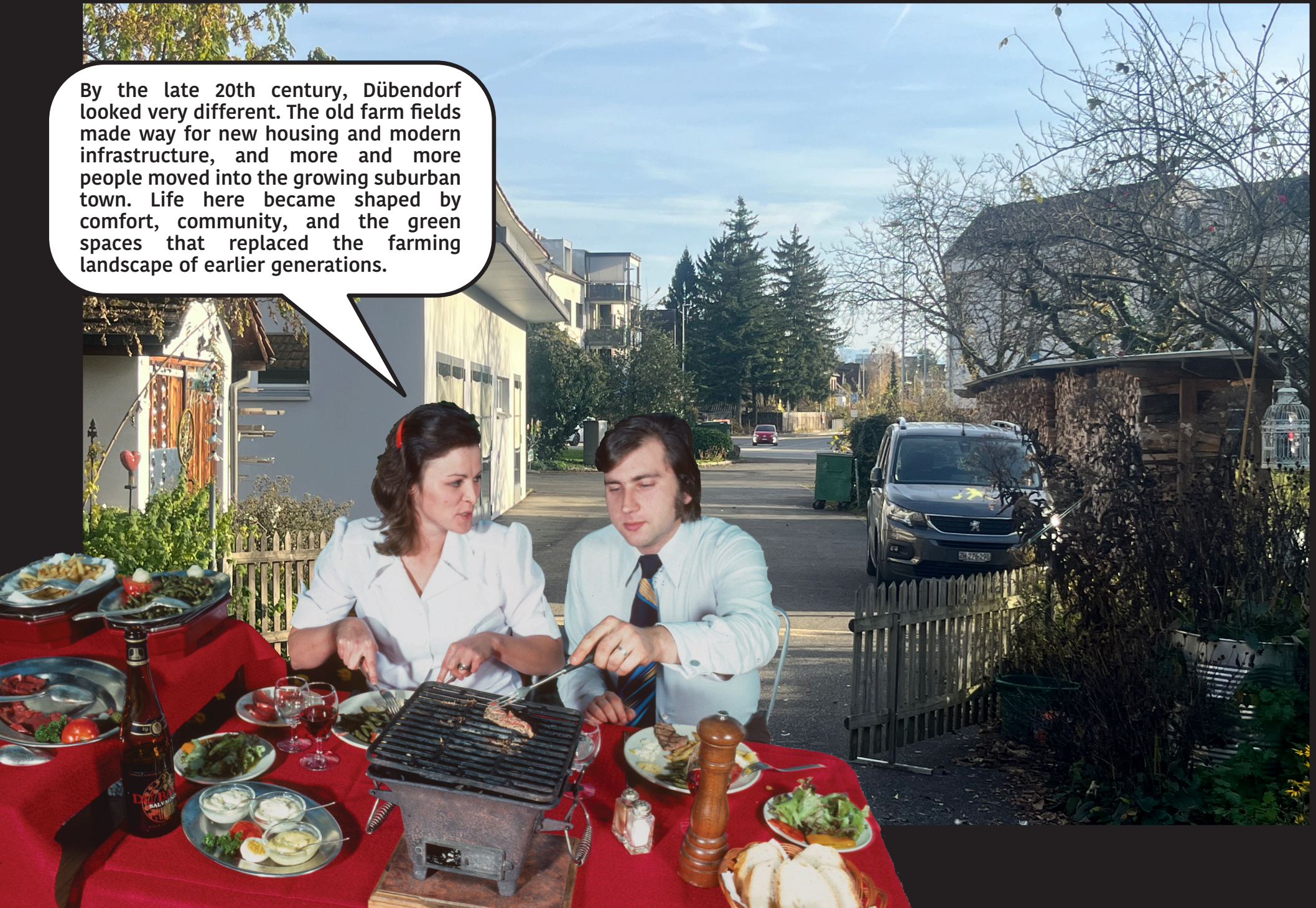


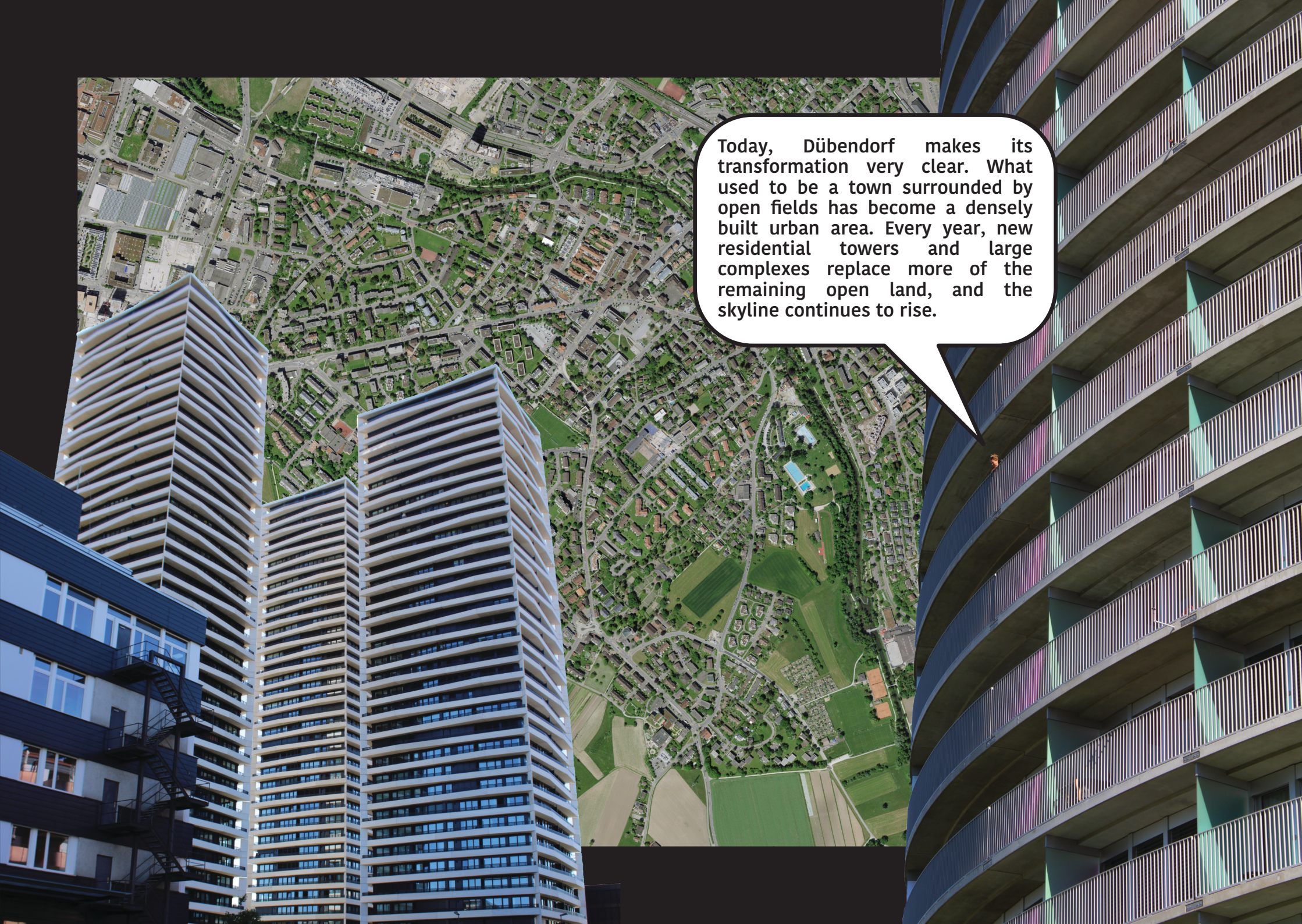


Around 1900, Dübendorf was still a real farming village. We mainly grew grain, potatoes, and fodder crops – most of the land was still fields. The town you see down there was only just beginning to grow.

