



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardening.fr

MARCH 2025

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Thursday 13 March, 10:30 - 16:30, Alès, Gard

Visit to the Parc Floral de la Prairie and the Terrasses du Bosquet

Organised by Chantal Guiraud



Photo: Camellia 'Bella Lambertii'

A morning visit to the [Parc Floral de la Prairie](#), which is able to grow more than 300 varieties of camellia, thanks to the particular terroir of the Cévennes. The parc has a nursery and a shop. Lunch can be either a picnic or a cold meal of local charcuterie and cheeses supplied by the owners.

In the afternoon, we will go to the [Terrasses du Bosquet](#), a beautiful example of an urban garden which focusses on fruit and vegetables. It also has a Mediterranean garden and a medieval garden. We will be guided by a facilitator from the Centre National de Pomologie.

To book a place, contact [Chantal Guiraud](#).

Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 May

MGF Annual General Meeting and garden visits, Le Barroux, Vaucluse

Organised by Nanouk Pelen and Hedwige Lauwaert



The 12th Annual General Meeting of Mediterranean Gardening France will take place in Le Barroux on Thursday 22 May 2025.

Nanouk Pelen and Hedwige Lauwaert and a team of MGF members have created a programme of garden activities over three days, starting at 14.00 on Wednesday 21 May.

Photo: Le jardin du Mont Ventoux, © Tony Stone

Wednesday 21 May	A talk on biodiversity at the Jardin des Papillons, Le Barroux Visit to member Tony Stone's Jardin Remarquable in Le Barroux Dinner at a restaurant in Crestet
Thursday 22 May	Visit to a member's garden, Le Jardin des Mille Fleurs, vieille ville d'Aubres Picnic lunch in a member's garden Guided visit to the Roseraie de Gérenton, Bédoin

	OR Wildflower walk AGM, Le Barroux Dinner at a restaurant in Le Barroux
Friday 23 May	Visit to a member's garden in Sarrians

Full details about the event and a booking form were circulated in February. If you need a copy or have any questions, please contact [Hedwige Lauwaert](#) or [Nanouk Pelen](#).

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Wednesday 11 March 19h00 French time
Corfu gardens and flowers - talk by Zoom, in English
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



This talk, based on an MPG trip to Corfu in April 2024, is by professional gardener, Jackie Hunt. The tour was based on a book, *Gardens of Corfu* by Rachel Weaving, with photographs by Marianne Majerus, and included time observing wildflowers in their natural habitat. Jackie will also talk about plants she has since introduced to the dry garden at Turn End in Buckinghamshire where she works.

Photo: Rachel Weaving's garden, Villa Zetouna

To book, visit the MPG website: [Corfu gardens and flowers - talk by Zoom](#)

Friday 28 March to Saturday 5 April
Wild flora of Elba
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



An exploration of Elba's natural flora, with a 20-seater minibus and walking. The group will stay in a simple hotel (the Belmare) in Porto Azzurro which is a nice small seaside town with a couple of beaches nearby, though the weather may not be very inviting for swimming! Botanical guide: Goffredo Filibeck, who teaches at the University of Tuscia and led our visits to Maremma, which we ran twice because members enjoyed them very much. There will be at least three or four kilometres of walking – some on difficult terrain – each day, more if the group is enthusiastic about walking.

Accommodation, six dinners, most lunches, guiding, the ferry crossing to the island, and local transport on the island included. Price is expected to be EUR 1200. Single supplement EUR 350.

Contact Heather Martin at hm@medpag.org.

Image: *Anthyllis barba-jovis*, near Biodola.

Sunday 22 to Thursday 26 June
Summer garden tour in Fife
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



This distinct area of Scotland, bounded to the south by the Forth and to the north by the Tay, has fine gardens, some with views across the estuaries. We will visit gardens restored to former glory on country estates and others developed in recent years. Most of the tour will be in the East Neuk and we will stay just over the Tay on the waterfront in Dundee, with interesting cultural sites nearby. Thank you to Teasses for the image of their garden.

