



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardening.fr

NOVEMBER 2024

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Friday 1 November

Visits to Le Jardin Pomme d'Ambre and the Domaine de l'Olivette

Organised by Jacqueline Potter

We will start the day at 10:30 at Pomme d'Ambre in Fréjus. Nicole Arboireau's enchanting garden, recognised as a Jardin Remarquable, benefits from the mild climate of the Côte d'Azur. Over many years, the owners have cultivated a stunning variety of Mediterranean plants and trees, including several rare species, making this garden a true delight for plant lovers. Nicole herself will show us around.



Photo: Le Jardin Pomme d'Ambre

The entry ticket for this garden is 15€ per person, including a welcome drink and the guided tour. There is an option to benefit from a lower price: if you are a member of the garden, the price goes down to 10€.

After our morning visit, we'll head to Roquebrune-sur-Argens to explore the Domaine de l'Olivette, where Claire Delmotte, the owner, will guide us through the estate. The domaine not only produces a wide range of olives but is also home to various citrus trees and over 25 types of fruit trees.

During our visit, the olive harvest should be in full swing, offering us a unique glimpse into this traditional process. The domain produces a range of olive oil, olives, tapenades, and jams.

To book a place, contact [Jacqueline Potter](mailto:jacqueline.potter@mediterraneangardening.fr)

21 – 23 May 2025

12th MGF Annual General Meeting and garden visits, Le Barroux, Vaucluse

The next Annual General Meeting will take place in Le Barroux on Thursday 22 May. A number of garden visits are being planned between Wednesday 21 and Friday 23 May, including a Jardin Remarquable, a couple of private gardens, and a pépinière. Full details and a booking form will be available in the new year.

In the meantime, the organisers have provisionally booked 12 double rooms for two nights at: Hotel Domaine des Tilleuls, Malaucène:

<http://www.hotel-ventoux-provence.com/>

These rooms will be held for members of the MGF until the end of October. If you wish to book a room, please do so directly with the hotel as soon as possible; the hotel has stated that the cost is refundable if cancelled more than 7 days before the start of the stay. Please mention that you are a member of the MGF, as the rooms have been provisionally booked for us.

Should you prefer to stay in a B&B, here are some suggestions for rooms in the area:
Le Pont de l'Orme, Malaucène, <https://www.pontdelorme.com/>
Le Clos St Michel, Malaucène, <https://www.le-clos-saint-michel.com/>
Aube Safran, le Barroux, <https://www.aube-safran.com/>
Le Mas de la Lause, Le Barroux, <https://www.provence-gites.com/>
Au Soleil du Bonheur, Lafare, <https://ausoleildubonheur.fr/fr/bonjour/>

Two MGF members have gîtes not far from Le Barroux, which are available for the AGM period:
[Sherry and Dany Mitchell](#), Caromb
[Danielle and Anthony de Moubray](#), Caromb

We look very much forward to welcoming many of you next year. If you have any questions, please contact
[Hedwige Lauwaert](#) or [Nanouk Pelen](#).

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Sunday 20 – Sunday 27 October, Lycia, Turkey
Autumn jewels of the Taurus
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



Photo: *Colchicum stevenii*

A one-week tour in south-west Turkey exploring habitats from the coast to the higher slopes, which still harbour stunning old growth cedar forests. There will be visits to Simena, Phaselis and Termessos, for the wild flora as well as for their history. Participants should see many species of colchicum, crocus and cyclamen and sternbergia. The leader will be Başak Gardner. After the botanical tour there is an optional cultural extension from 27 – 30 October. More details and a booking form can be found on the [MPG website](#).

Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 November
2024 MGAP Autumn Garden Fair, Lagoa, Portugal
Organised by Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal



To help celebrate its 10th anniversary year, MGAP is planning to hold a special Autumn Mediterranean Garden Fair at the beginning of November 2024. With the support of the Camara de Lagoa, this will take place in the Parque Municipal de Feiras e Exposições de Lagoa.