Many families lived from agriculture back then. But with the correction of the Glatt River, new industries, and later the airfield, the fields slowly turned into building land. Step by step, Dübendorf became a real town.

By the late 20th century, Dübendorf looked very different. The old farm fields made way for new housing and modern infrastructure, and more and more people moved into the growing suburban town. Life here became shaped by comfort, community, and the green spaces that replaced the farming landscape of earlier generations.



The image is a composite. The background is an aerial photograph of Dübendorf, showing a dense urban area with a mix of residential buildings, green spaces, and some open land. In the foreground, there are two modern residential towers with a distinctive wavy, white facade and blue-tinted windows. To the right, a curved building with multiple balconies and colorful railings is visible. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image, containing text about the town's transformation.

Today, Dübendorf makes its transformation very clear. What used to be a town surrounded by open fields has become a densely built urban area. Every year, new residential towers and large complexes replace more of the remaining open land, and the skyline continues to rise.



From here, you can see how the city keeps growing. Every new building on the horizon means less open land for farming and grazing. These fields are some of the last pieces of the landscape that once shaped Dübendorf.

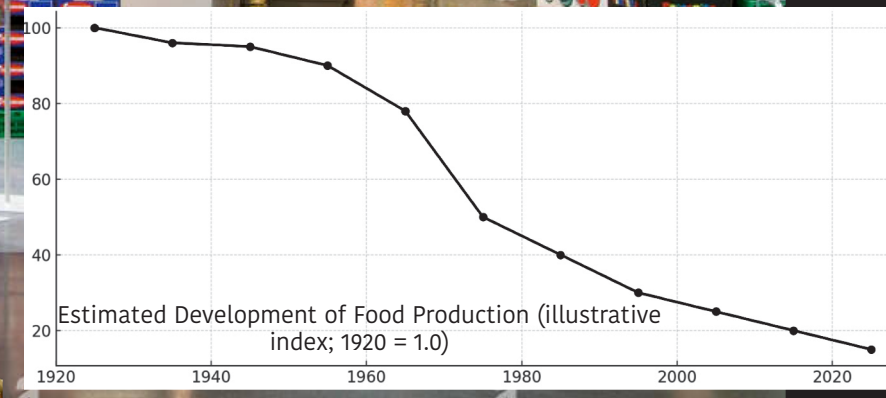
Our pasture keeps getting smaller every year, as the city slowly grows closer to our last open fields.

(relative to 1920 = 1.0)

coop

Most people now buy all their food in large supermarkets, far removed from the way families once grew, harvested, and prepared their own produce. With every generation, the connection to local farming and self-sufficiency fades a little more, replaced by convenience and global supply chains.

I travelled all the way from Albania to be eaten here.



