Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardening.fr

JULY 2025

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

We are currently having our summer break from activities in France. Details of autumn outings will be available in the next newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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.

Thursday 2 and Friday 3 October
Gardens of the Perth Hills, Western Australia
Organised by Mediterranean Gardening Margaret River

If you plan to be in Western Australia in October, you might like to join this trip to gardens in the hills surrounding the city of Perth. Thursday will focus on the Mundaring region and on Friday the visits will be in the Kalamunda area. The trip is self-drive, and will include lunches, refreshments and possibly a group dinner. Numbers are limited, so if this trip could be of interest, please contact pamelamgmr@gmail.com to register and for more details.

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October
Autumn Mediterranean Garden Fair, Municipal Park, Lagoa, Portugal
Organised by Mediterranean Gardening Association, Portugal

A fair organised by our sister organisation in Portugal, which will include talks and workshops, specialist growers selling native plants and seeds, succulents, trees and aromatic plants suitable for Mediterranean gardens and an MGAP area with books, bulbs and plants.
Keep an eye on the MGAP event page for more information as it comes available.
Any questions, contact mgapfairs@gmail.com.

Wednesday 25 February to Wednesday 4 March 2026
Tour of Western Cyprus
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens


Photo: *Cyclamen persicum* on the coast of Cyprus

Based in two locations in western Cyprus, the tour will focus on spring flora, including orchids and geophytes, lovely scenery, walks and some historic sites. Spring comes early to Cyprus, and sunny clear days are expected. Two archaeological sites in the ancient city of Paphos are included – both of which are also rich in plants. Activities are mostly on the coast but there will be one day in the mountains, with spectacular scenery and many interesting plants.
The tour will be led by local expert, Yiannis Christofides.

To gauge demand for this tour, MPG is asking those interested to let the organisers know by completing an on line form. Any questions can be addressed to Andrew Mayo, at andrewjmayo@gmail.com .

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)
27 July and 17 August	Atelier Nature Biodiversité, Bambouseraie d'Anduze	Générargues (Gard)
5 – 7 September	Murabilia	Lucca, Italy
7 September	Journée des plantes d'Uzès	Uzès, (Gard)
20/21 Sept	Journées du patrimoine	throughout France
20, 21,27,28 September	Le Jardin Champêtre – open days	Caunes-Minervois (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 on the Hortus programme, contact **Chantal Maurice.**

NEWS AND INFORMATION

New on the website



Photo: *Grevillea juniperina*

[*Grevillea juniperina*, an easy-going Australian proteaceae]

Pierre Bianchi writes:

"Few Australian proteaceae, apart from this grevillea, can be grown so far from the mild Mediterranean coast and require so little attention. Why not try this species and its derivatives to provide brilliant late-winter and early-spring blooms and assist foragers?"



Photo: *Camellia* 'Drama Girl'

[Visite du Parc Floral de la Prairie et des Terrasses du Bosquet]

Read Bruno Pellier et Robert Clerbout's account of the MGF visit to the Parc floral les Camellias de la Prairie, created in 1920 by Jean Ignal and since developed as a CCVS accredited collection of camellias, many of which were in flower at the time of the visit.

Patricia Prévot writes about the afternoon visit to Les Terrasses du Bosquet, a fine example of an educational garden in the heart of the city of Alès.



Photo : *Rosa* 'Eyeconic'

[*Rosa persica* hybrids – Rosiers Hulthemia]

This article by Jacqueline Potter tells the story of "The Orient at the heart of the rose"

During an MGF visit to the Mas du Chambon in April, the group was intrigued by a yellow rose with a deep burgundy centre—a modern cultivar of the Hulthemia rose, recognisable by the distinctive central blotch, similar to certain cistus flowers. Having grown this unique variety in her garden in all its forms and colours, Jacqueline was inspired to research its origins.



Photo: Plan de l'arboretum de Lunel

[Visits to Le Jardin d'Henry, the Lunel Arboretum and Le Mas de Chambon]

In April, members visited three very different gardens in Lunel, a town in Hérault, close to the border with Gard. Sandra Cooper writes about Henry Nardy's personal and eclectic collection of plants, Bernadette Schutte explains how the Lunel arboretum demonstrates the evolution of landscape under the influence of mankind, and Jacqueline Potter is impressed by the way the land around Le Mas de Chambon has been transformed from a neglected space to a beautiful and harmonious garden.