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

Thursday 14 to Wednesday 27 August
The unique flora of the Western and Northern Cape
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



This tour will start and finish in Cape Town and will focus on the biodiversity of the unique fynbos vegetation and diversity of geophytes. Participants will see familiar garden plants growing in their natural habitat as well as many that are quite new. The Cape floristic region is home to the greatest non-tropical concentration of higher plant species in the world, with 9,000 species crammed into its small area. More than 6,200 (69 percent) of these are found nowhere else in the world.

The tour will be led by experienced guide, Frank Gaude. An optional extension from 27 – 31 August will provide an opportunity to see the sights of Cape Town and its surrounds. For more details, and to book, visit the [MPG website](#).

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens

1/2 March	L'art des Jardins	Ille-sur-Têt (Pyrénées-Orientales)
2 March	La Fête de la Nature en Minervois	La Redorte (Aude)
March— November	Formations pour les particuliers : semis, bouturage, aromathérapie, botanique, pierre sèche, chants d'oiseaux, aquarelle, phytothérapie, vannerie, taille etc...	Domaine du Rayol (Var)
15 March	Découverte des Salades Sauvages, Jardins ethnobotanique de la Gardie	Rousson (Gard)
15/16 March	Fête des plantes méditerranéennes rares et de collection, Domaine d'Orvès	La Valette-du-Var (Var)
21 - 23 March	La Petite Fête de l'Arbre	Lodève (Hérault)
23 March	Primavera	Montpellier (Hérault)
29/30 March	Fête des Jardins	Antibes (Alpes-Maritimes)
29/30 March	Floralies d'Antibes Juan-les-Pins	Antibes (Alpes-Maritimes)
29/30 March	Fête des plantes au MUCEM	Marseille (B-du-R)
6 April	Festival des Fleurs et des Plantes	Sommières (Gard)
6 April	Marché aux plantes	L'Isle sur La Sorgue (Vaucluse)

6 April	Foire aux plantes	La Garde (Var)
6 April	Foire aux Fleurs	Beaumes-de-Venise (Vaucluse)
12/13 April	Plantes Rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (Vaucluse)
13 April	Fête des Plantes et de la Nature	Arles (B-du-R)
13 April	Les Florales de Saint-Andiol	Saint-Andiol (B-du-R)
13 April	Pernes en Fleurs	Pernes les Fontaines (Vaucluse)
13 April	Foire aux fleurs	Lauris (Vaucluse)
19 -21 April	Cassis au Jardin	Cassis (B-du-R))
19 April	Fête du Printemps	Le Pontet (Vaucluse)
20 April	Foire Plantes et Nature	Prades (P-O)
20 April	Fête des jardins	Forcalquier (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence)
20 April	Foire aux plantes	La Londe les Maures (Var)
26 April	Foire aux plantes	Cuers (Var)
26/27 April	Fête des Plantes et du Massif – Abbaye de Fontfroide	Narbonne (Aude)
26/27 April	Portes ouvertes chez Tillandsia Prod	Le Cailar (Gard)
26/27 April	Journées des Jardins et de la Nature	Anduze (Gard)
27 April	Florales de Florensac	Florensac (Hérault)
27 April	Marché aux fleurs	Carpentras (Vaucluse)
27 April	Foire aux fleurs	Montvendre (Drôme)

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 on the Hortus programme, contact [Chantal Maurice](#).

1 March 14.30	Quelques jardins italiens du Latium par Chantal Maurice	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
22 March 14.30	La haie méditerranéenne du jardinier gourmand par Michèle Auvergne	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
19 April 14.30	Bourse aux plantes	Montferrier sur Lez,
15-17 May	Voyage à la découverte de jardins dans le Var	Var

NEWS AND INFORMATION

New on the website



[Visites aux jardins de la Pomme d'Ambre et du Domaine de l'Olivette](#)

Read Jacqueline Potter's account of visits to gardens in Fréjus and Roquebrune-sur-Argens, in the Var. Despite it being November, the day was sunny and dry, and both gardens were full of interesting plants, some in full bloom. The colourful foliage and textures offered a rich and varied spectacle.