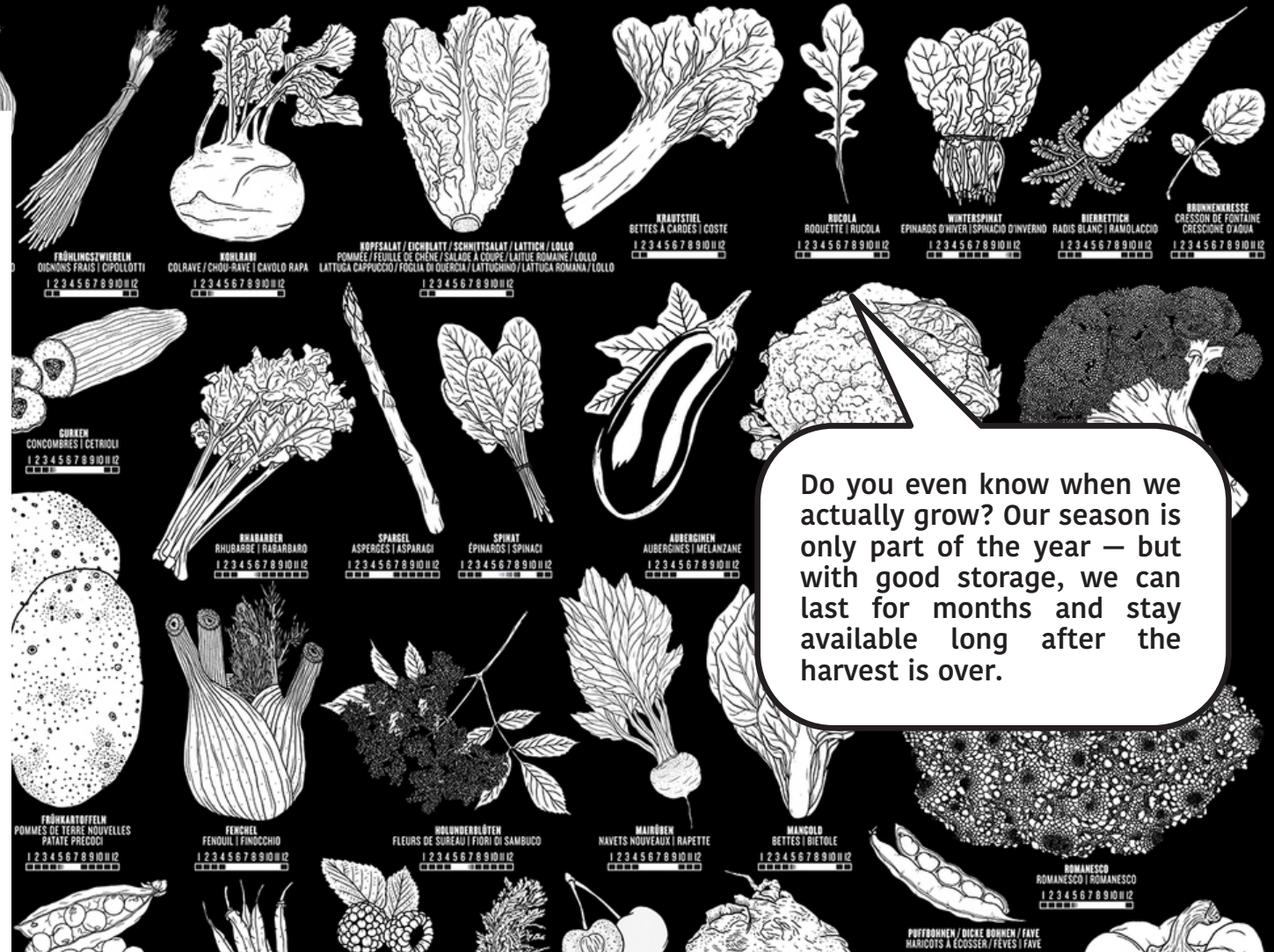
CALENDARIUM CULINARIUM

HEN GEMÜSE- UND FRÜCHTESORTEN | FRAIS, BIOLOGIQUE ET LOCAL: LE CALENDRIER SUISSE DE 100 FRUITS ET LÉGUMES DE SAISON | FRESCO, ORGANICO E REGIONALE: IL CALENDARIO PER 100 VARIETÀ DI FRUTTA E VERDURA SVIZZERA DI STAGIONE

Vegetables

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Artichoke												
Asparagus												
Autumn turnip												
Batavia lettuce												
Beans												
Beetroot												
Bell peppers												
Black salsify												
Broccoli												
Brussels sprouts												
Carrot												
Catalogna												
Cauliflower												
Celeriac												
Chickpeas												
Chicory												
Chinese cabbage												
Cicorino rosso												
Courgette												
Cucumber												
Eggplant												
Endive salad												
Fennel												
Flower sprouts												
Garlic												
Head Lettuce												
Iceberg lettuce												
Jerusalem artichoke												
Kale												
Kardy												
Kohlrabi												
Lamb's lettuce												
Leek												
Lentils												
Lettuce												