Photo: Saint-Jacques du Couloubrier

The gardens of Domaine du Saint Jacques du Couloubrier and Villa Fort France

Jacqueline Potter describes the June visits to these two exceptional gardens near Grasse, in the Alpes-Maritimes. Both gardens have a long and interesting history and have been lovingly restored and developed by the current owners over recent years. The fountain, cascade and lily pond at Couloubrier continue to impress, as do the terraces filled with interesting and rare plants at the Villa Fort France.

MGF Seed Collection

The summer 2025 update to the seed list has now been completed and is on the website:
MGi Seed Collection / Collection de graines MGi - Mediterranean Gardening France
New taxons include:


Banksia caleyi


Beschornaria yuccoides


Cleomella arborea


Limnanthes douglasii

Chantal Guiraud writes:
"I'd like to thank everyone who has donated seeds, because without donors we wouldn't be able to offer such a wide choice of species: currently 493 taxa. More than 100 of these have come from my own garden in Montpellier. However, in August, my husband and I will move to a flat with a huge terrace, where I'll only be able to grow plants in pots. So, I'm calling out to everyone to contribute more, asking you to take the time to collect seeds from your gardens or in the wild, and send them to me. This request only applies to members living in a country in the European Union, as sending seeds from a non-EU country requires a phytosanitary certificate."

Sending seeds

Collect seeds, clean off any debris, then put each variety in a paper envelope, clearly marked with the name of the plant, the date and the location where the seed was collected. These envelopes should then be placed in a padded envelope and posted to Chantal.

Until 31 July, please send seeds to:
Chantal Guiraud
75 rue de la Vieille Poste
34000 Montpellier
France

From 1 August, Chantal's address will be:
Sakura Garden, Appt 4-12
7, allée Germaine Richier
34170 Castelnau-le-Lez
France

Very Tall Lilies
Gardening news from Jason Spencer-Cooke, a member living in St. Saturnin-les-Apt, in the Vaucluse:



Jason writes:
"Our rather simple garden in the Vaucluse has quite a variety of plants, mostly of the usual size, but this year, perhaps because of a mild winter and quite a bit of rain in the spring, we have two 'monster' Madonna lilies. The bulbs were planted along with tulips in September, and they were not unusually early. Then in May they took off and ended up applying for the Guiness Book of Records."

OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Message received from South Australia
For a second time, we welcomed members from one of our partner associations, the South Australian Mediterranean Garden Society to our AGM event. This year, Anne-Marie and Ray Holland joined us, and sent this message of thanks:

"A big thank-you note to you and all of the organising committee for the hard work in planning such a successful tour. Ray and I had the most wonderful time and I feel that the friendship between our two organisations has been cemented further. Also, we were very grateful for the car rides offered to us by your members, it was much appreciated.

Personally, and also on behalf of the South Australia Branch, I would like to extend an invitation for your members to contact us if they are planning on visiting Adelaide, South Australia. Adelaide is a lovely city, with beautiful parks, beaches and gardens, and we would very much enjoy the opportunity to be tour guide around our city.

You can contact us at hollandhouse2@bigpond.com."

From CalHort Society
Dear Friends:
Some weeks ago we sent out a call for your photos of spring blooms this year. We got a great response including submissions from our cohorts at Mediterranean Gardening France (MGF). Some included IDs, others did not but they are all beautiful.
There were too many to include in the Bulletin so we decided to create a page on our website for them and here's the link.

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News from MGI group

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.

WHAT IS IT?



This plant has very attractive foliage: the underside of the leaves is green and the upper side is a beautiful metallic blue-grey. Bright yellow flowers in April-May.
Height 1m20-1m50.

AND FINALLY

'Botany is the art of drying plants between sheets of paper and insulting them in Greek and Latin." (Alphonse Karr, novelist, journalist and gardener, 1808-1890).

Best wishes
Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor
Please send contributions to this newsletter to Roland Leclercq