



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardening.fr

MAY 2024

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Tuesday 7 May, Crest and Montvendre, Drôme

Visit to Pivoines Rivière and the Jardin des Sables

Organised by Nanouk Pelen and Hedwige Lauwaert



Photo: *Gleditsia* 'Sunburst' at Jardin des Sables

We will start our day by visiting [Pivoines Rivière](#), where we will be given a guided tour and talk. This specialist peony nursery was established in 1849 and has belonged to the Rivière family since then. The nursery grows over 600 varieties which should be at their best at this time of year.

Next, we will visit the Jardin des Sables in Montvendre, a lovely private 12,000 sq m garden owned by Mme Annie Amoretti. She will explain to us how she and her husband created the garden in 1997 on a plot of empty land. Inspired by the natural look of English gardens, it is now well established with a variety of interesting and rare trees and shrubs. We will have time to enjoy our picnics in the garden.

There is also a possible visit to another small garden with interesting plants in Chabeuil, a nearby village. Those wishing to visit the Jardin Zen d'Erik Borja could stay on an extra day, as this stunning garden is in the vicinity.

To book, please contact [Nanouk Pelen](#).

Tuesday 14 – Thursday 16 May, Aveyron and Tarn et Garonne

Visits to private and public gardens

Organised by Liz Godfrey



Photo: Le Château de Bournazel

Tuesday 14th: Visit to Liz's garden near Najac, picnic lunch and then a visit to the [Abbaye de Beaulieu](#) with its modern art collection and especially its rose garden, designed and planted by André Eve. A dinner will be organised for us to get together in Najac.

Wednesday 15th: The morning at [Le Jardin de la Mothe](#) in Salles Courbatiès, a Jardin Remarquable. Lunch will be provided by the owner. In the afternoon a visit to the magnificently restored [Château de Bournazel](#) and its gardens 'à la française' based on Renaissance principles.

Evening free

Thursday 16th: Our trip will finish with a morning visit to the garden of Margaret Guerit, a member of MGF in Bas Segala.

To book, please contact: [Liz Godfrey](#)

Tuesday 28 – Friday 31 May, Hyères, Var
MGF Annual Meeting 2024 and garden visit programme
Organised by Jacqueline Potter



Photo: Castel Sainte-Claire

The 2024 Assemblée Générale, at which we'll celebrate the first 10 years of Mediterranean Gardening France, will take place in Hyères, the oldest resort town on the French Riviera.

The garden tours are now fully booked, but all members are welcome to join us at the Assemblée Générale, which will be held at 17.00 at the Hotel Mercure, 19, Avenue Ambroise Thomas, 83400 Hyères.

If you would like to book for the Assemblée Générale or the dinner, please contact [Christine Daniels](#).

Tuesday 28 May

Afternoon Hyères à la belle époque – a guided tour

Evening Supper chez Jean-Marie Rey,

Wednesday 29 May

Morning Visit to a private garden near Hyères.

Afternoon Castel Sainte-Claire and Villa Noailles

Evening **The MGF Assemblée Générale, at the Hotel Mercure, followed by dinner.**

Thursday and Friday

30/31 May

Visits to Le Plantier de Costebelle, Château Noir and Le jardin Olbius Riquier, and walks on the presqu'île de Giens and the Île de Porquerolles.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Monday 8 – Thursday 11 July, Cheshire, UK

Cheshire summer garden tour

Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



This trip will focus on a mix of renowned gardens including Ness Botanic Gardens, Arley Hall, and RHS Bridgewater, together with a variety of private gardens, not usually open to the public. We will stay at Nunsmere Hall, a delightful country house hotel.

Detailed information and a booking form can be found on the [MPG website](#).

Sunday 20 – Sunday 27 October, Lycia, Turkey
Autumn jewels of the Taurus
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



Photo: *Colchicum stevenii*

A one-week tour in south-west Turkey exploring habitats from the coast to the higher slopes, which still harbour stunning old growth cedar forests. There will be visits to Simena, Phaselis and Termessos, for the wild flora as well as for their history. Participants should see many species of colchicum, crocus and cyclamen and sternbergia. The leader will be Başak Gardner.

After the botanical tour there is an optional cultural extension from 27 – 30 October.

More details and a booking form can be found on the [MPG website](#).