Further information from mgapfairs@gmail.com

Exploring Spain, an online presentation, in English
Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 18.00 (Zoom link open from 17.45)
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



Razvan Chisu, a horticulturist originally from Transylvania, has explored Spain extensively. He will give an illustrated presentation online about the diversity of plants there, featuring a good number of alpines, bulbs, orchids and shrubs. Members will be able to ask questions after the talk, which will not be recorded.

Book on the [MPG booking page](#) before 15.00 on Monday 11 November.

Photo: *Narcissus bulbocodium*

Online Christmas Quiz with John Fielding
Wednesday 11 December – 5.30pm for 6pm (bookings close 5.30pm on 10 December)
More information on the MPG website [here](#)

Winter meeting (online) with guest speaker Stephen Edney
Saturday 11 January 2025 10.30 for 11am
More information on the MPG website [here](#)

Wild flora of Elba
Friday 28 March to Saturday 5 April 2025



To explore the natural flora, with a 20-seater minibus and walking. The group will stay in a simple hotel (the Belmare) in Porto Azzurro which is a nice small seaside town with a couple of beaches nearby, though the weather may not be very inviting for swimming! Botanical guide: Goffredo Filibeck, who teaches at the University of Tuscia and led our visits to Maremma, which we ran twice because members enjoyed them very much. There will be at least three or four kilometres of walking – some on difficult terrain – each day, more if the group is enthusiastic about walking.

Accommodation, six dinners, most lunches, guiding, the ferry crossing to the island, and local transport on the island included. Price is expected to be EUR 1200. Single supplement EUR 350. Contact Heather Martin at hm@medpag.org. Photo: *Anthyllis barba-jovis*, near Biodola.

MPG's UK summer garden tour in Fife
Sunday 22 to Thursday 26 June 2025



This distinct area of Scotland, bounded to the south by the Forth and to the north by the Tay, has fine gardens, some with views across the estuaries. We will visit gardens restored to former glory on country estates and others developed in recent years. Most of the tour will be in the East Neuk and we will stay just over the Tay on the waterfront in Dundee, with interesting cultural sites nearby. Thank you to Teasses for the image of their garden.

The unique flora of the Western and Northern Cape
Thursday 14 to Wednesday 27 August 2025
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



This tour will start and finish in Cape Town and will focus on the biodiversity of the unique fynbos vegetation and diversity of geophytes. Participants will see familiar garden plants growing in their natural habitat as well as many that are quite new. The Cape floristic region is home to the greatest non-tropical concentration of higher plant species in the world, with 9,000 species crammed into its small area. More than 6,200 (69 percent) of these are found nowhere else in the world.

The tour will be led by experienced guide, Frank Gaude. An optional extension from 27 – 31 August will provide an opportunity to see the sights of Cape Town and its surrounds. For more details, and to book, visit the [MPG website](#).

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens

19/20 October	Atelier - L'art de la pierre sèche, Domaine du Rayol	Le Rayol-Canadel (Var)
27 October	Festival des Plantes en montagne noire	Fontiers-Cabardes (Aude)
9 November	Atelier - La taille au jardin par Jean-Laurent Félizia -	Domaine de Rayol (Var)
10 November	Foire plantes et Nature	Prades (P-O)
16 November	Atelier - Découverte des concepts de Gilles Clement	Domaine de Rayol (Var)
16/17 November	Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	Quissac (Gard)
23 November	Atelier - Initiation à la Botanique par Jérémy Tritz	Domaine de Rayol (Var)
1 December	Fête de l'arbre	Carcassonne (Aude)

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](#).

