

France : Marseilles: Setting up of beehives

Our motivation to set up beehives in our allotment gardens was not only due to our wish to stimulate pollination and biodiversity but above all due to our recognition that bees really are in danger. This is our modest contribution to their protection.

On our allotment site of Mazargues, comprising a surface of 3 hectares, we implanted a dozen beehives in one part of the pine grove, a little bit away from the gardens, in order to guarantee a perfect calm to both bees and gardeners.

A 1.5 metres high fence with screen will be put up around the beehives.

Their installation was favoured by the signing of a convention between GrDF (Gas Network Distribution France), a professional beekeeper and our association. Five gardeners will be trained by the beekeeper. The aim is that afterwards they will be autonomous in the work with the bees and that they can pass on their knowledge to other interested gardeners. Additionally, books on beekeeping will be put at their disposal.

By the end of the season we hope to be able to give some honey from our harvest to every allotment gardener. Our special thanks go to Georges Collini who created the logo of the beehives and took all the pictures from the gardens.

Nicole Gelli and Nadine Escudier, members of the Marseilles allotment association.

Similar projects are realized in other French regions for example by the associations Falaise (Calvados) and Ferney-Voltaire as well as in other federations for example by the association Luxembourg-Merl in Luxembourg, the associations Neugrabener Moor in Hamburg and an der Vils in Amberg in Germany, the association Tuinwijck in Groningen in the Netherlands to quote only these few.



