



# Mediterranean Gardening France

[www.mediterraneangardening.fr](http://www.mediterraneangardening.fr)

**JANUARY 2025**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Dear members and friends

## PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

**Tuesday 4 February, 10.00**

**Visit to the mimosa forest and a 'forçerie', Mandelieu/Tanneron, Alpes-Maritimes**

**Organised by Jacqueline Potter**



A special visit to the stunning mimosa forest on the Tanneron massif. The day promises to be a delightful celebration of the mimosa and its unique tradition, featuring:

- A morning walk starting at 10 am through the mimosa forest
- Lunch at a local restaurant
- An afternoon visit to a 'forçerie' where mimosas are prepared for shipment across Europe.

For those interested in further exploring the famous 'Mimosa Route', more details can be found [here](#). To book a place, contact [Jacqueline Potter](#).

**Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 May**

**MGF Annual General Meeting and garden visits, Le Barroux, Vaucluse**

**Organised by Nanouk Pelen and Hedwige Lauwaert**



**The 12th Annual General Meeting of Mediterranean Gardening France will take place in Le Barroux on Thursday 22 May 2025.**

Nanouk Pelen and Hedwige Lauwaert and a team of MGF members have created a programme of garden activities over three days, starting at 14.00 on Wednesday 21 May.

Photo: Le jardin du Mont Ventoux, © Tony Stone

Wednesday 21 May	A talk on biodiversity at the Jardin des Papillons, Le Barroux Visit to member Tony Stone's Jardin Remarquable in Le Barroux Dinner at a local restaurant
Thursday 22 May	Visit to a member's garden, Le Jardin des Mille Fleurs, vieille ville d'Aubres Picnic lunch in a member's garden Guided visit to the Roseraie de Gérenton, Bédoin OR Wildflower walk AGM, Le Barroux Dinner at a restaurant in Le Barroux
Friday 23 May	Visit to a member's garden in Sarrians

The organisers have provisionally reserved a number of double rooms for two nights at [Hotel Domaine des Tilleuls](#), Malaucène. If you wish to book a room, please book directly with the hotel as soon as possible. The cost is refundable if cancelled more than 7 days before the start of the stay. Please mention that you are a member of MGF.

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

Full details about the event and a booking form will be available in February. If you have any questions, please contact [Hedwige Lauwaert](#) or [Nanouk Pelen](#).

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



**Saturday 11 January 11.30 for 12.00, French time**

**Winter meeting with guest speaker Stephen Edney(online)**

**Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens**

A presentation from Steve Edney on planting design for the summer dry garden.

More information and [booking form](#) on the MPG website.

**Friday 28 March to Saturday 5 April**  
**Wild flora of Elba**  
**Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens**



An exploration of Elba's 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](mailto:hm@medpag.org).  
Image: *Anthyllis barba-jovis*, near Biodola.

**Sunday 22 to Thursday 26 June**  
**Summer garden tour in Fife**  
**Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens**



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.

More details and a booking form on [the MPG website](#).

**Thursday 14 to Wednesday 27 August**  
**The unique flora of the Western and Northern Cape**  
**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

25/26 January	<a href="#">Mimosalia</a>	Bormes-les-Mimosas (Var)
31 Jan – 2 Feb	L'île aux Orchidées	Vergèze (Gard)
2 February	Corso du Mimosa	Sainte-Maxime (Var)
12-16 Februart	<a href="#">Fête du Mimosa</a>	Mandelieu-la-Napoule
15 February – 2 March	Fête du Citron	Menton (Alpes-Maritimes)
15 February – 2 March	Festival des orchidées	Menton (Alpes-Maritimes)
2 March	La Fête de la Nature en Minervois	La Redorte (Aude)
12/13 April	Plantes Rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (Vaucluse)

### 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 on the Hortus programme, contact [Chantal Maurice](#).

25 January 14:30	Un jardinier pressé: Comment faire de "rien" un jardin adulte en peu d'années. Roland Leclercq	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
1 March 14:30	La haie du jardinier méditerranéen gourmand. Michèle Auvergne	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
22 March 14:30	Quelques jardins italiens du Latium. Chantal Maurice	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
19 April 14:30	Bourse aux plantes	Montferrier sur Lez, Hérault
15-17 May	Voyage à la découverte de jardins dans le Var	Var

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### New on the website



#### [Perpignan plants and gardens](#)

Annie Nivière writes:

“On a sunny, breezy Sunday, around ten members of MGF met in Perpignan and set off, led by Pierre and Chantal Bianchi, to discover some of the unusual plants that can be grown in Perpignan's mild climate....”

