



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Wednesday, 13 September, 10:30, Vézénobres, Gard

A day learning about figs



In the morning, we will start with a guided visit to the remarkable medieval architecture of the town of Vézénobres, followed by a picnic at a site with panoramic views. The picnic will consist of locally made products such as fig pâté, vegetable terrine and biscuits. In the afternoon, we will go to the orchard-conservatory with a hundred varieties of fig tree, accompanied by a tasting. Later we will visit the museum, in the heart of the Château de Girard, which dates from the 14th century.

Photo : Fig tree and Maison de la Figue de Vézénobres
© Maison de la Figue de Vézénobres

To register, contact [Chantal Guiraud](mailto:Chantal.Guiraud@mediterraneangardeningfrance.org).

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](mailto:MGF.Event.Coordinator@mediterraneangardeningfrance.org)

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 October, Silves, Portugal

MGAP Autumn Garden Fair, Theme - Future-proof your Garden



The 2023 Autumn Mediterranean Garden Fair will take place at FISSUL Exhibition Centre in Silves. There will be talks and workshops, specialist growers selling native plants and seeds, succulents, trees and aromatic plants that are suitable for Mediterranean gardens and an MGAP area with books, bulbs and plants.

Information on speakers and participating nurseries will be available on MGAP's [website](http://www.mgapfrance.org) and [Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/mgapfrance). Any questions, write to mgapfairs@gmail.com.

Wednesday 1 November to Thursday 9 November, Rhodes, Greece

Wild flowers and historical sites



Photos: *Sternbergia lutea* / Ag Panteleimon, Siana, Rhodes

MPG is offering a trip to see wild flora and historical sites in early November which is after the main tourist season so the island will be pleasantly uncrowded. The cost including accommodation, seven lunches, six dinners, local transport and guiding is £950/1,100€ per person (single suppl £155/180€), flights and airport transfers not included. Maximum 20 people. Guide: Yiannis Christofides. Two hotels: Best Western Plaza in Rhodes town (4*) and a small family hotel in a village at the foot of Attavyros Mountain. Please see: <https://www.medpag.org/events/upcoming-events/rhodesits-history-and-plants/>

Friday 16 to Friday 23 February 2024, Paphos, Cyprus

Wild flora and historic sights of Cyprus



A trip organised by MPG based in Paphos and in Latchi on the edge of the Akamas nature reserve. Spring comes early in the eastern Mediterranean and we can expect a range of spring flowers including many endemic species of orchids. The tour will be led by Yiannis Christofides, author of two books on the plants of Cyprus.

For more information and to book, see [the Forthcoming Events page](#) of the MPG website.

Photo: *Mandragora officinarum*

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, Génomargues (Gard)
16/17 September	Journées du patrimoine	Throughout France
16/17 September	Le 9e Salon du livre de jardin - Domaine d'Orvès	La Valette-du-Var (Var)

16/17 Sept and 14/15 Oct	Open weekends at Le Jardin Champêtre	Caunes-Minervois, Aude
30 September, 14 October	Abbaye St André : Ateliers du “Savoir jardiner”	Abbaye St André, Villeneuve-lès- Avignon (Gard)
30 September- 1 st October	Gondwana : Plantes et Rivages	Domaine du Rayol, Rayol- Canadel-sur-Mer (Var)
6/7/8 October	Festival International Orchidées à Fontfroide	Narbonne (Aude)
18/19 November	Les Journées de l’Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	Quissac (Gard)

NEWS AND INFORMATION

New on the website



[List of edible plants](#)

The list of edible plants with low water requirements, compiled by Chantal Guiraud and Roland Leclercq, is now fully illustrated and has been re-formatted to make it easier to use.

If you have suggestions for additions to the list, please send them to [Chantal](#).

Photo: *Eriobotrya japonica* (Loquat)

MGF on social media

Instagram

You will probably have seen the announcement from MGF committee member and landscape gardener, Lina Tchagaspanian, that MGF has opened an [Instagram](#) page. We hope that many of you will become followers and enrich the page by sending Lina your favourite plant and garden photographs for publication.

Facebook

Our [Facebook](#) page, now managed by Julia Fogg, is also very active. Recent posts include information about the September programme of events at Domaine du Rayol, a reminder about Michèle Bailey’s article on reusing household water on the MGF website and links to some superb photos from Sean O’Hara’s Gardening in Mediterranean Climates Worldwide.

FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

From Cal Hort: the flora of the Patagonia steppe – You tube link to Kiamara Ludwig’s talk



The Patagonian steppe is the largest desert in Argentina, bounded by the Andes to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the East. The eighth largest desert in the world by area, it is home to several species of desert shrubs and tuft grasses. The outskirts of the desert and the borders of the ephemeral lakes support larger plants.

The California Horticultural Society invited us to a Zoom meeting to hear a talk by Kiamara Ludwig, on the flora of the Patagonia steppe. Unfortunately, most members will have missed it, since it took place at 3.30am, French time. However, you can [view the talk on CalHort’s 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](#).



The July “What is it?”, sent by Chantal Guiraud, showed the flower of the well-known indoor plant *Sansevieria* sp. *Sansevieria* flowers only after many years of cultivation.



June 2023 (in a pot)

The September "What is it?" (Roland Leclercq) shows an annual plant originating from Peru, flowering from June to September.
Answer in the next newsletter.



September 2023

AND FINALLY

David Bracey has taken this photo in a supermarket



Two guys are shopping in a supermarket for broccoli. There's a surprise on the broccoli. The first guy says : Great, this broccoli has not been treated with insecticides
The second guy says : Ugh, I'm disgusted, a little insecticide would have done the trick
And what about you?

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

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