



# Mediterranean Gardening France

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**JANUARY 2022**

## Seed list - Special edition

Dear members and friends

This January we have decided to create a special edition of the newsletter to publicise the work of Chantal Guiraud who receives, cleans, catalogues and stores all the donations of seed sent in by members, then sends out your orders. Each year she discards any seeds that are no longer viable and meticulously updates the list with all the new seeds she has received. We are very grateful to her for this service and to a number of members who are particularly generous with their contributions. Whenever you see ripe seeds, ready for collection, please do think of finding an envelope and sending some to Chantal. We're also extremely grateful to Jan-Willem Vos, of Château Perouse, for making the seeds in his ever-growing *Index Seminum* available to MGF members.

Chantal Guiraud writes:

I would like to thank all our generous seed donors, who have this year contributed more than 80 new species to our list. In addition, Château Pérouse has generously made available to MGF members its [Index Seminum](#), containing around 1600 taxa. Seeds from this list should be ordered from me as usual, as part of the quota per member of 10 packets per year.

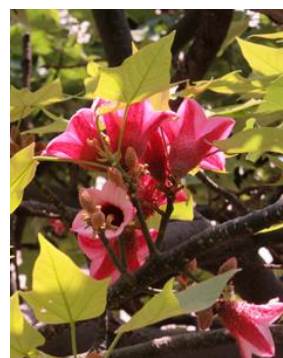
Pierre Bianchi, an MGF member living near Perpignan in a zone known as suitable for growing orange trees, has contributed several interesting new seeds:



*Agave ovatifolia*



*Brachychiton acerifolius*  
'Flame tree'



*Brachychiton discolor*



*Brachychiton populneus*  
Notice the short thick trunk



*Brachychiton x roseus*  
Hybrid of *B. acerifolius*  
and *B. populneus*



*Parkinsonia aculeata*  
Germinates easily



*Tabebuia rosea*  
Germinates easily

He has also chosen some small and medium eucalyptus species from the dry areas of Australia, which one rarely finds in cultivation. Pierre has been successfully growing them for several years in his Oasis garden. These species are decorative both for their year-round appearance and when they are in flower. They are resistant to the drought of the French Mediterranean region (annual rainfall of more than 450 mm) and to attacks by phoracantha (the eucalyptus borer). They are also quite resistant to cold (at least -7°C and equipped with a lignotuber\*) and to alkaline soils (except very basic tufa). Many attract honey bees. In addition, these species are easy to propagate from seedlings. Here are his recommendations:



*Eucalyptus albopurpurea*

Native to the South Australia coast (the Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island). A small eucalyptus (5 - 8m tall) with smooth brown bark on the trunk, a combination of cream, green and purple colours on the branches and a narrow crown of small green leaves. The flowers are usually pink or mauve but sometimes white. Flowers are inconspicuous in youth, intensifying later, and occur several times a year. Hardy to -7°C, adapts to most soils and tolerates coastal conditions. It is the only eucalyptus that may have purple flowers. Attractive to honey bees.



*Eucalyptus caleyi* subsp. *caleyi*

Native to a cool, dry area of Australia (the western slopes of the New South Wales highlands). A medium-sized eucalyptus (8 - 15m tall), with a fairly narrow crown. It has rough corrugated bark, often referred to as 'ironbark', but which makes little mess in the garden. The glaucous foliage is cascading, the abundant white flowers are visible in mid to late autumn. Hardy to -7°C (lignotuber), reasonably resistant to drought and adapts to most soils except heavy clay or strongly alkaline. Attractive to honey bees.



*Eucalyptus lehmannii* subsp. *parallela*

This species, identified in 2008, is rarely found in cultivation, even in Australia. It is native to coastal areas of Western Australia on rocky and acidic soil and is a small (2 - 4m tall) mallee with several trunks and a lignotuber. Its grey bark is smooth and flaky, the green foliage is light, the flowers and fruits very decorative: they are carried on long petioles, flattened and united into a large oval mass, carrying very long reddish opercula which, as they open, release greenish-yellow flowers grouped in rounded masses. After flowering, large, round, woody fruits form, covered in pointy tips. The seeds were collected at 200m altitude at West Mount Barren, south of Perth, and therefore the cold hardiness remains to be determined (so far OK to -4°C). The tree will probably prefer well-drained, acidic soil, tolerate coastal conditions and respond well to clipping.



*Eucalyptus petiolaris*

A species similar to *E. leucoxydon*, native to the Eyre peninsula in South Australia. This small eucalyptus (5 - 10m tall) with smooth cream/green peeling bark, a prominent and decorative lignotuber and airy green foliage, flowers from mid-October to April. In 2/3 of the plants grown from the seeds of a red flowering tree, the flowers have been either red or bright pink. Hardy to -7°C (grown for 30 years in Roussillon). Happy in alkaline, moderately clayey, or slightly salty soils. Growth rate is moderate to slow.

Very attractive to honey bees.

Pierre has also given us some seeds from a beautiful bulb, *Cyrtanthus obliquus*. The seeds will only be viable for a very short time, so if you are interested, please order them from me soon.



*Cyrtanthus obliquus*

A South African bulb originating from a zone with summer rainfall. It has evergreen foliage and magnificent flowers. Cultivate in well-drained soil, in a sunny position and provide some water in summer. This bulb needs an 'orange tree zone' climate as the foliage freezes at -3°C.

\*A **lignotuber** is a woody swelling of the root crown possessed by some plants as a protection against destruction of the plant stem, such as by fire. The crown contains buds from which new stems may sprout, as well as stores of starch that can support a period of growth in the absence of photosynthesis.

And remember, be patient: "The greatest tree is born from a small seed." (Lao Tzu)

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

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