



# Mediterranean Gardening France

[www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org](http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org)

## August 2017

Dear members and friends

### PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

#### Wednesday 20 September, Souvinargues, Gard

##### Visit to Pépinières Quissac and a cuttings workshop



Miriam and Fabien Quissac have invited us to visit their nursery and trial gardens situated between Sommières and Nîmes. All the plants are raised on ecological principles, see their website: <http://www.jardin-ecologique.fr/>. We will have a nursery tour in the morning, eat our picnic lunches, then have a workshop on how to take cuttings. Christine will send Miriam's plant list to people who book so that they can write to her in advance to tell her which plants they are interested in and Miriam will adapt the lesson accordingly.

Maximum number of participants: 30

To book a place, contact Christine Savage: [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com)

#### Wednesday 18 October, Tourbes, Hérault

##### Planning meeting and visit to Liliane and Roland's garden

Liliane and Roland Leclercq have volunteered to host this year's planning meeting, where we'll be discussing the 2018 programme of activities. They will offer us lunch buffet. Please come with ideas for outings, workshops, talks, events etc and do some research into what time of the year is the best for your proposals.



Liliane and Roland have started a website garden diary '*Débuter un jardin à Tourbes*' which tells the story of their garden so far:

<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/gdDebutTourbes.htm>

To book a place, contact Roland Leclercq : [rolandlec@wanadoo.fr](mailto:rolandlec@wanadoo.fr)

#### Friday 20 October, 10.00, Besse-sur-Issole, Var

##### Visit to La Pépinière de la Libre



Cécile and Olivier Dupon run a specialist nursery raising plants which are resistant to cold, dryness and intense heat. We will be given a talk on which plants are best adapted to different types of soil and which have resistance to severe cold, or to dryness and heat. The nursery has a good website: <http://www.pepiniereidelalibre.com/> and plants can be pre-ordered for collection on the day. Lunch will be in a nearby village after the visit, venue to be confirmed.

To book a place, contact Nicola at [mgfnicola@gmail.com](mailto:mgfnicola@gmail.com). Please include a mobile telephone number and say whether you wish to stay for lunch.

**Monday 6 November, 10.00, Cagnes-sur-Mer, Alpes-Maritimes**

### **Visit to the Renoir Museum**

June Grindley writes:

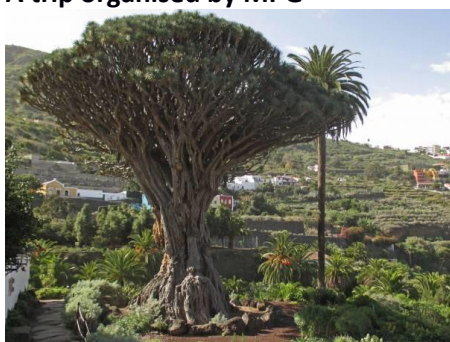
"We are stretching the idea of a 'garden visit' a little for our year-end happening. On November 6, we are organising a tour of the Renoir Museum in Cagnes-sur-Mer. The museum is in the house where Auguste Renoir spent the last years of his life, from 1908 to 1919. It is also where his son, Jean Renoir, the film maker, fell for Auguste Renoir's model, Andrée Heuschling, who later became Jean's first wife. The museum is set in the heart of a magnificent estate with views over Cagnes and to Cap d'Antibes. The garden is filled with 300 year old olive trees which were painted by Renoir. After the tour, in English, we shall have lunch at a restaurant at the beach."

To book a place, please contact June: [jgrindley@btinternet.com](mailto:jgrindley@btinternet.com) .

## **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

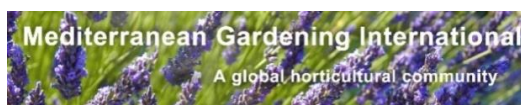
**25 February – 4 March 2018, Tenerife**

**A trip organised by MPG**



Despite its small size, Tenerife has a surprising number of plants, around 1400 species. Of these, 200 are endemic to the Canaries and 140 to Tenerife itself. Although the island is in general more humid and mild than most of the Mediterranean, many plants grown in Mediterranean gardens come from the Canaries. This is a trip for plant lovers. For more information and a booking form: <http://www.medpag.org/book-tenerife.html>.

The image is of *Dracaena draco*, the "dragon tree", the natural symbol of Tenerife.



### **PLANTS AND GARDENS IN THE PROVINCE OF ALICANTE, SPAIN, 15 - 22 APRIL 2018**

One of our partner organisations, Mediterranean Plants and Gardens, will be organising this event in the province of Alicante. Members will see wild flowers, including orchids, near Javea and walk on the Montgó massif. There will be visits to a Moorish-style garden, the palm groves and Huerto del Cura garden of Elche, the Albarda gardens near Denia and a variety of private gardens. This will be a two-centre trip, staying the first nights in Elche and then moving on to Denia. For more information click here:

<http://www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org/Plants%20and%20Gardens%20in%20the%20Province%20of%20Alicante.pdf>.

To reserve a place, contact the organiser, Heather Martin: [hma@clara.net](mailto:hma@clara.net)

### **MGi CONFERENCE SPRING 2019 - PORTUGAL**

Portugal will host the MGi International Spring Conference in 2019 on the theme of 'Mediterranean Landscapes Brought into the Garden'. Plans are for this to be held during mid March to mid April 2019.

