

**The allotment gardens around Paris have taken on a new lease of life**

**Soon we will find the first allotment gardens with a quality label!**



Five years ago the group ECOCERT, an international control and certification organism for agriculture and biological food, has created the label Eve® (Espaces Verts Ecologiques® = Green Ecological Spaces®). This latter was first of all meant for local authorities willing to reduce their “ecological pressure” on the green spaces they had to care for, through a differentiated management plan.

Since the first certification of a site belonging to the town of Paris in 2006, many other local authorities or private managers have started to go in this direction. Now it is our turn!

The first “ecological” quality label will be asked for the “Conseil Général des Hauts de Seine” (regional authority of the Hauts de Seine) for the entire Chemin de l’Ile regional parc in Nanterre. Then the federation will start all the necessary work so that the sites of Tram Val de Seine in St. Cloud (92) of the Parc de la Poudrerie in Sevran (93) and of Marolles in Hurepoix (91) can get this quality label too.

We chose very different sites, offering a representative view of our gardens around Paris, as well as of course considering positive ecological potential. An audit will be made in autumn by ECOCERT in order to confirm the commitment of these sites to apply our charter on “Gardening and

Environment” which insists on a natural management of the soil, water, green waste and biodiversity.

We wish of course that this will only be a first step towards a generalisation of this label which will increase the value of the allotment gardeners’ efforts and will allow the (French) federation to be an undeniable actor in making environmental concerns being taken into consideration.