



# MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

## LANGUEDOC BRANCH

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**June 2013    Newsletter No 5**

Dear Languedoc members and friends,

Here's some advice from Gill as we approach the months of heat and drought, although given the weather we've experienced recently this seems an unlikely prospect!

"In mediterranean France there is likely to be a period of drought during the summer months. Most people water their gardens from time to time and recently planted items will need additional water during their first summer. A thorough watering as needed is much more effective than frequent light watering, which encourages surface roots which can then dry out. When water penetrates the soil deeply, it encourages a strong rooting system and plants will be less susceptible to wind rock, drought and winter cold. Creating a small depression around the base of the plant helps direct the water to the plant's roots.

Try to water in the evening when evaporation rates are lower. Think about water conservation strategies: mulching with chipped bark, shredded garden waste or compost helps to reduce evaporation, keeps weeds down and adds organic material to the soil. You can also use mineral mulches such as gravel or Pouzzolane. If you don't already have a system for composting your vegetable and garden waste think about setting one up – it's a great source of organic material to improve your soil. Note that containers and hanging baskets may need watering daily during very hot periods. If you have an irrigation system make sure that it is functioning correctly if you are going away. Reflect on your use of water and think about where you can be more economical.

Many mediterranean plants flower in the spring and enter a state of rest during the summer, some (eg *Medicago arborea*, *Clematis cirrhosa*) are at least partly summer deciduous. This can mean that there is less colour in the summer garden, so look around, note what looks good at this time of year and build this into your thinking for the future.

During the summer months:

- Continue to check for damage by slugs, snails and insects and take appropriate action
- If you have plants with variegated or golden foliage keep an eye out for any wholly green shoots and prune these out immediately
- Deadheading perennials after flowering will often encourage a second flowering
- Vigorous climbers such as wisteria and trumpet vines (*Campsis*) may need pruning during the summer
- Cut back dead bulb foliage
- Cut back spring flowering shrubs
- Clip aromatics such as santolina and lavender after flowering, but note that lavenders should never be cut back into old wood
- Collect seeds

The summer months are much less busy in the garden – time to relax and enjoy it – and perhaps to make plans for the autumn!"

### **Programme of activities**

**Thursday/Friday 6/7 June  
Gardens in the Drôme (26)**

For our June outing we will visit gardens in the Drôme, starting with a tour, led by Hervé Canals, of Montélier, one of the 'villages botaniques'. Also included will be the Jardin des Sables, Montvendre, Erik Borja's Japanese and mediterranean gardens at Beaumont-Monteux, and, on the way home, the herb garden at La Garde Adhémar and the Harmas de Jean-Henri Fabre at Sérignan-du-Comtat.

Suggested overnight accommodation:

In Granges-les-Beaumont : L'Auberge des Collines, <http://www.aubergedescollines.fr>

Hôtel les Vieilles Granges, <http://www.vieilles-granges.com/index.php>

In Châteauneuf-sur-Isère : B&B Nature d'Eaux, spa. <http://www.gites-de-france-drome.com/chambre-d-hotes-G84720.html>

### **Thursday 5 September**

#### **A day with Dominique Lafourcade in St Rémy-de-Provence (13)**

Garden designer Dominique Lafourcade has invited us visit her own garden, Les Confines, and will chose another one nearby to show a different example of her work.

### **Thursday/Friday 3/4 October**

Languedoc 10th Anniversary garden party and AGM in Caunes-Minervois and Cesseras

### **November 7 –13 Athens, Greece**

#### **MGS Annual General Meeting**

Everything you need to know about this year's annual gathering is now on the website at <http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/agm-2013.html>. You can choose to come for all of the activities or just certain elements, and there is a range of recommended hotels at different price levels. A number of Languedoc members have already registered and are researching flight options so if you're interested, send me an email and I can put you in touch with others planning to go.

*"The co-heads of the Peloponnese section of the MGS (Katerina Georgi and Sandra Panting) are planning a three day event in the Mani in the company of horticultural expert, John Fielding, and cyclamen guru, Melvyn Jope, from the 4th to the 6th of November. They are hoping to have two full day botanical excursions and one day of local garden visits. In addition there will be evening meals in convivial surroundings and they hope to persuade John and Melvyn to speak one evening on a topic of interest..."*

Please contact me by email at [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com) if you are interested in attending any of the above events.

### **Other dates for your Diary**

#### **Plant fairs 2013**

June 1/2	Portes Ouvertes la Petite Pepiniere	Caunes-Minervois(11)
June 1/2	Rendezvous aux Jardins	Open gardens weekend

#### **Hortus Spring Programme**

June 7/8	Voyage en Rouergue pour visiter plusieurs jardins
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For more information on Hortus activities contact Chantal Maurice at [chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr](mailto:chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr)

### **News**

#### **New on our MGS France website**

Two interesting new postings have just appeared on [www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com](http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com). The first is an account of the April visit to Chantal's garden in Montpellier with lots of spring flowers in bloom and the second, under 'Branch Activities', descriptions in English and French, with lots of photographs, of the gardens we visited during our recent trip to gardens in the Var.

### **List of websites**

Eric Legrand has compiled the attached list of websites useful to mediterranean gardeners. He'd be interested in your views and suggestions for additions. Write to him at [legranderic\\_84@yahoo.fr](mailto:legranderic_84@yahoo.fr). We plan to put the list in our Tenth Anniversary resource booklet.

### **Directory of Members in France**

Attached is an up-to date copy of the Directory of Members with a home in France. If you are not included, and would like to be, please send me an email.

