



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

February 2015

Dear members and friends



Gardens in the Vaucluse – chez Frances, Eric et Françoise, et Christine

After a mild December and January the cold and snow has come as a bit of a shock. Gill Pound writes:

“Although the mild winter has encouraged some plants to come into growth, the vast majority will recover, even if the tips of stems have been frosted. Once the danger of severe cold has passed (usually around the end of Feb/mid March) you can cut back frosted growth to a healthy, new bud, to prevent further die back and encourage plants to produce fresh, new shoots. If you are worried about small, tender plants (especially if they have been recently planted) you can dig them up and take them into a greenhouse or veranda, most will soon produce new growth and recover. It is important to keep an eye on newly-planted specimens since they will often lift themselves partly out of the ground if there is a hard frost straight after planting. Check them regularly and re-firm the ground around them to ensure their roots are always in contact with the soil.”

Programme of activities in France

Thursday 26 February, 10.00am, Cesseroas (34)

Lecture by Anthony Noel: *Garden design for small spaces*

A lecture entitled *Great Little Gardens: Enclosed gardens, courtyards, roof terraces – how to bring style into small spaces*. Anthony is a British garden designer and author with experience of gardening in Morocco. The talk will be in Cesseroas and will be followed by lunch at the home of Liz and Jacques Thompson. Gill Pound will bring along some of her plants - let her know if you have any particular requirements.

Wednesday 25 March, 10.30am, Mormoiron (84)

Workshop on olives and olive trees

Célia Graud, consultant in *oléiculture* (and daughter of Elisabeth and Jean), will talk to us about how to care for olive trees and use one of the many trees in Sandra and Allan Cooper's garden to demonstrate the art of pruning. Participants may bring their own tools and try out their skills on Sandra's trees, under Célia's supervision.



Célia will also show us how to taste olive oils, demonstrating oils from Provence and from Languedoc, and members are encouraged to bring along oil from their own olive trees so that we can compare different styles. Kevan Kristjanson will also join in, with ideas about how to cure olives and prepare them for use in the kitchen.

Please bring along a dish for sharing at lunch time. Workshop limited to 25 people.
Fully booked, waiting list open.

Thursday 9 April, 10.30am, Rougiers (83)

Propagation workshop by Sylvie and Christian Mistre, Pépinière La Soldanelle

Sylvie and Christian Mistre will show us how to sow, transplant seedlings, and grow cuttings of plants typical of mediterranean gardens. In addition we will have a hands-on session where every participant will make his or her own sowings and cuttings. Coffee will be ready at 10.30 am and we finish roughly at 4 pm, with a picnic around noon.

The price of 20€ per person includes the workshop, the pots and potting soil, morning coffee and an aperitif at noon.

The number of participants is limited to 15.

Fully booked, waiting list open.

Wednesday 29 April, 10.30am, La Garde and Hyères (83)

Visit to a private garden and Iris en Provence



In the morning Chantal Guiraud has arranged for us to visit the garden of M and Mme Navarro, where many varieties of succulents and cacti are arranged in mixed beds with perennials. They also have a collection of tropical plants which they over-winter in their greenhouse.

After a restaurant lunch, June Grindley has organised a visit to the iris specialist nursery, *Iris en Provence*, in Hyères.

There is a limit of 25 places for the garden visit, but unlimited places for the lunch and nursery visit.

Garden visit fully booked but places available for lunch and Iris en Provence.

Tuesday/Wednesday 5/6 May, villages in the north Vaucluse (84)

MGF Second Annual General Meeting and programme of activities

The 2015 AGM will take place on Tuesday 5 May in Crestet, a village just south of Vaison-la-Romaine. The programme of activities will begin in the morning with a visit to gardens in Cairanne, <http://www.cairanne.net/jardins-cairanne.html>, followed by a picnic lunch and a wine-tasting. The AGM will be in the early evening and afterwards dinner has been organised at a nearby restaurant, La Fleur Bleue. On Wednesday we will visit a private garden then explore a natural site next to the Ouvèze river, l'espace botanique des Piboules <http://www.entrechaux.info/activites-loisirs/piboules.php>.

