

REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE ALLERGENS

TESTING and DEMONSTRATING the responsibility of suspected pollen allergens
 Skin tests are the simplest and cheapest way of investigating hypersensitivity to a large number of suspected pollen species.

Taxa that can be identified by microscopic analysis	< 2015	2019 CH Registered (or available) [(✓) only on special request]					Other Allergens available abroad (EU or USA)
		ALLERGIOMED	ALK	BENCARD	STALLERGENES	STALLERGENES GREER (from 2020)	
TREE POLLEN							
Alder	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)	
Hazel	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)	
Birch	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)	
Hornbeam	✓						
Hophornbeam	✓						
Willow	✓	✓		✓		(✓)	
Poplar	✓			✓		(✓)	
Elm	✓	(✓)		✓		(✓)	
Olive family	✓						
Ash	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)	
Olive	✓	(✓)				(✓)	✓
Privet	✓						✓
Plane	✓	✓		✓		(✓)	
Oak	✓	(✓)	✓	✓		(✓)	
Beech	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)	
Chestnut	✓					(✓)	✓
Maple	✓						✓
Lime	✓	(✓)					
Yew	✓						
Cypress family	✓						
Cypress	✓	✓				(✓)	✓
Spruce	✓						
Pine	✓					(✓)	
Cedar	✓					(✓)	✓
Horsechestnut	✓						✓
Walnut	✓					(✓)	
Elder	✓					(✓)	
Varia (regional)							
Locust tree	✓	(✓)				(✓)	
GRASSES POLLEN							
Grasses mix	✓					(✓)	
Grasses 5/6	✓	✓	✓				
Grasses 12	✓			✓			
Timothy	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)	
Bluegrass	✓	(✓)					
Fescue	✓						
Grasses/cereals	✓	✓				(✓)	
Rye	✓	(✓)	✓	✓		(✓)	
Maize	✓					(✓)	
Barley	✓	(✓)				(✓)	
Wheat	✓	(✓)				(✓)	✓
Oats	✓	(✓)				(✓)	
HERBS and WEEDS							
Sorrel	✓					(✓)	✓
Plantain	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)	
Amarant family	✓					(✓)	
Goosefoot	✓			✓		(✓)	
Orache	✓			✓			
Nettle family	✓	(✓)					✓
Nettle	✓			✓		(✓)	
Sedge family						(✓)	
(in house) Sedge							
Mugwort	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)	
Ragweed	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)	
Daisy family	✓					(✓)	✓
Cocklebur	✓						
Goldenrod	✓					(✓)	✓
Dandelion	✓	(✓)				(✓)	
Cabbage family							
Mustard	✓					(✓)	
Varia (regional)							
Pellitory	✓	(✓)				(✓)	✓

Skin tests have been used for that purpose since 1904. Pollen extracts were used initially for IDR, and since the end of the 80's in Prick-tests. Since the 1990's, in vitro specific IgE quantification towards the allergens identified by skin tests consolidate the diagnosis of hypersensitivity to the suspected allergen(s), allowing thus a higher precision in the choice of treatment and specific immunotherapy.

Switzerland has a very good network of pollen stations, recognised across Europe and in the World. It will have soon the **most modern** network equipped with **automated stations**. Allergists and epidemiologists have now available the best tools to observe the effect of climate changes.

Unwise administrative measures have unfortunately in the same time restricted the use and number of available pollen allergens. These are necessary for allergists to assume their task as «sentinels» of public health problems related to environmental changes.

Reduction of the number of available allergens endangers both diagnosis and treatment

Under-recognition and under-diagnosis of public health problems. Biased incidence and epidemiology. Reduction of the list of *in vivo* available allergens. Reduction of the list of *in vitro* available allergens. Reduced options for specific immunotherapy.

**No specific allergen available →
 !!! No specific treatment !!!**