

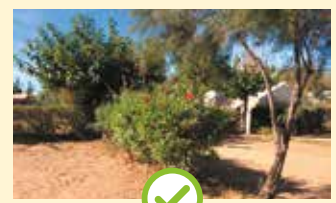
harmony : our recommendations



▶ Pathways
As essential routes, paths need permeable coverings: consolidated soil, hollow core slabs, porous concrete, etc. Plant structures play an important role as wind breaks and visual screens.



▶ Sea front area
Whether they are for a play area or any other space providing a route to the sea, plants must be salt and sand resistant.



▶ Toilet and shower block
The practical and comfort aspect of these meeting points must be combined with quality architecture and landscaping (planting with shrubs and climbers). This is also a key area for provision of information about the things people can do to save water.



Sustainable water management by focusing on the Mediterranean identity

This guide was designed as a follow-on from a water consumption audit at 4 campsites in the west Hérault area. It takes the form of a generic summary of the main recommendations of Enfora, an engineering firm specialising in landscape planning, and the Hérault Conseil d'Architecture, environnement et d'Urbanisme (CAUE 34).

Campsites have been the subject of particular attention as part of the European Castwater cooperation project. The objective being to support their quality upgrading measures, in keeping with efficient water resource management.

In this respect, a self-assessment tool was created to provide facilities with a preliminary diagnosis and a preferred choice of water saving measures. This online tool is freely accessible to all water management facilities:
<https://www.castwater-tool.ceid.upatras.gr/?lang=fr>

Towards zero use of plant protection products

In 2019 the Labbé law banned the use of pesticides in places used by the general public. A regional charter of commitment to zero use of plant protection products ("Engagé Zéro Phyto") is available to managers of tourist and leisure facilities to help them find alternatives. It is delivered by FREDON Occitanie, the regional prefecture, the Occitanie Region, the regional health authority and the Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Authority.

- Their purpose is to support facility managers:**
- The Hérault Conseil d'Architecture d'Urbanisme et de l'Environnement (CAUE)
 - Landscape design companies
 - Nurseries and producers



This guide was designed and produced by the Department of Hérault with the participation of Enfora and CAUE 34.

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CAMPSITES ON THE HÉRAULT COAST rethinking landscape planning

Practical guide for sustainable green spaces



Reducing water consumption and improving the facility

At a time of threatened water scarcity, especially during the summer, and increasing demand from tourism for responsible hospitality, accommodation and leisure, outdoor accommodation providers must adapt by participating in the ecological movement.

Customers see plant life as a crucial aspect of the campsite environment. Plants not only provide a vehicle for biodiversity but also improve the site, border pathways, provide shade and maintain the privacy of each plot.

In recent years private and public operators have made a joint effort to redevelop their facilities with a view to overall water savings and plant maintenance as well as promoting the Mediterranean identity.

The Department of Hérault hopes this guide will help you with this eco-responsible approach.

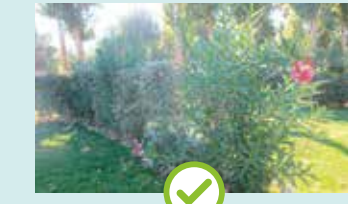


Creating landscape

The campsite is a landscape facility which blends perfectly into its natural environment. For all parts of the site, regardless of their purpose (reception, toilet and shower block, paths, play areas, etc.), the most appropriate plants must be selected from a range of Mediterranean plants. The ultimate aim being to ensure plant self-sufficiency with minimum watering and maintenance requirements.



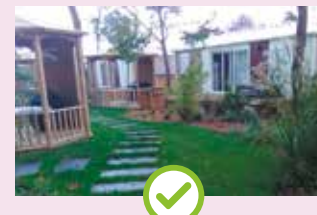
▶ Pitch areas
These plots are subject to high levels of trampling. Suitable herbaceous cover should be chosen, such as rustic prairie grass or trample-resistant ground cover plants.



▶ Reception
Reception is the site's shop window: it should have lots of flowers and be equipped with standard furniture and displays of informative artwork about efforts to improve water management.



▶ Mobile homes sector
This living area can protect the privacy of residents by certain developments: plant screens (hedges or climbing structures), shady trees, screening for technical facilities (gas bottles, etc.).



