



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardening.fr

MAY 2025

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Wednesday 7 May

Visit to three gardens in the Pertuis/Ansouis/Cucuron area of the Sud Luberon

Organised by Nanouk Pelen and Hedwige Lauwaert



Photo : Pavillon de Galon

A visit to the gardens of [Chateau Val Joanis](#), previously the property of Jean de Joanis, secretary of King Louis III of Naples and now a well-known winery. After an introductory talk, visit the vegetable garden, the flower garden and the ornamental garden.

Lunch on the square in Ansouis followed by a visit to the [chateau](#) and its gardens, guided by the owner, Mme Rousset-Rouvière.

Afternoon visit to the splendid gardens of the [Pavillon de Galon](#). We will have a guided tour by the owner.

To book, please contact [Hedwige Lauwaert](#).

Friday 9 May

A visit to gardens in Lacoste and Saint-André-de-Sangonis, Hérault

Organised by Chantal Guiraud



Photo: la Roseaie du Cade

In the morning, a visit to the Roseaie du Cade, created in 2017. It comprises two sections: a collection of over 500 old rose bushes and the Gallic and Damask roses, used for distilling floral water. This is the ideal time to discover the petal harvest and then the distillation process in the copper still. The adjoining shop also offers floral waters, jams, syrups, and other delicacies.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we will head to the Jardin de la Font de Bézombes. It was created in the 1990s in a small valley. An abundant spring has created bodies of water and fostered lush vegetation. Seven styles are represented: tropical, desert, marsh, Chinese, regular, herbs cloister, and vegetable garden.

To book, please contact [Chantal Guiraud](#)

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 restaurant in Crestet
Thursday 22 May	Visit to a member's garden, Le Jardin des Mille Fleurs, old village of 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

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

Wednesday 11 June

A day visiting two exceptional gardens in Grasse (Alpes-Maritimes)

Organised by Jacqueline Potter

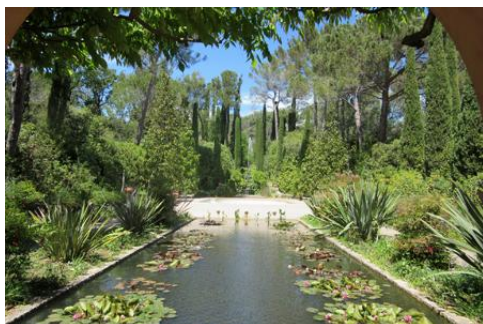


Photo: The Russell Page water garden at St Jacques de Couloubrier

The Domaine Saint Jacques du Couloubrier is a private 8-hectare garden in Grasse, originally created in 1950 for Jean Prouvost by the renowned landscape designer Russell Page.

After many years of neglect, the estate was bought in 2005 and restored by its current owners, with great care taken to preserve the spirit of the original creation. Today, the garden continues to evolve under the guidance of the talented head gardener Pierre Jeanjean, who has introduced an impressive diversity of plant species.

Surrounding the house are various garden areas: Mediterranean gardens, olive trees, a rose garden featuring Nabonnand rose varieties, and beautiful water features. This exceptional garden, rarely accessible to the public, will be opened especially for MGF. Pierre Jeanjean will be our guide.



Photo: Villa Fort France

Villa Fort France, also in Grasse, is a historic garden created by British writer Lady Fortescue and her husband, librarian to King George VI.

The villa was built on terraced land planted with olive trees and aromatic plants. Even at that time, a rose garden was part of the design. Since then, the garden has continued to grow and evolve, now featuring a rich blend of Mediterranean and exotic species.

We will be welcomed by Valérie de Courcel, the owner.

To whet your appetite, view the [illustrated website reports](#) by Sara Robinson and Roland Leclercq from the previous MGF visits, nine years ago.

To book please contact [Jacqueline Potter](#)