Photo: *Bilbergia nutans*



[A garden in Maussane-les-Alpilles](#)

In 2018, members Clare and Mark Armour kindly invited us to visit their garden, which included an ambitious, newly planted project, designed by James Basson. The MGF team has created a new 'Garden Diary', which illustrates progress since this time, and includes some magnificent recent photographs taken by acclaimed garden photographer [Marianne Majerus](#).

Photo: One of the rusted metal pergolas
© Marianne Majerus



[Flowering Acacias and other Australian Plants and Trees](#)

Some of the first acacia species were brought from Australia by the French and British in the late 18th century. They found ideal growing conditions in the Maures and Tanneron Massifs, similar to those of their native land. Jacqueline Potter reports on visits to an acacia nursery and a garden specialising in Australian and South African flora, both in the town of Bormes-les-Mimosas, Var.

Photo: *Acacia decurrens* 'Bon Accueil'



[The Mediterranean Garden at Adelaide Botanic Garden](#)

The Mediterranean Garden within ABG was created in response to the 2001 – 2009 drought in South Australia, which highlighted the need to garden in harmony with the local climate, working with the scarcity of water, rather than fighting against it. In June 2022, it was decided it was time for the garden to be renewed.

Read Virginia Kennett and Christine Daniels' story of what happened next and see images of how the garden looks today.

Members' gardens to visit



[Jardin de la Roquette, Tourbes](#)

Liliane et Roland Leclercq have added their garden to our list of members' gardens open to visit by appointment.

Roland writes:

"We began work on our 3000 m² garden in 2016. It sits on a hill in a Hérault village and has a view across the surrounding countryside to Mont St Clair, near Sète. "

To make an appointment to visit, contact [Roland Leclercq](#).

Christine Daniels writes:

An MGF member came up with the idea of a 'Members' Gardens to Visit' page soon after the association was formed, in 2014. The idea quickly took off, and at one point there were more than a dozen gardens on the list, in départements from the Aude to the Alpes-Maritimes. However, in the last couple of years, for a variety of reasons, the number has reduced, and the list is in need of revitalisation.

I very much enjoyed opening my former garden to occasional visits from members, typically three or four visits per year, always by appointment at a time to suit. There is no need to make any special effort to make the garden look perfect, indeed sharing ideas about maintenance can be as interesting as the chat about plant successes and failures. So, please consider the idea of putting your garden on the list. It will be fun, and you may get some helpful ideas. If you are tempted, please [send me an email](#) and I hope to be able to answer any questions you may have.

David Bracey writes

New drops on the website "Water use it wisely": [Plant of the month: Winter color means Winter wonderful.](#)

OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

News from MGI groups

Mediterranean Gardening Margaret River

MGMR, based in Western Australia, holds garden events throughout the year. If you are visiting the area, and would like to join an activity, you can get a copy of the 2025 Events Calendar from [Pamela Edwards](#).

Reminder:

MGF is part of an umbrella association called Mediterranean Gardening International (MGI).

The newsletters of the partner associations 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).

Mediterranean Gardening Margaret River

Events Calendar available from [Pamela Edwards](#).

WHAT IS IT



Chantal Guiraud challenged us to guess the name of this flower. The name of the plant is *Dracaena fragrans* (cornstalk dracaena), native throughout tropical Africa. In European countries, it is primarily popular as a houseplant. *Dracaena fragrans* are not reliable bloomers, but when growing conditions are right, and the plant is mature (more than 5 years old), it can bloom one to three times per year.

AND FINALLY



The Laurustinus are blooming at the end of winter. So wrote Colette (French writer, 1873-1954) in 'L'Etoile de Vesper' 1946.

"Just enough time to serve a small dish of ephemeral showers on the platter of viburnum flowers then scorching spring will wreck all the blossoms."

Best wishes
Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor
Please send contributions to this newsletter to [Roland Leclercq](#)