



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

OCTOBER 2019

Dear members and friends,

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Tuesday 15th October Venterol, Drôme

Planning meeting for 2020 activities in the Vaucluse, Drôme and Bouches-du-Rhone



Jan Morgan and David Ash, who live in Venterol (between Valreas and Nyons) have kindly offered to host this planning meeting.

Jan writes:

"We'll start at 10.30 with tea and coffee before discussing ideas for 2020. Our home, Domaine St Michel, is being restored to being a bio-domaine after several years of neglect. Our vines are on a hillside. We have created olive terraces (the famous Nyons *tanche*) and are also creating dry gardens near the house.

We need more plants, so are offering lunch and our wine. We hope you'll bring plants. In the afternoon we'll give a guided tour of our vineyard and the gardens which we are creating. We follow permaculture principles, so hope you find ideas to take with you."

To book, contact [Jan Morgan](#).

Friday 18 October, 10.00, St Hippolyte du Fort, Gard

A walk with a botanist to learn about trees



Katharine Fedden has arranged for us to have a walk with botanist, Yves Maccagno, who specialises in trees. He has been working on the census of the biggest trees of the Gard for 12 years and has published two books on this subject. His third book is available to download:

(<http://lestetardsarboricoles.fr/wordpress/2018/01/30/livre-arbres-remarquables-du-gard-tome-iii>).

PHOTO : *Quercus ilex* in St Hippolyte du Fort

The morning will be spent looking at trees in St Hippolyte, then we will take a short drive to a picnic spot and after lunch have a further walk and see an exceptional tree. Flat terrain but good shoes needed.

To book a place, contact [Katharine Fedden](#).

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

21 – 27 April 2020, The Maremma, ITALY



This walking tour, aimed at exploring wild flora and scenery of Southern Tuscany, is for members who enjoy hiking for 10 km a day including sometimes on steep trails and uneven ground. Physical fitness and good walking boots are essential for many of the walks. Partners accompanying keen walkers will be welcome if they are happy to find alternative things to do and to cater for themselves at lunchtime. The first five nights will be spent in Porto Santo Stefano, Monte Argentario, and the last two nights inland in an area of volcanic tuff rock. Luggage will be restricted to one small suitcase and a day bag per person. Please email enquiries to Heather Martin hma@clara.net. The cost of the tour, excluding air fares but including all meals except one lunch, is expected to be very approximately approximately £1030 per person, with a single supplement of £190.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens

28-29 September	Portes Ouvertes, la Soldanelle	Rougiers (83)
4 - 6 October	Orchidées à Fontfroide	Narbonne (11)
5 – 6 October	Gondwana, Domaine du Rayol	Le Rayol- Canadel (83)
13 October	Foire aux plantes, Bambouseraie d'Anduze	Généralgues (30)
20 October	Marché des plantations et des produits du terroir	Saint Gély-du-Fesc (34)
23 - 24 November	Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	St Jean du Gard (30)

12 and 13 October Le Jardin Champêtre – Caunes-Minervois



Autumn Open Days

Members Imogen Checketts and Kate Dumbleton will be opening their garden and nursery on the weekend of 12/13 October with the focus being on ornamental grasses.

19 bis avenue de la Montagne noire,
11160 Caunes-Minervois.

<https://lejardinchampetre.com/1063-2/>

Hortus Programme

28 September	Visite pépinière Issa	Valflaunès (34)
5 October	Visite pépinière Quissac, jardin écologique	Souviagnargues (30)
19 October	Bourse aux plantes	
30 November	TBC	
7 December	Les orchidées de notre région, par Michel Nicole de la Société Française d'Orchidophilie Languedoc	

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

Mediterranean Gardening France website

The [WHAT'S NEW?](#) page has a summary of material added recently.



Garden Diaries

An [article](#) written by Julia Fogg and Anny Evason about their experience of creating 'Le jardin qui chante' for the Chaumont garden festival.

Photo:

Anny's visual representation of the garden



In the Gardening section, *Bringing the Mediterranean landscape into your garden* – a talk given by Olivier Filippi at the University of Evora during the 2019 MGf conference.

[Video](#) in English, courtesy of our partner, Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal.

List of plants which survived well during this summer's heatwave

Annie Nivière has compiled a list of plants which survived well during the hot weather of summer 2019. Contributions to this list were made by members of our partner organisation, Hortus. You can look at the list on the Hortus website: [Une liste de plantes qui ont supporté la canicule](#).

