



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardening.fr

JULY 2024

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

We are taking our usual break from activities in France during the hot summer months. The autumn events programme will be published in the next newsletter and on the Forthcoming Events page of the website.

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

30 June	Fête de la Figue	Figanières (Var)
6 – 8 September	Murabilia	Lucca, Italy
8 September	Journée des plantes d'Uzès	Uzès, Gard
21/22 September	Le Jardin Champêtre – open weekend	Caunes-Minervois, Aude
21/22 September	Journées du patrimoine	Throughout France
21 -23 September	Festival des jardins S.E.V.E. Domaine de Grammont	Montpellier (Hérault)

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

New on the website



[Two gardens in the gulf of St Tropez](#)

In April a group of members visited Le Haut Maleribes in Gassin, a garden which represents an integration of the natural 'garrigue' landscape with local trees, as well as plants sourced from all corners of the globe, particularly South Africa, Australia, California, Chile, and the Far East.

The day continued with visit to a property belonging to the Conservatoire du Littoral on the St Tropez peninsula: Château de la Moutte. Jacqueline Potter has written an illustrated report on this outing.

Photo: The garden at Château de la Moutte



[Débuter un jardin à Tourbes dans l'Hérault, April 2024 update](#)

Roland and Liliane Leclercq began work on their new garden in autumn 2013, and three years later Roland sent the first instalment of his garden diary for publication on our website.

Now that the garden is mature, Roland has sent a new article, with photographs, explaining the principles he followed, the successes and failures and the ongoing evolution of the spaces.



[A very European American](#) [Edith Wharton et Sainte-Claire-du-Château](#)

As preparation for our delightful visit to the Jardin du Castel Sainte-Claire during the 2024 AG event, Michèle Bailey wrote an article about the American writer, Edith Wharton, who created the garden.

Michèle writes: “Edith liked to mix cultivated plants with the wild ones in a firm structural design planted with drifts of colour in the style of Gertrude Jekyll.” Read more on the website.



[Jardin Emmanuel Lopez, L'île de Porquerolles, Var](#)

Chantal Guiraud writes:

“During our stay in Hyères, we took the opportunity to visit the island of Porquerolles and in particular, the Emmanuel Lopez garden. This one-hectare garden is part of the Port-Cros National Park...”

The garden has been added to the MGF ‘Gardens to visit’ list.



[Capparis spinosa](#)

Caper bush (*Capparis spinosa*) is best known for the edible flower buds (capers), used as a seasoning or garnish, and the fruit (caper berries), both of which are usually consumed salted or pickled. Read Mark Barnett’s new article in the ‘Plants’ section and Roland Leclercq’s comment about growing the thornless variety.

Article in Homes and Gardens Magazine

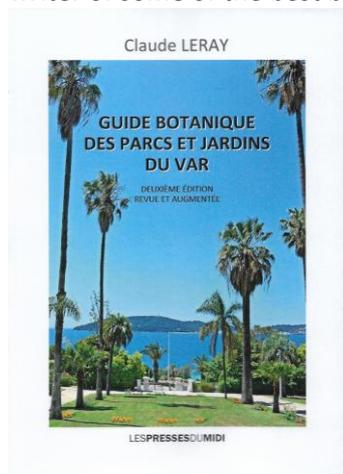


One of our members, Clare Armour, has her garden featured in the April 2024 edition of Homes and Gardens magazine. You can see photos by renowned garden photographer, Marianne Majerus, and read the article by Jackie Hobbs, by clicking on this link to [Readly](#).

Part of Clare’s garden was designed by James Basson and an MGF group visited it in May 2018, soon after it was planted in the autumn of 2017. The [report in Past Activities](#) includes a schematic of the rectangular gravel garden and photos of the garden in its first spring.

Updated library catalogue

Since 2009, MGF has been collecting books of interest to Mediterranean gardeners, and we now have over 300 volumes, in English and in French. The nucleus of the collection arrived as a gift from the horticultural magazine, *Lien Horticole*, and this was followed by gifts from members, notably Louisa Jones, writer of some of the best books on gardens in the south of France.



Our librarian, Chantal Guiraud, has recently updated [the list of books](#).

She writes:

“If you would like to borrow a book, [send me an email](#) and I’ll bring the book to our next outing, or you can collect it from our home in Montpellier. I advise you to check the website from time to time to see new books which may have been added. This year I ordered the new edition (published in April 2024) of a book by the Presses du Midi: *Le guide botanique des parcs et jardins du Var*.”

Books can be returned next time you attend an event, or passed on to another member for return.

For all the latest news, go to

1. What’s new on the MGF website: <https://mediterraneangardening.fr/whats-new-quoi-de-neuf/>
2. The Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mediterranean.gardening.france/>
3. The Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/mediterraneangardeningfr/>

FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

News from MGI groups

Michèle Bailey writes:

You probably know that MGF is part of an umbrella association called Mediterranean Gardening International (MGI for short). Several of our associate groups produce their own newsletters and these are full of useful and interesting information about what’s going on in different parts of the world.

The newsletters can be found at the following web addresses:

Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal:

<https://www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org/> (click on Latest News Update)

Cape Horticultural Society, South Africa

<https://capehorticulturalsociety.co.za/about-us/> (Click on Newsletters)

California Horticultural Society, USA

<https://calhortsociety.org/bulletins/>

Mediterranean Plants and Gardens (UK) <https://www.medpag.org> also has a newsletter, which is accessible to members only. Our associate groups in Canada and Chile don’t have newsletters but both their websites feature interesting blogs:

Okanagan Xeriscape Association, Canada

<https://okanaganxeriscape.org/blog/>

Mediterranean Gardening Chile

<https://medgardenchile.wixsite.com/mg-chile/blog> (bilingual Spanish/English, mostly about native plants).

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 (rolandlec34@gmail.com)

AND FINALLY

“My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant’s point of view. “

H Fred Hale (American supercentenarian, dead at 113, 1890-2004)

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to Roland Leclercq (rolandlec34@gmail.com)