Jennifer Hastings and Kevan Kristjanson, who are organising the programme of events, will also be glad to lead a walk on Mont Ventoux on the Monday for anyone who would like to arrive one day earlier. Accommodation will be in members' homes or local chambres d'hôtes.

Wednesday/Thursday 10/11 June, Quercy (46)

Two days exploring the landscape, nurseries and gardens of Quercy

On Wednesday we will spend a full day with Frédéric Prévot, visiting his nursery in Escamps, *Les Senteurs du Quercy* <http://www.senteursduquercy.com/> which specialises in salvias, iris and lavender, and walking on the Causses plateau to view the wild flowers. On the Thursday we will visit the, *Les jardins de Quercy* in Verfeil-sur-Seye, <http://www.lesjardinsdequercy.fr/> followed by lunch in the garden of member, Liz Godfrey, in Najac.



Photo: Flore des Causses du Quercy

To book a place for activities in France, contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

International activities

Recently announced events in other countries are listed below. For a full list of international events, look on the MGF website: <http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/baEvtInt.htm>

22 – 29 May, Pelion, Greece

A botanical painting course - *Mediterranean plants from the hills and shores of South Pelion*

The course, set in a hotel run by a British/French couple, is suitable for beginners and intermediates. All drawing and painting materials will be supplied, unless participants wish to bring their own. The tutor, Maggie Niagassas, has lived amongst mediterranean plants and flowers for 35 years. Pelion, a green and unspoilt corner of Greece, is home to more than 1,500 plants and trees.

Contact: Sue Wake sue@lagouraxi.com

Sunday 12 to Wednesday 15 July, Herefordshire, UK

A tour of some special gardens in the countryside on the England/Wales border

This tour, based in Ross on Wye, will visit seven beautiful gardens created in different styles. Included are designer Arne Maynard's private garden, a 15th century castle garden, a Herefordshire take on Mediterranean planting, a Tom Stuart Smith garden and the Laskett, the famous garden of Sir Roy Strong. There will also be a talk by Peter Dowle who worked with James Basson to deliver the award-winning Mediterranean garden *After the Fire* at Chelsea in 2013.

Contact: Heather Martin hma@clara.net

Fully booked, waiting list open.

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs and open gardens

28/29 March	Fête des Jardins	Sophia Antipolis (06)
29 March	Primavera	Montpellier (34)
18/19 April	Plantes Rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
23/28 April	Les Floriales – Marché aux plantes, concours photos	Mazamet (81)
15/16/17 May	Les Journées des Plantes de Courson	Domaine de Chantilly (60)

Hortus Programme

For information on Hortus activities contact Chantal Maurice at chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr or go to the website <http://hortus.acl.free.fr>

Spring courses at La Petite Pépinière, Caunes-Minervois (11) – tutored by Gill Pound

Pruning: Wednesday 18th March, 10am to 4pm

An introduction to the principles and practice of pruning, why, when and how. Practical work will be included and the focus will be on plants frequently found in gardens in the region.

Propagation: Thursday 19th March, 10am to 4pm

An introduction to the principles of propagation - how to increase your own plants by layering, division, seeds and cuttings. Plenty of practical work included.

Course fee for each of the days: 45€. For further information contact Gill@lapetitepepiniere.com

News and information

Mediterranean Gardening France website

Go to the 'What's New?' page to see a summary of material added recently
<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/infWhatsnew.htm>

Highlights include:



A new [seed list](#) for 2015. Over 100 new varieties have been added, including some interesting hardy succulent seeds contributed by Tony Moreno, a succulent specialist based in Mallorca.