Photo: *Clivia x cyrtanthiflora* in Pierre's garden



#### [South Australia Garden Tour](#)

If you are planning a trip to South Australia and need inspiration on gardens to visit, read this report by Christine Daniels on a tour organised by SAMGS in October 2024. The tour included public and private gardens in the city of Adelaide, the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley and Fleurieu Peninsula.

For help with arranging garden visits, contact SAMGS by email at [samgs@mail.tidyhq.com](mailto:samgs@mail.tidyhq.com).

Photo: Highcroft garden, Harrogate



### *Plumbago auriculata*

Pierre Bianchi writes :

“A very deserving plant that I recommend for the Mediterranean south is *Plumbago auriculata* syn. *P. capensis* (Cape plumbago). It is of South African origin and is suitable for USDA zones 8B, 9. I particularly like the cultivar with dark blue flowers...”

Photo: *Plumbago auriculata* ‘Royal Cape’

## **Seed exchange (MGi)**

Chantal Guiraud writes

I invite you to take a closer look (current January) at our updated seed list on our website in order to place your orders in the new year 2025.

I would like to thank our generous donors, Françoise Salomon, John Harwood, Pierre Bianchi, those of the Cal Hort Seed Exchange and all the others that I cannot name here, due to lack of space. Without them, we would not be able to offer such a large choice of species: 478 different taxa at the moment. I personally provide about 200, collected either in my garden or during my visits outside. And so, more than half come from your donations, and this year, the new taxa amount to 122.

Among the most popular seeds in 2024, here is the hit parade:

- *Teucrium flavum*
- *Phlomis purpurea* et *leucophracta*
- *Romneya trichocalyx*
- *Salvia multicaulis* et *spathacea*
- *Caryopteris incana*
- *Catananche caerulea*
- *Geranium maderense* et *tuberosum*
- *Lavandula dentata*
- *Pelargonium fulgidum*
- *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce*

Many of you have questions about the new laws on importing and exporting seeds. I would like to clarify this because it is not a simple matter.

The biggest change is that importing seeds from third countries (outside Europe and Switzerland) is no longer allowed into the European territory, unless a phytosanitary certificate is provided. It should be noted that a phytosanitary certificate costs money. For example, a member living in Ireland can send seeds to all European countries since Ireland is part of Europe. But a member living in Northern Ireland must provide a certificate if he wants to send seeds to a European country. The opposite is completely different, since all European countries, as well as Norway and Switzerland, can, for the moment, send seeds to the United Kingdom without a certificate.

For the US and Canada, the rule is different, in that it is allowed to send small batches of seeds (limit being 50 packets of 50 seeds) to the US, after applying for an import permit (free) from the US government (USDA website).

Finally, and I regret this very much, we are not allowed to send seeds to Australia, Japan and Switzerland.

Note - The seeds on this list are exchanged between gardening enthusiasts, under their sole responsibility. In particular, the MGF assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the names or for germination.

This exchange of seeds is in no way a commercial transaction to which specific regulations apply. Seeds from hybrid plants (cultivars) may produce plants that do not have all the characteristics of the mother plant.

## OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

### News from MGI groups

#### From Mediterranean Gardening Chile

Three new entries have been added to the '[Plant of the Month](#)' section. All are endemic to Chile. Read about:



*Teucrium bicolor*  
Local name, Oreganillo



*Alonsoa meridionalis*  
Local name Ajcillo



*Malesherbia fasciculata*  
Local name Hierba Miel

Noting that there is a nursery in France which specialises in plants from Chile:

[Arven Boutique](#), 29100 Poullan-sur-Mer, we asked Alfredo Unda, our contact in Chile, to look at the Arven plant list and recommend some which might be suitable for mediterranean-climate gardens in France.

