



# Mediterranean Gardening France

[www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org](http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org)

## SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear members and friends,

### PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Due to current government guidelines and the restrictions on the number of people who may gather in a public place, our activities continue to be very limited. A provisional future programme is below:

**Thursday 17 September 2020, 10:30 am, Caunes-Minervois**

**A visit to Le Jardin Champêtre and its nursery**

19bis, avenue de la Montagne Noire

11160 Caunes-Minervois.

Website: <https://www.lejardinchampetre.com>



After the nursery visit, Kate and Imogen have kindly invited us to eat our picnic lunches in their garden. Don't forget to bring cutlery, glasses and masks. Please register your interest in attending by sending an email to [Chantal Guiraud](mailto:Chantal.Guiraud@lejardinchampetre.com) or phone: 06 88 30 17 09 and indicate whether you plan to bring a picnic for lunch so that our hostesses can prepare for our visit.

Should the Covid situation become more critical and we have to cancel, we will notify people who register in the week before the visit.

**The 2021 MGF Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 19 May, Pont-du-Gard**



This will take place at the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Pont du Gard. The Roman aqueduct, built in the first century AD to carry water to the city of Nîmes, crosses the Gardon river near the town of Vers-Pont du-Gard.

We will hold the meeting in the morning at the Restaurant Les Terrasses on the Rive Droite. After the meeting there will be a lunch followed by a guided visit to the third level of the bridge for up to a maximum of 35 people. It will also be possible to explore the extensive site with its thousand year-old olive trees, botanical garden, preserved Mediterranean landscape - the 'Memoires de Garrigue' and a 19c charcoal kiln.

Bookings will open early next year. For information contact [Christine Daniels](mailto:Christine.Daniels@mediterraneangardeningfrance.org).

**Wednesday 2 June 2021, Simiane la Rotonde, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence**

**A visit to the gardens of the Abbaye de Valsaintes and a talk on using essential oils in the garden**



We have a new date for this visit to the 7<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian Abbaye de Valsaintes. The gardens are classed as a Jardin Remarquable and include a dry garden, with 350 plant species; an ecological potager, using permaculture techniques and a rose garden, where one follows a path tracing the history of roses (550 species). At an altitude of 600m, the abbey is ideally situated for roses which benefit from cooler nights.

The visit will be divided into two parts: in the morning, a guided 1h30 visit of the gardens (dry garden, roses, potager) with Jean-Yves Meignen.

This will be followed by a 30' guided tour of the church and demonstration of Gregorian chant. In the afternoon Jean-Yves will give us a talk and demonstration on using essential oils in the garden, including making blends for specific uses and how to apply them.

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

## **Postponed events**

### **Cesseroas / Aude**

**A visit to Liz and Jacques Thomson's garden and a talk on Persian Gardens**

To be re-scheduled to a date in 2021

For information contact [Chantal Guiraud](#)

### **Baumes-de-Venise / Le Barroux, Vaucluse**

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

To be re-scheduled to spring 2021

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

### **Grignan and Nyons, Drôme**

**A guided rose walk and a visit to an ecological fair**

To be re-scheduled to spring 2021

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

## **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Mediterranean Gardening International events**

Decisions about whether and when the planned events will take place will be taken as the Covid-19 situation becomes clearer. Under discussion are:

August/September 2021  
May 2022

A Visit to the Fairest Cape  
Gardens of the Hyères region

South Africa  
France

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Plant fairs and open gardens

6 September	Journée des plantes	Uzès (Gard)
19/20 September	Salon du livre de jardin - Domaine d'Orvès	La Valette-du-Var (Var)
19/20 September	Journées du patrimoine	throughout France
26/27 September	Gondwana, Domaine du Rayol	Le Rayol- Canadel (Var)
2-4 October	Journées des Plantes d'Albertas	Bouc-Bel-Air (Bouches-du-Rhone)
2 - 4 October	Orchidées à Fontfroide	Narbonne (Aude)
24/25 October	Plantes Rares et Jardin Naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (Vaucluse)

### Hortus Programme

9 October (to be confirmed)	Pépinière Quissac : Les sauges	Souvignargues (Gard)
17 or 24 October	Bourse aux plantes	Montferrier s Lez (Hérault)
November (date to be determined)	Les champignons	Clapiers (Hérault)
5 December	Les cistes (conférence in French)	Montferrier s Lez (Hérault)

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

### **Websites**

#### **Mediterranean Gardening France**

Work continues on the development of the new website which should be ready for launch in the autumn. Kevan Kristjanson has kindly volunteered to take on the role of MGF Website Manager, with Ian Davis continuing as Information Manager.

#### **Mediterranean Gardening International**

Rob Peddle, Treasurer of our sister association, Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal, has taken over from Ian Davis as the administrator of the MGi website. The website has been transferred to a new platform and has a new layout. Do have a look: <https://www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org/>

## 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 July Newsletter (proposed by Annie Nivière) was *Michauxia campanuloides*.

*Michauxia campanuloides*, the rough-leaved michauxia, is an ornamental plant in the *Campanulaceae* (bellflower) family. It is native to Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel. For more information see the [article](#) (in French) by Annie Nivière on the Hortus website.

The new "What is it?" is below. The photos are from Alfredo Unda (Mediterranean Gardening Chile). What are these yellow flowers which cover the slopes of Mount Bustamante in La Aurora (Chile)? Alfredo has picked them as the MGChile "Flower of the month".



You can find the answer, an article in English and Spanish, and more photos on the [MGC website](#).

### 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/ Advice service/ Any suggestions for hedge plants to hide fencing against natural forest  
Plants & Gardens/ Advice service / Broken tree branch  
Plants & Gardens / Pests & diseases / Fly control  
Plants & Gardens / Plants / Succulents

### And finally

if you are having difficulty in these times of epidemic, consider the sentence of Khalil Gibran (in "Sand and foam, a book of aphorisms")

"In the autumn I gathered all my sorrows and buried them in my garden.

And when April returned and spring came to wed the earth, there grew in my garden beautiful flowers unlike all other flowers."

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to: [rolandlec@wanadoo.fr](mailto:rolandlec@wanadoo.fr)