



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

JULY 2023

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Thursday 28 September, Château La Coste, le Puy-Sainte-Réparate, Bouches-du-Rhône

A visit to a sculpture park



Hedwige Lauwaert and Nanouk Pelen are organising a visit to the sculpture park at Château La Coste, situated in rolling hills and vineyards 15km north of Aix-en-Provence. The outing will start with picnic lunch followed by a private two-hour guided walking tour of the artworks and park. After the tour participants are free to explore the park, visit the exhibitions and have refreshments in the restaurant.

Photo: Donegal by Larry Neufeld 2013

To register an interest, contact [MGF Event Coordinator Vaucluse](#)

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 1 November to Thursday 9 November

Rhodes, Greece: its history and plants



Photo: Rhodes old town

MPG is offering a trip to see wild flora and visit the island's impressive historical sites in early November. Members should see autumn-flowering cyclamen, colchicum, crocus, muscari, pancratium, biarum and remarkable trees. This will be after the main tourist season so the island will be pleasantly uncrowded. It is difficult to predict the weather which may be balmy, rainy or a mix of both. The cost including accommodation, six lunches, six dinners, local transport and guiding will be around £950/1,100€ per person (single suppl £155/180€), flights and airport transfers not included. Maximum 20 people. Guide: Yiannis Christofides, author of two books on the flora of Cyprus. Two hotels: one in Rhodes town and the other in a village at the foot of Attavyros Mountain in the west. Please see MPG's announcement here

<https://www.medpag.org/events/upcoming-events/rhodes-its-history-and-plants/>.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens 2023

From July to December	Visites botaniques à la Villa Thuret See program here	Villa Thuret , Antibes-Juan-les-Pins (Alpes Maritimes)
Until 12 November	Bambouseraie : Exhibition Art et Nature	Bambouseraie, Générargues (Gard)
19 August, 30 September, 14 October	Abbaye St André : Ateliers du "Savoir jardiner"	Abbaye St André, Villeneuve-lès-Avignon (Gard)
Every Thursday 6:30 p.m.until 31 August	Guided tour of exotic orchid nursery. More details here	Nursery « Les orchidées de Michel Vacherot » Roquebrune-sur-Argens (Var)
30 September-1 st October	Gondwana : Plantes et Rivages	Domaine du Rayol, Rayol-Canadel-sur-mer (Var)

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Trees, trees, trees....

David Bracey writes "I have tried to summarize two articles mentioned by Pierre in the last newsletter. Both refer to the importance of trees: "American Forests" and "Water, use it wisely. Trees are cool" Desertification can arise when trees are cut down. Planting trees has the opposite effect. Here are some benefits from planting trees.

Trees intercept rain, slow down erosion and flooding
Trees recycle nutrients, again and again
Trees provide shade which reduces soil temperatures and drying out
Trees transpire into the air and clouds which then act as a source of water. Clouds move
Trees provide cool shade, especially on a hot day
Trees absorb carbon dioxide and other gases
Trees produce oxygen
Cooling reduces energy consumption
Trees provide wildlife habitat, beauty and relaxation areas

Additionally evaporation causes cooling. Hotter air expands into this space bringing in moisture, creating lower temperatures and thus sucking in more moisture and so on. A positive loop.

This is the general rule but of course there are exceptions.

PLANT A TREE TODAY""



July 2023 Update to the seedlist

Chantal Guiraud has updated the MGF seed collection with the addition of over 70 new types of seed, contributed by gardeners throughout the Mediterranean-climate world. Have a look at the [illustrated list](#) and send your order to Chantal either by post or [email](#).

Seed image courtesy of Dave Tivol at CalHort.

New on the website



[Visits to a vineyard and a member's garden near Le Barroux](#)

Hedwige Lauwaert and Julia Bradley have compiled an illustrated report of our April visit to the vineyards of Domaine Les Baies Goûts, and to Frances' garden.

Photo: The view towards the Dentelles de Montmirail from Frances' garden



[A visit to a private garden near Antibes](#)

In May we visited the garden of Domain de l'Orangerie, designed by James Basson and created and cared for by MGF member Kevin Creed. The garden is entirely planted with Mediterranean flora and has no irrigation.

Jeremy Frankel has written a report, with photographs.

Photo: The flower meadow



The first chapter of an exciting new garden diary:

[A project to reconstruct a Mediterranean environment](#)

Chiara Padovan is an olive grower working in Veneto and Tuscany. She already tends 1,309 olive trees of different ages and cultivars. The new plantation, with 120 olive trees growing alongside Mediterranean plants, will be in Tuscany. Many of the plants are being raised from seed from the MGF seed collection.

Photo: Chiara's olive grove in Tuscany

FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

News from Mediterranean Plants and Gardens

Videos of the 2022 Beth Chatto symposium 'REWILDING THE MIND'

Sue Tymon writes:

Many thanks to the Beth Chatto Garden for sharing the following:

"On what would be her hundredth year, we want to keep the environmental issues that were so important to Beth at the forefront of modern gardening, and as such we are making the recordings of The Beth Chatto Symposium 'Rewilding the Mind' FREE OF CHARGE, so that they are available to all."

The recordings of the two-day event have been divided into individual lectures and panel discussions so they can be dipped into as and when time allows.

To access the recordings- click [here](#).

From Cal Hort Society

The video of our [June 19 All-Plant Forum](#) meeting are now available for viewing on our [YouTube channel](#).

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. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](mailto:rolandlec@wanadoo.fr).



The May "What is it?" was a grafting tool. It was used as shown below (photo Musée Conservatoire Viti-Vinicole). The technique is called "Greffage au bouchon" (Plug grafting)



The July "What is it?" shows the flowering of a well-known indoor plant (sent by Chantal Guiraud). Answer in the next newsletter.

AND FINALLY

"Designing the garden is like learning to speak. You begin with odd words learning the individual plants. Then you create a simple phrase, finding two or three plants that look well together, next comes a sentence and finally the complete story."²

Beth Chatto

Best wishes
Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor

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