● Harvest ○ Available in the shop

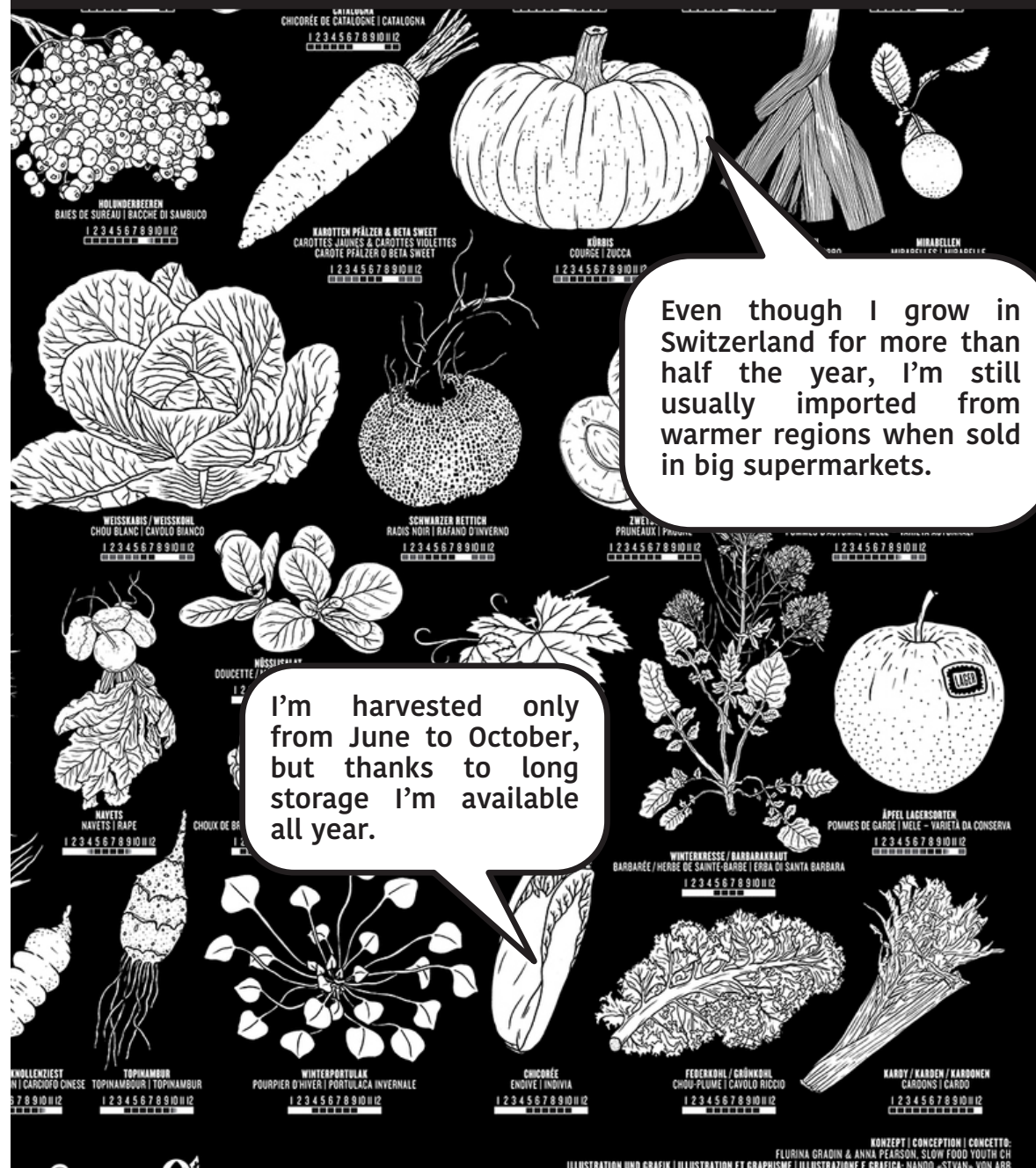


Do you even know when we actually grow? Our season is only part of the year – but with good storage, we can last for months and stay available long after the harvest is over.

