



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

OCTOBER 2021

Dear members and friends,

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Thursday 28 October, 10.00am, Souvignargues, Gard

A visit to Pépinières Quissac



Miriam and Fabien Quissac, specialists in Mediterranean and edible plants, run their [nursery](#) on ecological principles. They have invited us to visit the nursery in order to learn about their pomegranate collection and to taste some of the different varieties, which will be ripe at this time of year. We will also be able to visit the demonstration and trial gardens.

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

Plans for Spring/Summer 2022

The MGF Annual General Meeting, Pont-du-Gard

We hope that after a two year delay, we will at last be able to hold an 'in person' AGM at the Pont-du-Gard in May 2022.

Gardens in Aude

A two day visit, including Daniel Fiala's garden in Tourreilles, south of Limoux

Fayence, Var

A visit to La Campagne Sainte-Marie and a garden belonging to MGF members

Le Barroux, Vaucluse

A visit to the gardens of MGF members Tony Stone, and Hedwige Lauwaert and Paul Kiekens

Grignan and Nyons, Drôme

A guided rose walk and a visit to an ecological fair

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens

17 October	Fête des plantes, Bamboueraie en Cévennes	Généralgues (30)
17 October	Flore à Simiane, fête des plantes d'automne	Simiane-la-Rotonde (84)
23 October	1 ^{er} Festival des Plantes en Montagne Noire	Fontiers-Cabadès (11)
24 October	Foire de la « Pomme Reinette du Vigan » et de l'oignon « Doux des Cévennes »	Le Vigan (30)
20 – 21 November	Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	Quissac (30)

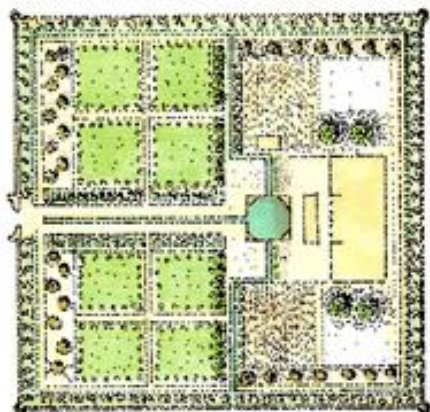
Hortus Programme

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](#).

23 October	Bourse aux plantes, 14h30 Salle du Dévezou	Montferrier-sur-Lez (34)
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NEWS AND INFORMATION

New on the website



In June, members visited the home of Liz and Jacques Thompson in Cesseras. After the garden visit, Liz gave a talk about the gardens of Persia, entitled 'A Persian Odyssey'.

The beautifully illustrated presentation, reflecting the harmony and poetry of these magnificent gardens, has been converted by Liz into an article for the website.

You can find it [here](#), in the Gardens to Visit section (though currently travel to Iran is virtually impossible).

FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Gardens of the coast of Chile



The featured speaker at California Horticultural Society's September meeting was Cristóbal Elqueta, who has been working in Chile as a garden designer for over 20 years. He explains his process for creating naturalistic landscapes, focusing on native plants.

You can find the video on the Cal Hort YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/i4ndNs76_Og

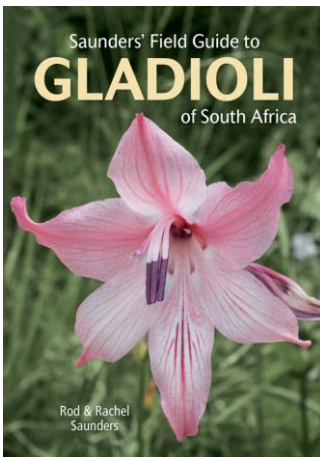
Stellenberg garden in Cape Town



Here is [a video](#) where Cape Horticultural Society members, Andrew and Sandy Ovenstone, talk about their fabulous garden. There is an opportunity to donate to their charity.

You can also read the MGF website report on [a visit to Stellenberg garden](#), written following a trip to gardens of the Cape in 2016, organised by Angela Durnford, of MGS Italy. You'll find the report under the Cape Town Suburbs tab.

A new book about gladioli



Saunders' Field Guide to Gladioli of South Africa, published by Penguin Books, is the first to offer a complete photographic record of the 166 species that occur in the country. Posthumously completed, this book is the culmination of the Saunders' long search to find and photograph every known species of gladiolus in South Africa, home to more than half of the world's gladiolus species.

The book was launched by a [video](#) which includes an overview by Rupert Koopman of the conservation status of gladioli and a presentation by Dr John Manning, botanist and author of *Field Guide to Wild Flowers of South Africa*.

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. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](#).

The "What is it?" in the August Newsletter was *Banksia burdettii*. This beautiful plant that grows in Pierre's garden near Perpignan is native to Australia. This *Proteaceae* blooms with orange spikes in late summer. It is resistant to drought once installed and down to -5 ° C.



The photo of the new "What is it" is sent by Alfredo Unda from Chile. You will probably guess the genus, but the species, little known in France, is more difficult to find. What a beauty !



MY FAVOURITE PLANT

You are welcome to send a picture of the plant that you hate or of your favourite plant (rare or common), accompanied by a short text, to be published in this newsletter. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](#)



Convolvulus sabatius, the ground blue-convolvulus or blue rock bindweed, is a wonderful ground cover. It is very beautiful in full sun in a rock garden or at the top of stone walls. Native to the Mediterranean, this perennial is covered with lavender blue flowers all summer and part of autumn. It is an easy plant that grows in all soils. It tolerates drought but appreciates some watering. Invaluable in our gardens.

AND FINALLY

To say that plants are intelligent is to underestimate them (Francis Hallé, born in 1938, French botanist).

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor

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