



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

NOVEMBER 2020

Dear members and friends,

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Due to French government guidelines to reduce the transmission of Covid 19, our activities continue to be very limited. A provisional future programme is below:

The 2021 MGF Annual General Meeting Wednesday 19 May, Pont-du-Gard



This will take place at the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Pont du Gard. The Roman aqueduct, built in the first century AD to carry water to the city of Nîmes, crosses the Gardon river near the town of Vers-Pont du-Gard.

We will hold the meeting in the morning at the Restaurant Les Terrasses on the Rive Droite. After the meeting there will be a lunch followed by a guided visit to the third level of the bridge for up to a maximum of 35 people. It will also be possible to explore the extensive site with its thousand year-old olive trees, botanical garden, preserved Mediterranean landscape - the 'Memoires de Garrigue' and a 19c charcoal kiln.

Bookings will open early next year. For information contact [Christine Daniels](#).

Wednesday 2 June 2021, Simiane la Rotonde, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence A visit to the gardens of the Abbaye de Valsaintes and a talk on using essential oils in the garden



We have a new date for this visit to the 7th century Cistercian Abbaye de Valsaintes. The gardens are classed as a Jardin Remarquable and include a dry garden, with 350 plant species; an ecological potager, using permaculture techniques and a rose garden, where one follows a path tracing the history of roses (550 species). At an altitude of 600m, the abbey is ideally situated for roses which benefit from cooler nights.

The visit will be divided into two parts: in the morning, a guided 1h30 visit of the gardens (dry garden, roses, potager) with Jean-Yves Meignen.

This will be followed by a 30' guided tour of the church and demonstration of Gregorian chant. In the afternoon Jean-Yves will give us a talk and demonstration on using essential oils in the garden, including making blends for specific uses and how to apply them.

For more information, contact [Frances Horne](#).

Postponed events

Cesseroas, Aude

A visit to Liz and Jacques Thomson's garden and a talk on Persian Gardens

To be re-scheduled to a date in 2021

For information contact [Chantal Guiraud](#)

Beaumes-de-Venise / Le Barroux, Vaucluse

A walk and a visit to Tony Stone's garden, La Jeg.

To be re-scheduled to spring 2021

For information, contact [Tilly Chambers](#).

Grignan and Nyons, Drôme

A guided rose walk and a visit to an ecological fair

To be re-scheduled to spring 2021

For information, contact [Jan Morgan](#).

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mediterranean Gardening International events

South Africa 2021

The visit to South Africa which had been planned for August/September 2021 has now been cancelled. At present, South Africa is not allowing leisure travellers from 60 countries, including the UK, France, Portugal and the USA, to enter. No-one has any idea when this will change and repeated re-scheduling is complicated and costly. We have expressed our sincere gratitude to the organising team at the Cape Horticultural Society for all the work they have put in, both the initial organisation of the trip and the regular re-assessment of the situation over the past few months. We hope very much that we will be able to visit the landscapes and gardens of 'The Fairest Cape' at some point in the future.

Gardens of the Hyères region 2022

We are still hoping to be able to host an international event in France in May 2022. However, it is currently impossible to do the required research. We will re-assess the situation in spring 2021 to see whether the situation has improved and if there is time to do the research trips and set everything up.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens


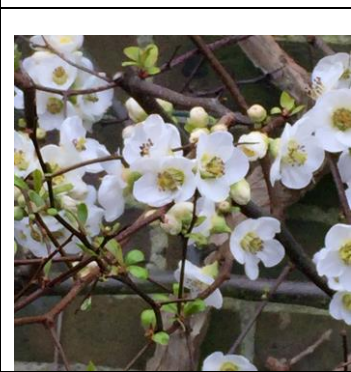
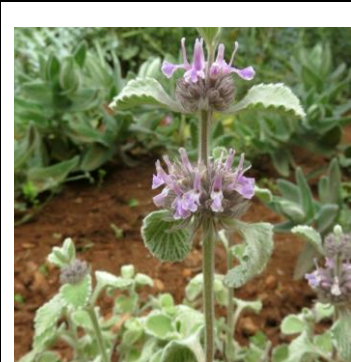
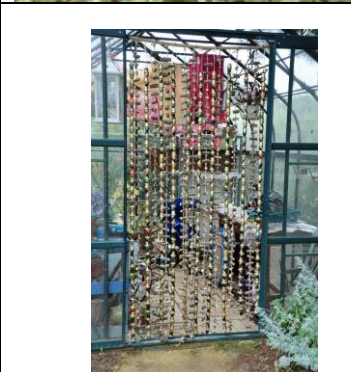

10/11 April 2021	Plantes Rares et Jardin Naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (Vaucluse)
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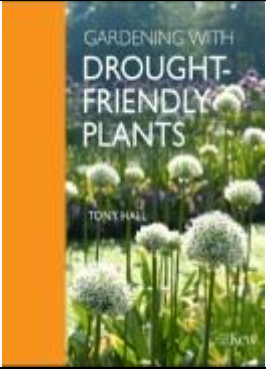


Hortus Programme

All MGF members are welcome to join Hortus activities. For more information about Hortus, go to the [website](#). To book a place for any of the events in the Hortus programme, contact [Chantal Maurice](#).