Vegetables

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Lollo				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Lupin	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Melon						●	●	●	●			
Oak leaf lettuce			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Onion	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pak-choi				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Palm kale	●	●	●								●	●
Parsley root	●	●								●	●	●
Parsnip	●	●	●				●	●	●	●	●	●
Patisson squash							●	●	●			
Peas						●	●					
Pointed cabbage	●	●	●	●					●	●	●	●
Potato	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pumpkin	●	●						●	●	●	●	●
Quinoa	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Radish			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Red cabbage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rhubarb				●	●	●						
Rocket			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Romanesco					●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rutabaga	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●
Savoy cabbage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Shallot	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Small radish	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Soy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Spinach			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Stalk celery					●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sugar pea						●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sugarloaf chicory	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sweet corn								●	●	●	●	●
Sweet potato	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Swiss chard			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tomato				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Turnip				●	●	●						
White cabbage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● Harvest ● Available in the shop



Fruit

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Apple	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Apricot						●	●	●	●			
Aronia berries								●	●	●		
Blackberries						●	●	●	●			
Blueberries							●	●	●			
Cherry						●	●	●				
Cranberries						●	●	●	●	●		
Figs								●	●			
Goji berries								●	●			
Gooseberries						●	●	●	●			
Grape								●	●	●		
Kiwi	●	●	●	●						●	●	●
Mini kiwi									●	●		
Mirabelle plum								●	●			
Nectarine							●	●				
Peach							●	●				
Pear	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Plum							●	●	●			
Quince									●	●	●	
Raspberries						●	●	●	●			
Redcurrants						●	●	●				
Strawberries					●	●	●	●	●			

● Harvest

● Available in the shop

As an apple, I'm the only fruit grown in Switzerland that can feed you all year long.