### **MGi EVENT OCTOBER 2020 - WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

In 2020, our colleagues in *Mediterranean Gardening Margaret River* will be inviting us to Perth, capital of Western Australia. We will visit gardens in Perth and then head south to the wine-growing region of Margaret River. Julie Kinney, head of MGMR, has asked Christine to give her an idea of the number of people who might be interested in this trip, so please contact Christine if you're tempted, [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com)

For a full list of international events, go to the MGF website:

<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/baEvtInt.htm>

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Plant fairs and open gardens

|                       |  |                             |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 2/3/4 Sept            | Murabilia  | Lucca, Italy                |
| 10 Sept               | Journée des plantes  | Uzès (30)                   |
| 16/17 Sept            | Journées du patrimoine   | throughout France           |
| 24 Sept               | Fête d'automne au jardin   | Sillans la Cascade (83)     |
| 22 -24 Sept           | Fête des plantes d'automne   | Saint Jean de Beaugard (91) |
| 30 Sept/<br>1 October | Gondwana, la Fête des Plantes méditerranéennes,<br>(Jardin sec durable et désirable?) Domaine du Rayol | Rayol-Canadel (83)          |
| 6/8 October           | Orchidées à Fontfroide   | Narbonne (11)               |
| 7 October             | Le Jardin Champêtre – Autumn Open Day –<br>ornamental grasses  | Caunes-Minervois (11)       |
| 7 October             | Fête des plantes d'automne et broc jardin  | Puyvert (84)                |
| 15 October            | Foire aux plantes, Bambouseraie d'Anduze   | Généralgues (30)            |

### Hortus Programme

|            |   |              |
|------------|---|--------------|
| 7 October  | Morning visit to Olivier Filippi's nursery  | Mèze (34)    |
| 21 October | 14h30 Plant exchange, followed by a talk on botanic<br>cyclamen by Annie Nivière. | Devezou (34) |

All MGF members are welcome to join Hortus activities. For more information about Hortus, go to the website <http://hortus.acl.free.fr>. To book a place for any of the events in the Hortus programme, contact Chantal Maurice at [chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr](mailto:chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr).

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### **Mediterranean Gardening France website**

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

In July and August:



#### [Dominique Massad, "rose-breeder", Bouches-du-Rhône](#)

Annie Nivière has written a detailed explanation of the process of rose hybridisation, which we learned about during our visit to Dominique Massad's workshop and rose garden in Allauch.

Photos are by Michèle Auvergne and Hubert Nivière

Photo: A rose created by Dominique Massad,  
*Rosa 'Abbaye de Fontevraud'*

#### [Poterie Ravel, Aubagne, Bouches-du-Rhône](#)

Sara Robinson describes our visit to Poterie Ravel where we watched terracotta pots being created by traditional methods.

Photo: A potter at his wheel.  
See the video by Chantal Maurice on the website.





### [La Citronneraie and Les Colombières, Alpes-Maritimes](#)

Sharon Seibel has written an account, with photographs, of visits to two very different gardens near Menton, La Citronneraie which grows citrus fruit for the top restaurants in France, and Les Colombières, the grand creation of Ferdinand Bac.

Photo: The Citron de Menton

### [Le Jardin du Tomple, Concoules, Gard](#)

Christine Savage describes a visit to the Jardin du Tomple, a densely-planted garden hidden deep in a valley in the Hautes Cévennes.

Photo: *Cornus kousa* growing around a small pigeonier



## The Mediterranean Gardening International event in Aix-en-Provence, 'Art et Jardins'



Over two days, fifty participants from eight countries explored the theoretical and practical relationships between art and gardens. Set in the vibrant city of Aix-en-Provence, home town of Paul Cézanne, lectures from renowned speakers complemented visits to gardens in the surrounding area. Click here: ['Art et Jardins'](#) , to read reports on the visits and view a slide show of the lectures.

## MGi Seed Exchange



Our seed list has had its summer 2017 update and now contains over 675 different types of seed. The Mediterranean Garden Society has recently agreed that Chantal Guiraud, who coordinates the seed list for both organisations, may now combine the two collections - good news as it makes life much easier for Chantal and gives us all a wider choice of seeds. So, do have a look at the new list and send in your orders. <http://mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/infSEE2.htm>. Photo, by John Fielding: *Gladiolus orchidiflorus*

You'll notice that not all entries in the seed list have an illustration. The website editor, Christine Savage, would be grateful to receive photographs to fill the gaps. Please send these to [Christine](#).

## Seeds of Peace

Oron Peri's 2017 seed list is now available. An objective of this list is to preserve rare plants in the Middle East. Email Oron for more information: [oronperi@gmail.com](mailto:oronperi@gmail.com)

## **Pelargonic acid (PA)**

David Bracey writes:

"The article by Peter Dinning, listed in the June Newsletter, about the visit to the Potters' garden, mentions the use of pelargonic acid as a herbicide; this was news to me as well as to several members. PA is a naturally occurring fatty acid found in many plants and animals. It has a rancid unpleasant odour.

The active ingredient, an ammonium salt, ammonium nonanoate, works as a herbicide for the control of annual and biennial weeds (predominantly broadleaved weeds). It was registered for sale in France in 2015\* with the precaution that it is a "skin and eye irritant", therefore limit exposure to these areas and make only two applications per year. When used as directed, PA presents no risks to humans or the environment including birds, fish and honeybees. It rapidly decomposes. PA can be safely applied 24 hours before harvest.

PA kills weeds by contact, destroying the plant's waxy cuticle leading to rapid desiccation. Broadleaved weeds are very susceptible but grasses tend to be much less so while perennials are resistant. In some countries, it is also registered for use as a potato haulm desiccant and as an apple thinner.

I would recommend using PA only for the control of young annual broadleaved weeds. Apply in warm still weather and ensure thorough wetting. Spray drift may cause some leaf burning. It is non-selective. A repeat application may be required. There is no residual activity."

\*'Belouka' is one of many trade-marks

Best wishes  
Roland Leclercq  
Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to: [rolandlec@wanadoo.fr](mailto:rolandlec@wanadoo.fr)