19 October 14.30	Bourse aux Plantes parking du Centre Culturel du Devézou	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
23 November 14.30	Conférence : des graminées pour nos jardins Par Elisabeth Gratraud	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
7 December 14.30	Conférence : quelques jardins italiens du Latium Par Chantal Maurice	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
8 March (To be confirmed)	Un jardinier pressé : comment obtenir un jardin mature en peu de temps . Par Roland Leclercq	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
15-17 May	Voyage à la découverte de jardins dans le Var	Var

NEWS AND INFORMATION

New on the website



Photo: *Strelitzia reginae* 'Hyères'

[The 2024 Assemblée Générale – website report on garden visits](#)

The AG was held on 29 May, in Hyères. Jacqueline Potter organised a guided tour of the town to learn about its history, and the reasons why it has so many beautiful gardens. Over three days, we visited:

- Jean-Marie Rey's private garden
- Gérard and Monique Borgetto's private garden
- Castel Sainte-Claire
- Villa Noailles
- Le Plantier de Costebelle
- Château Noir
- Le Jardin Botanique de Olbius Riquier



La Citadelle

[The gardens of La Citadelle and La Louve, Vaucluse](#)

In September, we visited two very different gardens in the adjacent villages of Ménerbes and Bonnieux in the Vaucluse.

Bruno Pellier and Robert Clerbout describe the impressive collection of informatively labelled aromatic plants, set out in square wooden containers, on a terraced hillside.

Beata Baran tells the story of Nicole de Vésian's iconic garden, La Louve, recounting how it has developed over almost 40 years under the stewardship of several owners, all of whom understood the need to preserve this living work of art.



La Louve



[Visits to gardens in Golfe-Juan and Antibes](#)

Also in September, but further east, a group of members visited two interesting gardens in Golfe-Juan and Antibes. The first was a citrus grove, belonging to Adrien Strutynski, a professional agrumiculteur. Here, the group learned about the conditions necessary for successful citrus cultivation.

In the afternoon, Annie Zanini led a tour of her garden where she and her husband have successfully grown plants more typically found in a tropical forest: avocado trees, cussonia, murraya and *Petrea voubilis* (pictured).

You can read Jacqueline Potter's report on the website.

Recommended nursery

Pépinière Botanique de la Madone (St Martin du Var 06)



Photo: *Erhetia anacua*

Rare and unusual plants suited for dry gardens, as well as a wide range of subtropical and tropical species, and edible plants from all continents. Excellent planting advice.

[Pépinière Botanique de la Madone](#) has been added to the [MGF list of Recommended nurseries](#)

Landscape plants for the Arizona desert

David Bracey writes: Interesting advice on the website "[Water use it wisely](#)"

See also the guide on low-water-use plants for the Arizona desert, [here](#).

OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

News from MGI groups

From California Horticultural Society

Congratulations to [Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek](#) for being named the World's Most Beautiful Garden by worldwide tour company Titan Travel! Titan sorted through user data from TripAdvisor.com to draw their conclusion.

Read more about the Ruth Bancroft garden and other gardens of the San Francisco Bay area, the Pacific Coast and the San Joaquin Valley, on the MGF website: [Gardens of Northern California](#).

Reminder:

MGF is part of an umbrella association called Mediterranean Gardening International (MGI).

The newsletters of the partner associations can be found at the following web addresses:

Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal:

<https://www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org/> (click on Latest News Update)

Cape Horticultural Society, South Africa

<https://capehorticulturalsociety.co.za/about-us/> (Click on Newsletters)

California Horticultural Society, USA

<https://calhortsociety.org/bulletins/>

Mediterranean Plants and Gardens (UK) <https://www.medpag.org> also has a newsletter, which is accessible to members only.

Our associate groups in Canada and Chile don't have newsletters but both their websites feature interesting blogs:

Okanagan Xeriscape Association, Canada

<https://okanaganxeriscape.org/blog/>

Mediterranean Gardening Chile

<https://medgardenchile.wixsite.com/mg-chile/blog> (bilingual Spanish/English, mostly about native plants).

AUTUMN COLOURS

If the nights are cool enough, the deciduous *Pistacia* trees will show off their splendid autumn colours



Pistacia atlantica (photo O. Filippi)
(See the article on the [MGF website](#))



Pistacia terebenthus (Photo R. Leclercq)



Pistacia chinensis (Photo Roland Leclercq)

You are welcome to email a picture of a 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](#)

AND FINALLY

'You start out as a gardener and end up as an apprentice' (Chinese proverb).

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to [Roland Leclercq](#)