Herbs

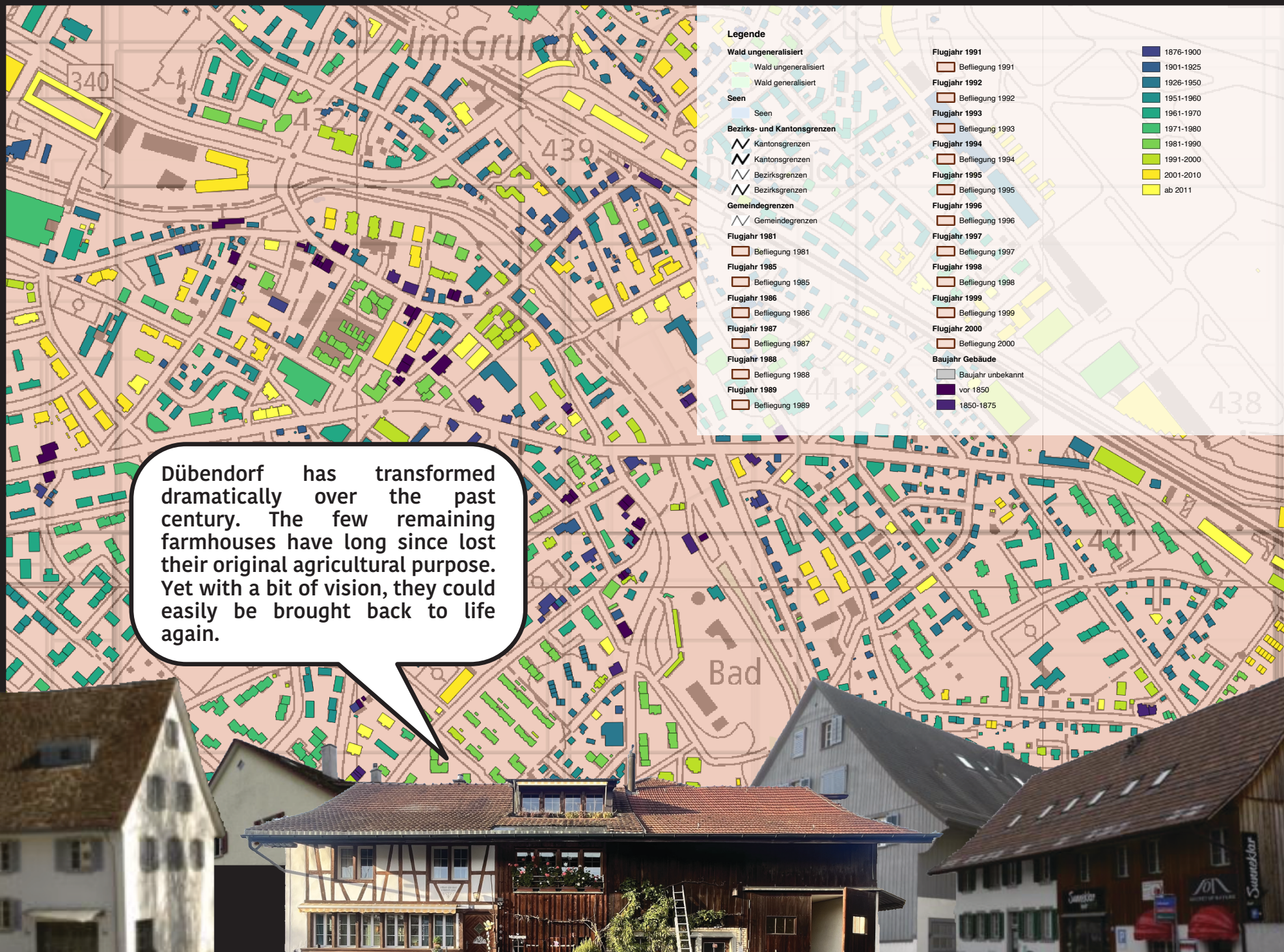
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Basil	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chamomile	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chives	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Coriander	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cress			●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Crimson beebalm	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Dill	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Elder	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lemon balm	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lovage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Marjoram	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Oregano	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Parsley				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Peppermint	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Purslane	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rosehip	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rosemary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Saffron	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tarragon	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Wild garlic			●	●								

● Harvest

○ Available in the shop

I grow best in warm weather, and even a cool breeze can slow me down — that's why most of my winter leaves come from greenhouses.

I'm hardy, but my flavor disappears so fast — that's why you can't store me for long.



Dübendorf has transformed dramatically over the past century. The few remaining farmhouses have long since lost their original agricultural purpose. Yet with a bit of vision, they could easily be brought back to life again.



I've been scratching around this farmhouse for years. Back when the barn was full and the fields were busy, there was always something tasty for me to find. Now the rooms stand quiet and the humans just live here — so I wander through the leftovers of old times, clucking at what's gone.

Welcome! This farmhouse has been my home all my life, but now it's far too big for just my wife and me — especially with the old barn and work rooms no longer in use. Let me show you around!



A photograph of a man with white hair, wearing a green t-shirt, standing in a dark, cluttered barn. He is looking upwards and to the left, with his arms crossed. In the background, there is a wooden structure with a yellow cushioned seat and various pipes and beams. A speech bubble is positioned above him, containing text.

The barn is really just a storage space now; its original purpose is long gone. Most days, we hardly step in here at all.



This workshop stands completely empty today. No one really uses it anymore, and most days it just sits here untouched. It's a shame, because the space still has a lot of potential. I could easily imagine it becoming a small neighbourhood shop.



It's surprising how much open space still sits beside this old house. You can almost imagine adding a new wing here. Maybe it could serve a new purpose instead of standing unused. Perhaps even reconnecting to its original role in planting and small-scale farming. An idea like that makes sense today, since hardly anyone cultivates these old farmhouse plots anymore.

