

We care for the future

Exchange of plants (Pyrénées orientales), France

For more than 10 years we have been organising plant exchanges in the region of the “Pyrénées orientales”. If I say “we”, I refer to my allotment garden friends who above all like to collect ornamental plants and who wanted to share their passion or simply their interest for the garden or this or that plant family. And this is why we started our first exchanges.

These exchanges are mostly organised in spring, even if this is not the best period to replant Mediterranean plants. However, the exchanges provoke an increasing interest and we have now added a fourth meeting to our yearly calendar. So the first Sunday in May we have our annual meeting in Albère, a small commune on the Spanish border and our South Catalan garden friends join in too.

The principle is very easy and was rapidly understood by all. As we know that there will be plant exchanges, we prepare our shoots in autumn or at any other occasion when we work in our garden. Mostly the cuttings of plants give us the greatest part for the exchanges, without forgetting the seedlings and the off-shoots which we prefer. We also exchange bulbs and, but less commonly seeds because they are exchanged all year long, now even by certain libraries. It is possible to exchange everything and we exchange above all cultivation advice, how to associate plants, experiences, addresses..... The botanical encyclopaedia as well as reference books are at our disposal to find complicated names and plant families.

The kitchen garden is also represented, above all by ancient varieties of tomatoes, salads, cabbage, strawberries.....and there are as well cacti, irises, fig trees, aromatic plants.....

This activity will also be continued in 2017. An important event will take place in Paulilles on March 26th 2017 during the Week against pesticides.

Maryse Fraudet, Co-ambassador of the French allotment garden federation (Pyrénées orientales)

