



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

May/June 2016

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

Friday 27 May, Montauroux (83)

Garden visits

MGF members and friends living near the historic village of Montauroux will be opening their gardens for visits. The day will include three private gardens.

Wednesday - Friday 22 - 24 June, Montpellier (34)

MGF Annual General Meeting 2016 and garden visits

For this year's AGM, Chantal and André Guiraud have offered to organise a programme of visits to gardens and nurseries in the Montpellier area:

Wednesday afternoon

Chantal and André will be opening their garden for informal visits from 16.00. This is a plant lovers' delight, full of interesting specimens and home to many of the plants which provide seeds for our seed exchange.

Thursday morning

Our AGM at the *Parc floral des cinq continents* created by Eric Dubois at his nursery near Marsillargues, on the edge of the *Petite Camargue*, followed by a 'méchoui', a North-African style barbecue.

Thursday afternoon

Visits to the garden of retired horticulturalist and nurseryman, Henri Nardy. Henri is passionate about unusual plants which he cultivates both in his garden and in a large greenhouse for the more exotic specimens.

Dinner at Restaurant L'Authentique, Castelnau Le Lez

Friday morning

Olivier Filippi will take us round his garden on the edge of the *Etang de Thau* where we will have the opportunity to have an update on the progress of some of his most recent projects, including the experimental area dedicated to plants with allelopathic properties.

Wednesday/Thursday 14/15 September, Durban-Corbières and Caunes (11)

Garden visits and a talk on grasses



On Wednesday afternoon we'll visit the Jardin Botanique at Durban-Corbières then drive to Caunes for an overnight stay. The following day will include a visit to Gill Pound's garden at la Petite Pépinière and a talk on how to grow, propagate and design with grasses, a visit to Imogen and Kate's very new experimental garden Le Jardin Champêtre and a wild flower walk.

To book a place for activities in France, contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

International activities

9 - 14 October, Andalucía

A journey through Andalucía to study the cultivation of olive trees and production of olive oil

Célia Gratraud writes:

"Together with a British client specialising in tours to study viticulture, we have created this trip which will include visits to olive producers at harvest time and to olive oil mills. This will be a good opportunity to observe the various techniques of olive oil production used in Andalucía

The tour will include a number of tastings and the opportunity to discuss techniques with local producers (translations into English and French will be provided throughout).

There will also be time to visit some notable gardens, including the Alhambra gardens in Grenada. If you are interested in joining the tour, please write to me at olives.celia@yahoo.fr, if possible by the end of May, or contact the organiser, Patricia Nicholls, at xotravelfrance@cs.com.
Full details of the programme are available [here](#).

For a full list of international events, go to the MGF website: <http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/baEvtInt.htm>

Other dates for your Diary

2 June, Paris,

The Plant School at the Jardin des Plantes

A one day course, in English, looking at the different plant species and cultivars characteristic of French gardens over the years. The day will start with Rosemary Campbell-Preston explaining some history of the French plant collectors and continue with a walk round the collection in the Jardin des Plantes. After lunch Maité Delmas will show the group some of the exhibits held in the collection.

Cost: £60

More information and a booking form from www.theplantschool.org

3 -5 June, Throughout France

Rendez-vous des jardins

This year's theme for France's annual Open Garden weekend is ' *Les couleurs du jardin*'

Download a list of gardens open in your area from the regional *Parcs et Jardins* websites:

Languedoc Roussillon: http://www.jardinslanguedoc.com/agenda.php?tri_type=rv_jardins

Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur: <http://rendezvousauxjardins.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/Dans-votre-region>

Plant fairs and open gardens

May 20/21/22	Journées des Plantes d'Albertas	Bouc-Bel-Air(13)
May 22	Foire aux Plantes	Uzès (30)
May 28	Les jardins de Payan - visite guidée	Tarascon (13)
May 28	Foire aux plantes à la Roseraie des Pommiers	Ruoms (07)
June 3/4/5	Rendezvous des jardins	Throughout France
June 4/5	Open Weekend - La Petite Pépinière	Caunes-Minervois (11)
June 18	Les jardins de Payan - visite guidée	Tarascon (13)

Hortus Programme

9 -11 June	Voyage annuel	La côte d'azur et Italie
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For information on Hortus activities contact Chantal Maurice at chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr or go to the Hortus website <http://hortus.acl.free.fr>

Sète Côté Jardin

To see the programme of events organised by Sète Côté Jardin, go to its website: <http://setecotejardin.fr/scj/>

News and information

Mediterranean Gardening France website

The [WHAT'S NEW?](#) page has a summary of material added recently. This month:



A report by June Grindley, Joan Jenkin and John Graham of a [workshop in Cotignac on maintaining olive trees](#). The advice gleaned in the olive workshop has been combined with the 2015 article by Elisabeth and Célia Gratraud on the same subject into a [single page in the 'Gardening' section](#). Célia is also organising an olive-related trip to Andalusia in October, details above.

A report by Christine Savage on the [trip to Southern Morocco](#) organised by our UK MGI partner, Mediterranean Plants and Gardens.

Photo: Kasbah Angour at Tahanaout



A report by Katharine Fedden and Hilary Ivey on our April [garden visit together with a wild flower walk](#). The garden in Orange is home to one of the oldest cedars of Lebanon in France.

Photo: *Cedrus libani* subsp. *libani*, planted in 1732

In the 'Plants' section, an article by David Bracey on [chilli peppers](#). Guaranteed hot stuff!

Photo: *Capsicum annuum* 'Tian Ying'



A [double review](#), one by Alec Cobb and another by Rosie Peddle of the English translation of Olivier Filippi's new book 'Planting Design for Dry Gardens'.

Smartphone app

Tilly Chambers has spotted details of this app, [Pl@ntNet](#), developed by a French company called Irina, which gives users the ability to snap a picture of an unknown flower or plant and upload it to a crowd-sourced database of over 100,000 images and 4000 species of plants growing in France. The app then provides suggestions as to what the plant may be.

<http://inhabitat.com/plntnet-app-lets-smartphone-users-identify-flora-with-click-of-the-camera/>

If any members have already tried it out, please do post comments on the members' forum.

Best wishes
Christine