We also have, in archive files, a list compiled by MGS members following the heatwave of 2003. Nina Guichard has volunteered to combine these two lists and the result will be published on the MGF website, illustrated with images from the MGF photo library. Please look at the Hortus list, and if you have any additional suggestions, and plant photographs, send them to Nina at contact@nrlandscaping.fr.

Even more "confused.com"

David Bracey writes :

"The packaging has the same colours - yellow and green, the name is the same "Roundup", but the active ingredient is either pelargonic or acetic acid. It depends on the formulation! We now have two new formulations of Roundup but without glyphosate which is banned for garden use!

The first formulation is called "Roundup Speed" and contains acetic acid. The second "Aleavi " contains pelargonic acid also known as nonanoic acid. Both are trademarks of Belchim Crop Protection, the manufacturer. Both are described as biocontrol formulations.

Let's look at each formulation. Roundup Speed contains acetic acid, a weak acid commonly found in vinegar. It is active by contact. Results are seen within 1 hour! A second application is recommended to "prolong the length of control". It is recommended for use in yards, alleys and terraces.

Aleavi contains pelargonic acid (PA) which is found naturally occurring in most plants and animals. It is sometimes called nonanoic acid which has industrial uses in flavourings, plasticisers and lacquers. PA is "rapidement inactivé dans le sol, il laisse le sol propre et permet de semer ou replanter 1 jour seulement après l'application"! PA has little or no toxicity to birds, bees, fish and rapidly decomposes in soil. Drift to other plants should be kept to a minimum. It can be a skin and eye irritant. Aleavi controls weeds by

contact. It is recommended for use in all cultures. The first effects are visible less than 3 hours after treatment!

Comments. It is likely that these two formulations will be rapidly ceased-upon by the gardening community. They have no effect on perennial weeds and only a “ burn-down “ effect on annuals. Success will depend on early and follow-up applications. Control programmes are likely to be expensive.

I have a sample of Aleavi and will be reporting on its activity later. “



My favourite plant

You are welcome to send a picture of your favourite plant, accompanied by a short text, to be published in the newsletter. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](#). This month, *Cneorum tricoccon* (Roland Leclercq)



A star for dry limestone soils : *Cneorum tricoccon*. A plant which I never water, not even this year, and which tolerates a few days at -12 ° C. In short, a “must” plant for the Mediterranean garden. This Mediterranean plant is endemic in France (Languedoc-Roussillon), the Balearic Islands and Italy, and had already been presented as a favourite plant on the MGF forum by Gil Pound and Chantal Guiraud.

It forms a small, very dense ball (50 cm x 50 cm) with small, dark green, evergreen leaves. The yellow flowers are not very interesting but produce beautiful, very decorative red fruit. It grows, rather slowly, in clay-limestone soil in sun or partial shade unimpeded by the presence of oak and pine roots. Its foliage contrasts well with that of plants with gray leaves, and it is splendid covering stone walls. A highly recommended plant, can be used extensively (to be used without moderation). (photo, *Cneorum tricoccon* on the left, 14th August 2019, no watering).

Translation: Nanouk Pelen

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. The photos will also be available in the Members' Forum where you can suggest your answers. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](mailto:rolandlec@wanadoo.fr).

The "What is it?" in the September Newsletter (contributed by Roland Leclercq) was seeds of *Tragopogon porrifolius*.



Tragopogon porrifolius is commonly known as purple or common salsify. It is a biennial wildflower native to Mediterranean regions but it can be found in central and Southern England.

It is cultivated for its ornamental purple flower and edible root (after being boiled). Flowers are followed by huge dandelion type seed heads

Photo: Seeds of *Tragopogon porrifolius*.

The new "What is it?" is below (proposed by David Bracey). You can find a clue in the website ("What is it?"). Answer in the next newsletter.



What's new in the [members' Forum](#)

Here are some of the new topics being discussed on the members' forum.
To see them, log into the member area and click on ACCESS THE FORUM

Pests and Diseases /Two new herbicides

The quote of the month

Garden visitors should keep in mind, this 17th century quote reported by Louisa Jones in her book "The garden visitor's companion" Ed. Thames and Hudson:

"Pat Jonas of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden discovered in *De Florum Cultura* (1638) a warning from the author, Giovanni Battista Ferrari, that light fingered gardeners will be turned into snails. "

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor

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