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens 2024

27 April	Foire de printemps et paysans	Cuers (Var)
27/28 April	Floralies de Juhèges	Torreilles (P-O)
27/28 April	Journées des Jardins et de la Nature	Anduze (Gard)
28 April	Floralies de Florensac	Florensac (Hérault)
28 April	Marché aux fleurs	Carpentras (Vaucluse)
28 April	Festival Art et Jardin	Lussan (Gard)
28 April	Foire aux fleurs	Montvendre (Drôme)
1 May	La main verte	Le Vigan (Hérault)
1 May	Marché aux plantes	Forcalqueiret (Var)
1 May	Les Flâneries à Valbrillant	Meyreuil (Bouches-du-Rhône)
3 - 5 May	Un Printemps sous les Arbres	Saint-Brès (Hérault)
3 - 5 May	Floralies d'Antibes	Antibes Juan-les-Pins (Alpes-Mar)
4/5 May	Fête des roses et des plantes	Saint-Jean Cap Ferrat (Alpes-Mar)
4/5 May	Les Floralies de Pertuis	Pertuis (Vaucluse)
5 May	Foire aux fleurs	Aubussargues (Gard)
5 May	Foire aux fleurs	Richerenches (Vaucluse)
8 May	Bourse aux plantes aux jardins ethnobotaniques	La Gardie à Rousson (Gard)
8 May	Marché aux plantes	Nans-les-pins (Var)
9 May	Fête des Fleurs & Vell'Art	Velleron (Vaucluse)
9 - 12 May	Orticola	Milan, ITALY
12 May	Plantes et fleurs en fête	Grospierres-en-Ardèche (07)
12 May	Journée des plantes	Uzès (Gard)
18/19 May	Foire éco biologique Naturellement!	Nyons (Drôme)
18/19 May	Marché aux Fleurs	Tarascon (Bouches-du-Rhone)
24 – 26 May	Journées des Plantes d'Albertas	Bouc-Bel-Air (Bouches-du-Rhone)
31 May - 2 June	Rendezvous aux Jardins	Open gardens throughout France
9 June	Plantes et Bien-être au Ch. Grand Callamand	Pertuis (Vaucluse)
30 June	Fête de la Figue	Figanières (Var)

Hortus Programme

27 April	Bourse aux plantes	Montferrier sur Lez (34)
16 – 18 May	Jardins dans l'Aveyron	Aveyron

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

New on the website



Photo: *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *Megalocarpa*

[Acclimatisation: Australian plants, from their native regions to our gardens](#)

Chantal Guiraud has summarised the excellent talk given by Pierre Bianchi, at Château Pérouse, on how best to use Australian plants in our gardens.

He explains the factors limiting adaptation, then goes on to suggest many species and varieties from southern and western Australia that can be grown successfully in Mediterranean gardens, including eucalyptus, callistemons, corymbia, grevillea, brachychiton, cordylines, melaleuca, hakea and banksias.

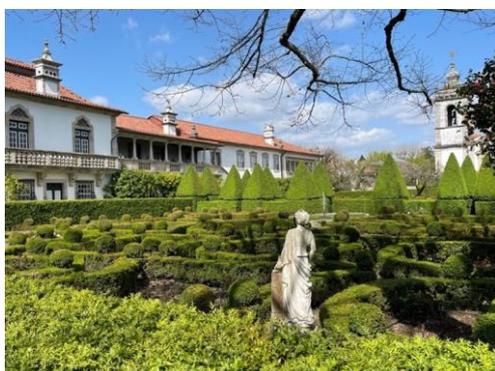


Photo : The parterre garden of Casa dos Condes de Santar e Magalhães

[The village of Santar - in the heart of the Dão wine appellation, a landscape plan revives a Portuguese village](#)

In 2022, Kirsten Honeyman, an MGF member who lives in California, visited Santar, a village in central Portugal which has been brought back to life through the restoration of its gardens. It is a fascinating story, the history, the involvement of Spanish landscape architect Fernando Caruncho, the way the interlocking gardens knit the village together both visually and socially into a *vila jardim*.

And for those tempted to visit Santar, Kirsten has added some practical travel tips.



[How to construct a pot tree](#)

Kevan Kristjanson writes:

“If you have a tiny garden or courtyard but suffer from “gardener’s envy” then we have a possible solution to propose... build yourself a ‘pot tree’.”

He explains what you will need, and then guides you through a step-by-step process to create a pot tree like the one in the photograph.

FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

From Cape Horticultural Society

Glenda Thorpe writes

This is the link for our April talk: Ceropegias - Flowers with Beauty and Brains, by Prof. Mike Picker.

<https://youtu.be/TkHaLkVrDSE>

Mike Picker is an Emeritus Professor of the University of Cape Town. He has published a number of wildlife guides on insects of Southern Africa, but is also interested in plants. He has a special interest in an unusual group of succulents belonging to the genus Ceropegia. These fascinating plants rival orchids in the complexity and beauty of their flowers – however, the unusual appearance of the flowers is related to their need to be pollinated by microscopic flies, and they have evolved a bizarre array of methods of attracting and then trapping the flies.

MY FAVOURITE PLANT

You are welcome to send a picture of the plant that you hate or 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



There's still time to pick borage flowers to decorate your desserts and according to Nicolas Alexandre (Benedictine monk and botanist 1624-1758), “borage cheers up vital spirits afflicted by melancholy”. Warning: toxic in high doses.

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to [Roland Leclercq](#)