Providing shade

TREES

Because they provide coolness and shade, trees are crucial to the enhancement of an outdoor hospitality facility. Choosing the right tree depends on the following considerations:

- What we plan to use them for: bordering a path, shading an area, laying out a parking area, etc.
- The conditions for planting the tree
- The tree's ability to provide shade and coolness
- The positioning of trees in order to give a particular identity to a space.

Suitable sea front trees



White poplar

False pepper

Russian olive

Four-stamen tamarisk

Trees for shade



Thornless honey-locust

Chinaberry

Flowering pear

Goldenrain tree

GOOD TO KNOW

If disease affects one tree, it can spread to the entire tree stock if the individuals are all of the same species. Diversifying the varieties is essential to reduce this health risk. Choosing a variety of trees will result in a varied plant stock, giving the site a unique identity.

We recommend

- A professional must be employed to do selective pruning to ensure sustainability of the tree and ensure the safety of users.
- It is important to provide sufficient space between each tree (minimum 5 metres) as well as a minimum size of planting pit (at least 2m x 2m x 1.5m deep).

Things to be aware of: The planting of palm trees is forbidden due to the associated health risks. Affected by the palm butterfly and weevil, they present high risks of contamination.

Any affected individual must be removed in accordance with a suitable protocol.

Structuring spaces

BUSHES

Separating pitches with plants is a very pleasant and harmonious solution for a campsite. This is the most popular model as it enables the site to be integrated within its natural environment.

For enclosures and pitch boundaries or to separate complexes, hedging plants are commonly used. Each type of hedge has advantages and disadvantages. *Eleagnus ebbingei*, for example, needs pruning several times a year.

Suitable shrubs for low hedges around the edge of pitches



Abelia

Cistus

Shubby Salvia

Jerusalem Sage

Suitable shrubs for high hedges



Mediterranean saltbush

Mastic tree

Cheesewood

Chaste tree

We recommend

- Whatever the scenario, hedges should be planted with a variety of different (intermingled) species, as they will be less vulnerable to disease and pests and require minimal pruning, while hosting essential biodiversity. They may be accompanied by small elements of low fencing made from natural materials, in keeping with the surrounding environment. Saltbush and four-stamen tamarisk are particularly suitable for the sea front.



Things to be aware of: Invasive (or exotic) species should be avoided because of their risk to the local environment (pampas grass, Hottentot-fig, grasses, etc.). These plants tend to colonise wasteland and replace local plants.



For more choice in the selection of Mediterranean varieties, see the guide «*Quels végétaux pour le Languedoc Roussillon: 86 valeurs sûres*» (CAUE 34).

GOOD TO KNOW

Covering walls

CLIMBERS



Example of a structure offset from a wall by 10cm with taut stainless-steel cable (Chinese Jasmine).

Climbing plants have the advantage of covering walls with abundant floral decoration or creating a plant screen. This divider is useful between mobile-home pitches as it protects the privacy of the residents.

Covering walls with abundant foliage creates a screen and adds aesthetic value.



Trumpet vine

Chinese Jasmine

Plumbago

Lady Banks' Rose



Solanum

We recommend

For a successful wall or plant screen it is important to choose a perennial structure (wood, steel, aluminium, etc.) and plants suited to the environment (soil, exposure, spring and summer

Soil protection

GROUND COVER

To protect fragile soils, sometimes left bare at the end of the season, it is important to plant them with herbaceous plants or ground cover plants and perennials. These hardy plants tolerate poor soils and are often an excellent alternative to grass, which requires regular maintenance. Requiring little water and self-sufficient in the speed of growth, they also have the advantage of growing in dry or shaded areas, such as at the base of large trees.

Varieties should be carefully selected according to environmental conditions: soil, sunshine, etc. Resistance to trampling requires the selection of varieties particularly suited to local conditions, especially for pitches.

Non-trample-resistant ground cover plants



Ajania pacifica

Delosperma

Erigeron

Hardy plumbago

Trample-resistant ground cover plants



Achillea

Dichondra repens

Frankenia

Zoysia

Decorating the site

FLOWERING MEDITERRANEAN PERENNIALS

To save water, even if the perennials selected from the Mediterranean range are extremely hardy, we recommend applying a mulch to reduce evaporation even further and therefore also reduce the need for watering.



Senecio cineraria

Immortelle

Jacobinia suberecta

Lobelia laxiflora