A photograph of a man in a green polo shirt and black shorts standing in a grassy field. He is looking towards a rain-fed basin in the background. The basin is a shallow, rectangular pool of water surrounded by a low wall. The water reflects the surrounding trees and sky. In the foreground, there is a large, light-colored, rounded object, possibly a barrel or a container. The background features a fence, trees, and a building.

Everything needed to bring this land back into small-scale agriculture is already here, from open soil ready for planting to a rain-fed basin that can support irrigation.

A photograph of a traditional German half-timbered house. The upper floor is white with dark brown timber framing, while the lower floor and side walls are made of dark wood. A man in a green shirt and dark shorts is crouching on a cobblestone courtyard, feeding several white chickens. To the left, there is an outdoor seating area with a yellow table, a blue bench, and various potted plants. A speech bubble is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text. The house has a tiled roof and a small balcony with a flower box filled with pink and white flowers. A sign above the door reads 'WILKOMMEN'. A plaque on the wall mentions 'erbaut anno 1860' and 'renoviert 1969'.

I hope you enjoyed this little tour around the place. It would mean so much to me to see this plot come alive again. A space that brings the neighbourhood together, just like it used to. A place where growing, sharing and caring are part of everyday life. Reviving its old purpose could truly support self-sufficiency and sustainability.

In Dübendorf, families can join this association to rent small garden plots, learn about sustainable growing methods, and keep local traditions alive. It also supports biodiversity, strengthens neighbourhood connections, and protects green spaces in a city that keeps getting denser. It's a place to learn, relax, and enjoy nature together right in their own town.



There's always something to discover here, from tiny seedlings to big harvests. That's why I love our family garden — we all help, learn, and grow side by side.



A vibrant garden scene featuring tall purple Salvia flowers in the foreground. To the right, a beehive made of stacked concrete blocks sits on the ground. In the background, a wooden building with a red roof is visible, adorned with a flower arch and several flags, including the Swiss flag. A bee is captured in flight near the purple flowers.

I'm buzzing through the Buen area in Dübendorf — right by the Glatt. Thanks to the VFD gardens here, we bees find flowers and food all season long.

A photograph of a lush garden plot. In the foreground, a stone birdbath sits on a pedestal, with two small birds perched on its rim. To the right, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey patterned top, stands amidst a dense garden of sunflowers and pink flowers. A paved path leads into the background, flanked by greenery and small wooden huts. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image, containing text about the Chriesbad-Unterried area in Dübendorf.

This is the Chriesbad-Unterried area in Dübendorf. Our garden plots here are surrounded by old trees, small huts, and lots of biodiversity — a quiet green corner in the middle of a growing city.



This is the Ifang area in Dübendorf — one of the oldest family-garden sites in town. I love how the mix of vegetables, flowers, and fruit trees makes this place feel like a tiny green village.

The Ifang gardens are perfect for me — so many flowers to feed on and quiet corners to rest in. Spaces like this help butterflies survive in a busy city.

A woman with glasses and a dark blue shirt is crouching in a garden, holding a massive orange pumpkin with green mottled patterns. The garden is filled with various plants, including leafy greens and tall stalks. In the background, there are green planters, a white covered structure, and a chain-link fence. A speech bubble is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Welcome to the Trübacker area in
Dübendorf! Our plots are known
for rich soil and plenty of space —
perfect for growing giant
pumpkins like mine.

Here in the Zelgi gardens, we worked hard to create a space full of biodiversity — and it paid off: our family won this year's VFD competition!





We also enjoy our free days outside with a Family BBQ and all the vegetables are from the neighborhood.

This small greenhouse works well for now, but if i am honest a bit small. Sometimes i wonder if we could grow more if we had a bigger one.



I like to think that this old house might still have another life ahead of it. Right now, it stands without direction, but with an extension, it could transform — maybe into a hub of cultivation, activity, and shared growth. Nothing is fixed, but the possibility is there.