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



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

March— November	Formations pour les particuliers : semis, bouturage, aromathérapie, botanique, pierre sèche, chants d'oiseaux, aquarelle, phytothérapie, vannerie, taille etc...	Domaine du Rayol (Var)
26 April	Foire aux plantes	Cuers (Var)
26/27 April	Fête des Plantes et du Massif – Abbaye de Fontfroide	Narbonne (Aude)
26/27 April	Portes ouvertes chez Tillandsia Prod	Le Cailar (Gard)
26/27 April	Journées des Jardins et de la Nature	Anduze (Gard)
27 April	Floralies de Florensac	Florensac (Hérault)
27 April	Marché aux fleurs	Carpentras (Vaucluse)
27 April	Foire aux fleurs	Montvendre (Drôme)
1 May	Foire aux Fleurs	Cavaillon (Vaucluse)
1 May	La main verte	Le Vigan (Hérault)
1 May	Marché aux plantes	Forcalqueiret (Var)
3 May	Les Floralies de Pertuis	Pertuis (Vaucluse)
3/4 May	Fête des roses et des plantes	Saint-Jean Cap Ferrat (Alpes-Mar)
3/4 May	Floralies de Juhèges	Torreilles (P-O)
3 – 20 May	Les Floralies d'Antibes	Antibes Juan-les-Pins (Alpes-Mar)
4 May	Fête du jardin	Valernes (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence)
4 May	Foire horticole et rurale	Belcodene (B-d-R)
4 May	Foire aux fleurs	Richerenches (Vaucluse)
4 May	Foire aux fleurs	Aubussargues (Gard)
8 May	Bourse aux plantes	Rousson (Gard)
8 May	Marché aux plantes	Nans-les-pins (Var)
8 – 11 May	Expo Rose	Grasse (Alpes-Maritimes)
8 - 11 May	Orticola	Milan, ITALY
10/11 May	Jardin du Réal, Fête du Printemps	Puget Ville (Var)
11 May	Floralies Gourmandes	Cadenet (Vaucluse)
11 May	Plantes et fleurs en fête	Grospierres-en-Ardèche (07)
11 May	Journée des plantes	Uzès (Gard)
17/18 May	Art et bien-être au jardin	Gassin (Var)
17/18 May	Foire éco biologique Naturellement!	Nyons (Drôme)
17/18 May	Un Printemps sous les Arbres	Saint-Brès (Hérault)
18 May	Fête des Jardins et du Terroir	La Verdière (Var)
23 – 25 May	Journées des Plantes d'Albertas	Bouc-Bel-Air (Bouches-du-Rhone)
29 May	Fête des Fleurs & Vell'Art	Velleron (Vaucluse)
1 June	Rencontres botaniques au jardin de Foncaude	Feuilla (Aude)
6 -8 June	Rendezvous aux Jardins	Open gardens throughout France
29 June	Fête de la Figue	Figanières (Var)

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](#).

15-17 May	Voyage à la découverte de jardins dans le Var	Var
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Conference on solar cooking, 5 -7 May, Marseille

Rosie Peddle of **Mediterranean Garding Association Portugal** writes:

“A local contact, Dr Celestino Ruivo, has informed us about a conference in Marseille on solar cooking which he is helping to organise. Dr Celestino comes to our events sometimes and makes a very impressive ‘solar’ lunch! Solar cooking works really well here and we love our solar oven.”

[CONSOLFOOD 2025 Marseille..](#)

NEWS AND INFORMATION

New on the website



Photo: *Calendula officinalis*

[Stress, well-being and gardening](#)

This article by gardener, Mireille Fourie, addresses the subject of stress from the point of view of those who garden, pick, cultivate and process perfumed, medicinal and aromatic plants.

There are contributions from Lise Racine based in Australia, Didier Clément landscape gardener, Drôme/Paris, Kevin Creed, gardener, Antibes, Kurosh Davis, based in England and Jean-Noël Falcou, citrus grower, Vallauris.



Photo: Patio in June

[Jardin l'Oasis, Saleilles, Pyrénées-Orientales](#)

Pierre and Chantal Bianchi have added their garden to our Gardens to Visit list.

Pierre writes:

“An exotic trial garden of more than a hectare, commenced in 1994, located on acidic, clay soil in a windy and particularly dry Mediterranean zone, USD 9B (orange tree zone), landscaped so as to have space free to stand back and observe interesting features and plants...”



Photo: Jardin de la Roquette

[A gardener in a hurry: how to create an \(almost\) instant Mediterranean garden](#)

Roland Leclercq writes:

“Most of us garden to create a little paradise for our own well-being....we want to create a mature garden as quickly as possible, even more so when we start designing late in life.”

This article takes us through the steps needed to create an impressive result in a short time, with advice on hard landscaping, planting and plant selection.

OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

News from MGI groups

From California Horticultural Society

The videos of our [Featured Presentation](#) (plus important Society general business) and our [Plant Forum](#) for our March 17 meeting are now available for viewing on our [YouTube channel](#). And we've added chapter marker links in the descriptions to make it easier to revisit parts of particular interest.



Susan Karasoff offers guidance and resources for planting natives in all levels of shade and types of soil.



This month's Plant Forum includes early bloomers, a surprising camellia, a peak at the Dawn Gardens visit plus announcements about upcoming events and some club business.

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).

Mediterranean Gardening Margaret River

Events Calendar available from [Pamela Edwards](#).

AND FINALLY

The rose has no reason. It blooms because it blooms. It does not care about itself, nor does it ask to be seen (Angelus Silesius, German poet, doctor, theologian, priest and mystic. 1627-1677). (Quote seen at Château du Rivau, Indre-et-Loire).

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

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