Do have a look at the list and send your order to Chantal. As always, if you have plant photos to fill in any of the gaps I'd be pleased to receive them.

Photo: *Astrophytum myriostigma*

To go with the new seed list, Chantal has written [an article](#) about the different types of grasses on the list and how to use them in the garden.

Photo: *Briza media*



New Group Coordinator for Provence/Côte d'Azur

After serving with June Grindley for several years as co-group coordinator for the eastern side of Mediterranean France, Carol Connolly has asked to step down since she is now working in the UK and unable to spend much time in France. We're sorry to lose her and thank her very much for her contribution to the running of the association. Fortunately for us, Nicola d'Annunzio, who lives in Lorgues and has hosted events in the past, has volunteered to take Carol's place. Nicola will be working with June on the forthcoming programme of activities in the Var and Alpes-Maritimes. You can contact Nicola at mgfnicola@gmail.com.

German contribution to Mediterranean gardening

I have received this letter from Andrew Hornung:

"I am trying to get a picture of the contribution of Germans (gardeners, designers, botanists, nurserymen, patrons) to horticulture in the Mediterranean. In Italy, which I know quite well, German gardeners were active in just about every region in the 19th century and up to WW1; German nurserymen were important there both in the 19th century and up to WW2; Germans also owned a number of important gardens in Italy in the 19th century and after, and German botanists had a certain impact in Italy, particularly in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

But what of the South of France? You who live and garden there will know and I would be grateful if you could give me the benefit of your knowledge. Please email me at giussanese@yahoo.co.uk or, if you prefer, write to Andrew Hornung, Rectory Farmhouse, Church Enstone, Chipping Norton, OX7 4NN."

FAIM de TERRE: projet à soutenir

Louisa Jones writes:

« Projet bien modeste contre l'artificialisation des sols, film en cours de production arrêté par manque de fonds, appel à l'aide... Voir aussi les excellentes lettres de soutien sur cette page... »

<http://www.touscoprod.com/fr/faimdeterre#ProjectActu>

Présentation

En 50 ans, 7 million d'hectares agricoles ont disparus en France soit l'équivalent d'un stade de foot toutes les 7 minutes. Ce phénomène d'artificialisation des terres est non seulement irréversible, mais il va en s'amplifiant. En Provence, tous les trois ans, c'est l'équivalent en superficie de la ville de Marseille qui disparaît de nos cartes et de nos paysages. Faim De Terre suit du champ au parking le phénomène d'artificialisation des sols. Filmé en Provence entre zones industrielles et champs de vigne, une enquête qui finit par nous mener sur les traces des alternatives avec ceux qui se battent pour ne pas perdre un m2 de terres fertiles de plus!

Pétition en ligne : Sauvons l'intendance du jardin des Plantes de Montpellier

Véronique Ferhmin from the Association Parcs et Jardins du Languedoc Roussillon has drawn our attention to this petition:



"Créé par Richer de Belleval en 1593 sous Henri IV, le jardin des plantes de Montpellier est le plus ancien jardin botanique de France. Ce lieu très prisé des Montpelliérains et des visiteurs de notre ville, est en passe d'être démantelé. L'Etat a décidé de mettre en vente le bâtiment de l'Intendance, cœur patrimonial de ce jardin en le présentant comme un immeuble de "bureaux". Nous souhaitons au contraire que ce bâtiment, inscrit au titre des Monuments Historiques, soit aménagé pour l'accueil des visiteurs, afin de les sensibiliser sur l'histoire botanique de notre ville et sur la biodiversité. Et ainsi rendre à l'ensemble du jardin des Plantes, l'attrait qu'il mérite."

To sign the petition:

https://www.change.org/p/madame-la-ministre-de-l-education-nationale-stoppez-la-vente-de-l-intendance-du-jardin-des-plantes-de-montpellier-stoppez-le-démantèlement-du-plus-ancien-jardin-botanique-de-france?just_created=true

Best wishes
Christine