Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardening.fr

JULY 2026

Dear members and friends

ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

MGF activities in France take a break each year during the hot months of the summer. There will be news of autumn activities in the September newsletter.

Monday 5 – Tuesday 13 October
Waterwise gardens in Languedoc and Provence
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens



Photo: La Louve, Bonnieux

A linear tour from Carcassonne to Marseille to look at ways in which gardeners and designers are trying to create interest in Mediterranean gardens in the autumn season. Visits will include Imogen and Kate's garden in Caunes-Minervois, a hotel garden designed by James Basson, Olivier Filippi's garden, La Louve and a number of private gardens. The tour will end with a train journey and a guided walk along the coast of the Côte Bleue, near Marseille.

For more information and to book, go to the MPG Upcoming Events page.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

MGi Mediterranean Gardening International
A global horticultural community

Saturday 17 – Sunday 18 October
Garden Fair. Lagoa, Algarve, Portugal
Organised by Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal



An annual event organised by our partner association, MGAP, with a large selection of nurseries selling Mediterranean plants, seeds, olive oils, garden tools etc, and an MGAP stand with books and bulbs for sale, and garden advice from local experts.

Throughout both days, there is a programme of talks, in English and Portuguese, on Mediterranean plants and aspects of gardening in a Mediterranean climate.

From Mediterranean Plants and Gardens

Expression of serious interest, please – GREECE – April 2027

"There are many events coming up before next April but this is advance notice of one for which we want to choose an appropriately sized small coach or minibus. The visit is to the Peloponnese, Monday 5 April to Tuesday 13 April 2027. Please contact Heather Martin– if you are likely to book for this visit which will focus on wild plants and also visit Bronze-age Mycenae, the Byzantine metropolis of Mystras and one outstanding garden. Guide: Yiannis Christofides"

From Cape Horticultural Society

In the June edition of CHS News, links to "videos of the past talks:
"Florilegium at Grootbos" by Vicki Thomas https://youtu.be/JponTxd0oTc
"CREW and Erica", shown to us before the talk:
https://www.youtube.com/@crewcitizensscienceprogramm4281
The actual talk given by Ismail and Ren: https://youtu.be/ng-KcrdA2nc
As always, please ignore the lack of video editing. Sometimes the beginning doesn't quite start smoothly or the ending is too long. But you'll get the gist. "

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens

4/5 July	Le Jardin Champêtre – open garden and nursery	Caunes-Minervois, Aude
4 - 6 September	Murabilia	Lucca, Italy
6 September	Journée des plantes d'Uzès	Uzès, Gard
19/20 September	Journées du patrimoine	Throughout France
26/27 September	Le Jardin Champêtre – open garden and nursery	Caunes-Minervois, Aude
3/4 October	Gondwana, la Fête des Plantes méditerranéennes. Domaine du Rayol	Le Rayol-Canadel, 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.**

NEWS AND INFORMATION

July 2026 Update to the seed collection

Chantal has updated the MGi seed list, with 70 new taxons added. You may order up to 10 packets of seeds each year or 15 packets if you have contributed seed yourself. Send your order to Chantal at seeds@mediterraneangardening.fr.

Here are some of the newly added seeds:



Cantua buxifolia



Coffea arabica 'Catuai'



Cyclamen hederifolium



Fraxinus angustifolia



Haemanthus albiflos



Ipheion 'Rolf Fiedler'



Malva arborea



Narcissus romieuxii



Syzygium paniculatum



Pistacia vera

David Bracey writes

« The genus *Pistacia* contains ornamental species and one important economic species, *P. vera*, the pistachio. This is a small tree (10 m) and is suitable for cultivation in Mediterranean France. Some 500 hectares are already grown commercially, mainly in the Provence.

Pistacia trees are available to buy online. Female and male trees are necessary for successful pollination. Technical support may be obtained from France Pistache and Pistache en Provence. »

Photo: *Pistacia vera*

New on the website



Visits to the Jardin des plantes de Montpellier and a private garden

Chantal Guiraud writes about a visit to the Jardin des plantes de Montpellier, with the theme *'At the crossroads of history and ecology'*. The gardener/botanist guide, Denis Nespoulous, took the visitors through the garden's sometimes turbulent history.

Also, a portrayal of Marianne's garden in Cournonterral, which Chantal describes as a small, exquisitely crafted jewel.

Photo:

An ancient *Phillyrea latifolia* in the Jardin des plantes de Montpellier


Photo: The garden in Solliès

A horticultural research centre and a garden in the Var

In April, a group of members visited ASTREDHOR, a horticultural research centre in Hyères, where we learned about the applied research programmes supporting the cut flower industry.

This was followed by a visit to a beautiful hillside garden in Solliès, where the protected situation enables, ferns, hostas and acers to be grown alongside more typically Mediterranean-climate plants.

A longer article about the work of ASTREDHOR can be found in the Gardening section.



A garden in the Alpilles, Bouches-du-Rhône

MGF members were first invited to see Clare and Mark's garden in 2018, when it had just been planted. Eight years later, at this follow up visit, led by one of James Basson's team, we were able to see how the planting had matured.

Report by Hedwige Lauwaert, with photos by Paul Kiekens and Nanouk Pelen



Musée et jardins de Salagon, à Mane

This priory garden, dedicated to the simple pleasures of everyday life, was created by Pierre Lieutaghi, a writer and ethnobotanist who lived in the village. The départmental Museum of Salagon is dedicated to the ethnology of the people of Haute-Provence from the late 19th to the 20th century.
Report by Bruno Pellier, with photos by Robert Clerbout et Hugues Pelen
Photo: *Paeonia officinalis*

Mediterranean Gardening International

Reminder:
MGF is part of an umbrella association called Mediterranean Gardening International (MGi).
MGF members are welcome to join activities organised by these associations.

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
2026 Events Calendar now available from Pamela Edwards.

AND FINALLY



The flaming crocus made the mountain gleam (Homer, The Odyssey)

Photo: *Crocus cartwrightianus* © John Fielding

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