Alfredo writes:

These Chilean natives would be suitable for dry zones:

*Acacia caven*

*Azara dentata*

*Chuquiraga opposifolia*

*Corynabutilon* (there are five species of abutilon in Chile)

*Muehlenbeckia hastulata*

*Ochagavia litoralis* (in coastal zones)

*Podanthus ovatifolius* (found in La Aurora)

*Puya chilensis* (found in the upper lands in La Aurora, several puya species of different sizes)

#### From the Cape Horticultural Society

The CHS has been in existence for 121 years, and the secretary, Glenda Thorpe, has been having fun digging out old records. In a recent edition of CHS News, she writes:

“The earliest written record of CHS meetings starts in 1924. The 22nd AGM was held in the Argus Board Room in June of that year. By way of a change, the 1926 AGM was held in the Reception Room of the City Hall. An exhibition of 12, 9 and 6 roses, distinct, was to be held at the same time. Over the years, venues for meetings seemed to be the workplace of the Chairman at the time. It is not clear whether monthly meetings for members were held in the early days. It seemed the focus was more on organising flower shows and being invited, by the likes of Lady Phillips of Vergelegen, Mr J.W. Jagger of Lourensford, or Miss Struben in Rhodes Avenue, for the committee to hold an ‘at home’ (possibly the forerunner to our outings) for CHS members.”

The Honourable J. W. Jagger, M.L.A., has kindly consented to place "Lourensford," Somerset West, at the disposal of the Committee of the Cape Horticultural Society, who will be at home to members of the Society on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 23rd, between the hours 3 to 5.30 p.m.

R.S.V.P.  
Hon. Secretary,  
P.O. Box 2345.

TEA.

FOR the convenience of Members a char-a-banc will leave the Tramway Office, Darling Street, at 2 p.m. (Return Fare 8/-) provided there is sufficient demand for this mode of conveyance.

As it is necessary to make the final arrangement I shall be glad if you will advise me immediately, enclose the fare, should you desire to engage a seat or seats.

The return journey will be commenced at 5.30 p.m.

Miss Struben has kindly consented to place her Garden, "Luncarty," Rhodes Avenue, Claremont, at the disposal of the Committee of the Cape Horticultural Society, who will be at home to members of the Society on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 17th, between the hours 3 to 5.30 p.m.

TEA.  
R.S.V.P.  
Hon. Secretary,  
P.O. Box 2345.

MOTOR BUSES FROM NEWLANDS  
AT 3, 3.20, 3.40, 4 AND 4.20 P.M.



#### 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**

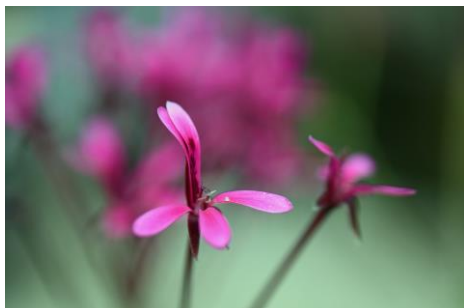
<https://medgardenchile.wixsite.com/mg-chile/blog> (bilingual Spanish/English, mostly about native plants).

## MY FAVOURITE PLANT



Roland Leclercq writes

*Pelargonium ionidiflorum*, a botanical plant native to South Africa also called “Fairy cascades”, has an exceptional flowering, generally lasting throughout the year (except in periods of extreme cold). The photograph was taken on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Hardy -6°C/-8°C. Numerous small, bright fuchsia-pink flowers with very fine petals and intense colour.



Where to buy it?

O. Filippi nursery <https://jardin-sec.com/>

Promesse de Fleurs <https://www.promessedefleurs.com/>

Fuchsia Delhommeau <https://www.fuchsia-delhommeau.com/>

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](mailto:Roland.Leclercq)

## WHAT IS IT



Chantal Guiraud challenges us to guess the name of this flower.

A clue: the plant is most often grown indoors.

Answer in the next newsletter

## AND FINALLY

“To see a World in a Grain of Sand  
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,  
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand  
And Eternity in an hour.”

(William Blake, English poet and painter, 1757-1827, Auguries of Innocence).

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to [Roland Leclercq](mailto:Roland.Leclercq)