### **Appeal for Help! Photographs of roses needed**

Material for inclusion in our tenth anniversary booklet is arriving at a steady pace. David Bracey has compiled a number of lists of recommended plants and these will be included. However, we do lack photos of certain plants, roses in particular. I would be grateful of a close up photograph of the flower of any of the roses on this list:

*Rosa palustris*, *R. sempervirens*, *R.* 'Alister Stella Gray', *R.* 'Aimee Vibert', *R.* 'Blush Noisette', *R.* 'City of York', *R.* 'Fantin Latour', *R.* 'Fellenberg', *R.* 'Glamis Castle', *R.* 'Guirlande d'Amour', *R.* 'Iceberg', *R.* 'Indica Major', *R.* 'Kathleen Harrop', *R.* 'Molineux', *R.* 'Maréchal Davoust', *R.* 'Marie Pavie', *R.* 'Martin Frobisher', *R.* 'Mme Alfred Carrière', *R.* 'Nuits de Young', *R.* 'Paul's Himalayan', *R.* 'Paul's Scarlet', *R.* 'Pierre de Ronsard', *R.* 'Président de Sèze', *R.* 'Rambling Rector', *R.* 'Roseraie de l'Hay', *R.* 'Scepter'd Isle', *R.* 'Tuscany Superb', *R.* 'Trier'.

### **Chelsea Flower Show**

Congratulations to James Basson, a member of the Provence branch, who won not only a Gold medal but also a 'Best in Category' award at Chelsea this year. James created a garden called 'After the Fire' to show how the natural landscape of the mediterranean can regenerate after a forest fire. The garden was very different from most of the others at Chelsea and used only drought tolerant native plants. There is a short video of James in the garden on the RHS website at:

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-Chelsea-Flower-Show/2013/Gardens/Garden-directory/After-the-Fire>

### **Good news on court case**

The lawsuit against the society took place, as scheduled, on Thursday 4 April. On 28 May we received the good news that the Athens Court confirmed the validity of the General Assembly held in Mallorca, thus validating the MGS's tradition of roving General Assemblies. It also confirmed that decisions may not be taken at a General Assembly on matters that are not specifically included on the Agenda. This enables us to continue to operate as we have always done, with the one caution that any items raised for discussion must be specifically referred to on the Agenda that is published and received by all members.

Christine

The information below will be repeated at the end of each Newsletter. New items appear in **Bold**.



## The Mediterranean Garden Society

Resources and Information available to  
members

<p><u>Languedoc Library</u> 250 books on gardening and plants in English and in French</p>	<p>To obtain the latest catalogue or to borrow a book, email Chantal Guiraud at <a href="mailto:chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr">chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr</a>. You can collect books from Montpellier, or Chantal will bring them to the next meeting.</p>
<p><u>Directory of Members</u> Town of residence and email addresses of MGS members in France and Belgium</p>	<p>Contact Christine Savage, <a href="mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com">cs.savage@btopenworld.com</a> to be included and to obtain a copy.</p>
<p><u>Lists</u> Nurseries, Garden Products and Designers Plants for Late Summer Colour Aromatic Plants Climbing Plants Roses Plants for Difficult Situations Seeds for Flowering Meadows Seeds of Hardy plants Booklist for Southern Gardeners</p>	<p>Compiled by branch members, further contributions welcome. <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com">www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com</a> <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com">www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com</a> David Bracey <a href="mailto:bracey@wanadoo.fr">bracey@wanadoo.fr</a> David Bracey David Bracey Alec Cobb <a href="mailto:alec.cobb@wanadoo.fr">alec.cobb@wanadoo.fr</a> Chantal Guiraud <a href="mailto:chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr">chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr</a>. Chantal Guiraud Jocelyn van Riemsdijk <a href="mailto:jocelyn.vanriemsdijk@nordnet.fr">jocelyn.vanriemsdijk@nordnet.fr</a></p>
<p><u>Leaflets</u> Making a Dry Garden Mulches and Compost The Waterwise Garden Drought Tolerant Shrubs</p>	<p>These are available in English and French and can be distributed to friends or at places where gardeners gather. Contact <a href="mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com">cs.savage@btopenworld.com</a> for copies.</p>
<p><u>The MGS Website</u> A vast store of information about the society, including our Languedoc branch page.</p>	<p>In English: <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/">www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/</a> In French: <a href="http://www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/index.html">www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/index.html</a></p>
<p><u>The MGS France Website</u> Information for gardeners in France</p>	<p>In English and French <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com">www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com</a></p>
<p><u>The MGS Seed List</u> A seed exchange for MGS members run by Chantal Guiraud</p>	<p>For a full list and how to order, see the MGS websites: <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html">www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html</a> <a href="http://www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/seedlist.html">www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/seedlist.html</a></p>
<p><u>The MGS Plant Forum</u> An internet forum for anyone interested in mediterranean plants and gardening</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mgsforum.org">www.mgsforum.org</a></p>
<p><u>The MGS Members' Forum</u> An internet Forum for ideas, comments and questions on any topic related to the MGS</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mgsmembersforum.org">www.mgsmembersforum.org</a></p>
<p><u>TMG archive service</u> Articles from past issues of The</p>	<p>To receive the text of past articles by email contact the editor at <a href="mailto:petrie.harbouri@on.gr">petrie.harbouri@on.gr</a>. To find articles, go on the website,</p>

Mediterranean Garden journal	go to MGS Journal, then 'General Index' for an A-Z by topic.
<u>Information about the administration of the MGS</u> Minutes of meetings and Financial Statements	Minutes of the October 2012 General Assembly, Financial Statements and Administrative Committee <a href="http://www.mgsmembersforum.org">www.mgsmembersforum.org</a> meetings are available on the MGS Members' Forum