NEWS AND INFORMATION

There are lots of NEW articles and information on the MGF and MGJ websites:

	<p>An account by Chantal Guiraud of Frank Curk's talk: Citrus fruit and how they conquered the world</p> <p>The <i>Citrus</i> genus is the source of the four ancestral species which are the origin of all citrus fruits grown today. How did these fruits, born in South-east Asia, conquer the world? Today, more than 130 million tonnes of citrus fruits are produced annually. They belong to the great <i>Rutaceae</i> family and the story begins more than 8 million years ago.</p> <p>Photo: <i>Citrus japonica</i> syn. <i>Fortunella japonica</i></p>
	<p>David Bracey suggests that we introduce an early-flowering Chaenomeles spp. into our gardens, perhaps as an espalier trained against a wall.</p> <p>Photo: <i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i> 'Nivalis'</p>
	<p>Chantal Guiraud has updated her article 'Seeds for September', to reflect seeds recently added to our seed exchange. See the full list here.</p> <p>Photo: <i>Marrubium supinum</i></p>
	<p>In the 'Good Ideas' section, Liliane et Roland Leclercq tell us us how to Make an anti-insect curtain using recycled coffee capsules</p>
	<p>Are your agave plants rotting? If so, the agave weevil could be the culprit. Roland Leclercq explains how to identify the problem and outlines precautionary measures and action to take in the event of an attack.</p> <p>Photo: <i>Scyphophorus acupunctatus</i> – the agave weevil</p>

	<p>A new book review by David Bracey: Gardening with Drought-Friendly Plants by Tony Hall.</p>
	<p>An addition to our list of recommended gardens to visit: Le jardin de Carnolès, set around the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Menton. It has a collection of 137 varieties of agrumes.</p>
	<p>In Past Activities, an account by Roland Leclercq of the September 2020 visit to Imogen and Kate's Le Jardin Champetre, in Caunes-Minervois.</p> <p>Photo: <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>, planted with <i>Sedum telephium</i> 'Matrona' against a background of <i>Stipa gigantea</i>.</p>

More on the agave weevil:

Rosie Peddle (MGAP) writes: "There have been many reports of this problem in various parts of the Algarve - probably spread by garden centre plants and swapping plants in pots between garden owners. As *Agave americana* is a very invasive pest here the weevil might be some sort of control but many people have also collected some beautiful and unusual agave and aloe species so it will be a great shame to lose those." Have a look at her excellent article and short video, published in the journal Portugal Resident, <https://www.portugalresident.com/as-if-one-weevil-was-not-enough/>
<https://www.portugalresident.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Gardening-Rosie-%E2%80%93-Agave-snout-weevil.mov>.

An MGF member living in Occitanie who has a large collection of *Agavaceae* writes: "In my garden, the first to be attacked were: *Yucca rostrata*, *Agave neglecta*, *A. horridus*, *A. lophanta latifolia*, *A. salmiana*, *A. vilmoriniana* and of course *A. americana* in semi-wild areas. Also *Bescheronia yuccoides*. Here the *Agavaceae* weevil is wreaking havoc. I fear for my giant yuccas which have taken 25 years to grow"

A message from Chile.

[Alfredo Unda](#) writes

"We are in full Spring now in La Aurora and our flower of the month description corresponds to "Mariposa del campo" (name literally translated as the countryside Butterfly), one of the three endemic alstroemerias of La Aurora, and currently in bloom. It is excellent for photographs with insects visiting them, thus managing to copy their beauty without altering them. If we protect them, they will re-emerge in the future. I was lucky enough as I could photograph them in my own place as they emerged again after years not seeing them here.

As always, the article is bilingual, Spanish and English. If something is not clear let me know, please and I will fix it! Feedback appreciated, we are ready to answer any comment or question."

<https://medgardenchile.wixsite.com/mg-chile/single-post/flor-de-octubre-2020>

WHAT IS IT?

In this topic, photographs of unusual plants, fruits, seeds or garden tools will be shown without the caption and readers are asked to identify them. The answer will be given in the following newsletter. The photos will also be available in the Members' Forum where you can suggest your answers. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](#).



The "What is it?" in the September Newsletter (from an article by Alfredo Unda) was a yellow display of *Oxalis* flowers covering the slopes of Mount Bustamante in La Aurora (Chile) You can find an article in English and Spanish, and more photos on the [MGC website](#).



This is the new "What is it?" proposed by Pierre Bianchi. You can find a clue on the MGF website (Forum item "What is it?"). Answer in the next newsletter.

MY FAVOURITE PLANT

David Bracey writes:



My favourite flower is *Gaura lindheimeri*. It withstands heat and drought and flowers non-stop from early spring until the cold weather. Originating from Texas, flowers are pure white through to deep pink/red and are held on inflorescences up to a metre long which sway in the breeze with flowers that nod. I bought my first one in 2007!

You are welcome to send a picture of your favourite plant (rare or common), accompanied by a short text, to be published in this newsletter. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](#).

And finally

"All gardens are a form of autobiography" (Robert Dash, American painter and gardener, 1934-2013)

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to: rolandlec@wanadoo.fr