



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

MAY 2020

Dear members and friends,

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

CORONAVIRUS

With the current health crisis and government regulations, we have had no option but to postpone the activities we had planned for Spring 2020. As information on new dates becomes available, it will appear in this newsletter and on the website.

Thursday 30 April, Beaumes-de-Venise / Le Barroux, Vaucluse

A walk and a visit to Tony Stone's garden, La Jeg.

This event will be postponed to a similar time next year.

For information, contact [Tilly Chambers](#).

Wednesday 13 May, Vers-Pont-du-Gard,

MGF Annual General Meeting

As it will be impossible to hold the meeting at Pont-du-Gard, the 2020 AGM will be a 'virtual' one. Members will be able to vote online to approve the re-election of MC members, the financial reports and the minutes of last year's AGM. Instructions on how to do this have recently been sent by email to all members.

Later in April, we will circulate a document containing the information normally given to members at the AGM:

- Reports by the events coordinators on the year's activities
- Reports by the secretary and treasurer
- Reports on the library, the seedbank, the website and the newsletter

Saturday 16 May, Grignan and Nyons, Drôme, 10.15

A guided rose walk and a visit to an ecological fair

This event has been postponed to mid-May 2021.

For information, contact [Jan Morgan](#).

Wednesday 10 June, Simiane la Rotonde, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence

A day out at the Abbaye de Valsaintes

This event has been postponed to June 2021.

For information, contact [Frances Horne](#).

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

For a full list of international events, go to the [MGF website](#).

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens

24/25 October	REVISED DATE	Plantes Rares et Jardin Naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (Vaucluse)
---------------	--------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------



JOURNÉES PORTES OUVERTES

CANCELLED



SAMEDI & DIMANCHE
24 & 26 AVRIL 2020: 10H-17H
SITE LIBRE: PLANTES - GRAMINÉES, VIVACES
BOUTIQUE - CÉRAMIQUES & CAKE, ETC.
1910 AVENUE DE LA MONTAGNE NOIRE, 11100
CAUNES-MINERVOIS, 07 80 43 32 62
LEJARDINCHAMPETRE@GMAIL.COM
WWW.LEJARDINCHAMPETRE.COM



Imogen Checketts and Kate Dumbleton, members of MGF, have announced Open Weekends in their nursery, Le Jardin Champêtre, Caunes-Minervois. The spring open weekend has been cancelled. Next Open weekends are: Summer Open Weekend on 6/7th June and an Ornamental Grasses weekend 19th/20th September.

Le Jardin Champêtre
37 av. du Minervois (office)
19 bis av. de la Montagne Noire (garden)
11160 Caunes-Minervois
Tel. France +33 (0) 7 80 43 32 62
www.lejardinchampetre.com
www.facebook.com/jardinchampetre

From La Soldanelle:

“We are re-opened to the public and we have the right to offer you vegetable plants as well as ornamental plants as long as the health guidelines are respected. We only receive you by appointment from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2 to 6 p.m., except Sundays and holidays. You can call us on 04 94 80 43 83 then fill in your travel exemption for the purchase of vegetable plants. [Website](#)”

Pépinière Filippi also receives you by appointment. See the procedure on the [website](#). Sales by mail order should be partially available soon.

Most nurseries (Senteurs du Quercy etc..) have partially re-opened, see their website, call them. Please, support them in these difficult times.

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

Mediterranean Gardening France website

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



[To Spain for daffodils - an illustrated talk by John David](#)

John David, Head of Horticultural Taxonomy at the RHS, talks about the genus *Narcissus*, one of his areas of special interest. After a brief introduction to the classifications and evolution of the genus, John takes us on a geographical journey transecting Spain from north to south, showing images of most of the 25 species found in Spain and some hybrids.

This talk was given in January 2020 at the winter meeting of our partner association, Mediterranean Plants and Gardens. Thanks to David Mason for the editing and collation of the slides and audio.



[Le Jardin Bleu](#)

The use of blue and contrasting white and yellow in a Mediterranean garden

A summary of a talk given in January to MGF and Hortus members by Pierre Bianchi, MGF member and president of the Société Française d'Acclimatation.

A list of the plants recommended by Pierre can be found [here](#).

Photo: *Phacelia campanularia*

Pierre also recommended some gardens to visit, books to read and a nursery, [Pépinières Speciosa](#), in Pezilla la Riviere (66370). This has been added to our list of Recommended Nurseries.

Gardens to visit:

Le jardin d'Anthony Bazin à Privas (Ardèche)

Jardin du Pelinec (Côtes d'Armor)

Les jardins de Kerdalo (Côtes d'Armor)

Books:

A Book of Blue Flowers, Robert Geneva, Timber Press

Guide de la couleur au jardin, Francis Peeters and Guy Vandersande, Editions Ulmer

Colour Your Garden, Mary Keen, Conran

La connaissance des sauges, Christian Froissart, Edisud

Articles for the website

It may be some time before we are able to get together in person to visit gardens, however this doesn't mean we can't share photos and information about what's looking good in our own gardens. Please think about writing an article about a favourite plant, or how about describing a project you have undertaken in your garden. We have headings on the website to cover garden diaries, gardening topics of all kinds, recommended plants, visits to gardens in France or abroad, book reviews, and even a page entitled 'Some Good Ideas'.

So please think about what you'd like to share with other members and send text and photos (with plants named wherever possible) to the website editor, [Christine Daniels](#).

QUIZ

Contributed by David Bracey.

Answers at the end of the newsletter.

Question A. There are five Mediterranean regions including the Mediterranean Basin, South West Australia and the Cape in South Africa. Name the other two.

Question B. There are only two *Campsis* species, names please in Latin and English or French.

Question C. Among the following cistuses, which ones grow only in acidic soils.

- *Cistus populifolius*
- *Cistus albidus*
- *Cistus ladanifer*
- *Cistus monspeliensis*
- *Cistus salvifolius*

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](#).

The "What is it?" in the March Newsletter (proposed by Annie Nivière) was *Anagyris foetida* (Fabaceae), stinking wood



This plant is native to the Mediterranean basin. It is a shrub 1 to 3 m high. The plant gives off a foul smell when you break the stems or crumple the leaves. The leaves are deciduous, glaucous green, slightly hairy below. Yellow flowering occurs early, from February to March. It can grow in our Mediterranean gardens. Hardiness - 10 ° C to -12 ° C.

The photo was taken on the island of Amorgos in Greece.

Photo (Annie Nivière): *Anagyris foetida*.

The new "What is it?" is below (Photo by Hubert Nivière). You can find a clue in the website (Forum, item "What is it?"). Answer in the next newsletter.



A ceramic sculpture, a plant, something else?

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

Plants & Gardens/Pests & diseases/Arbutus (strawberry tree) leaf spot
Miscellany/Regulatory news/Trust me, I'm a herbicide producer

QUIZ Answers

A. Central Chile and California

B. *Campsis grandiflora*, English : Chinese trumpet vine, Chinese Trumpet creeper. Français : Bignone à grandes fleurs, Bignone de Chine

Campsis radicans, English : Trumpet creeper, American trumpet vine, Crimson trumpet Vine.
Français : Bignone, Jasmin de Virginie, Jasmin trompette.

The hybrid of *C. grandiflora* and *C. radicans* is *C. x tagliabuana*.

C. *C. populifolius* et *C. ladanifer*

A press release from the French Psychiatric Association

During the quarantine time, it is considered normal to talk to your plants and pots. Please, contact us only if they reply.

Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor

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