Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardening.fr

NOVEMBER 2026

Dear members and friends

ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Wednesday/Thursday 9 and 10 December, Nice (Alpes-Maritimes)
Visits to three remarkable gardens
Organised by Jacqueline Potter



We will be accompanied throughout our visits by Mr Jean Michel Meuriot, botanical expert and director of several gardens managed by the City of Nice. He will share his extensive botanical knowledge with us, as well as insights into the design of these gardens. At the Jardin Botanique, we will also benefit from the expertise of Mr Alexis Maia, Head Gardener.

Wednesday afternoon: **Jardin Botanique de Nice**
Situated on the hills to the west of Nice, with beautiful views over the Mediterranean, this garden features an outstanding collection of plants from different regions of the world sharing a Mediterranean climate.
Thursday morning: **Parc Phoenix**
This extensive landscaped park is home to some impressive plant collections, ponds and a spectacular tropical greenhouse.
Thursday afternoon: **La Coulée Verte (Promenade du Paillon)**
An extensive landscaped green space in the heart of Nice, with a new extension designed by landscape architect Alexandre Chemetoff.
Participants are invited to make their own accommodation arrangements. The old town of Nice is beautiful with its narrow streets, charming shops, restaurants and colourful houses, and at this time of year, it should be decorated for Christmas. We plan to organise a group dinner on Wednesday evening in a restaurant in the old town.

Places are limited.
To book, please contact Jacqueline Potter.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

MGi Mediterranean Gardening International
A global horticultural community

Monday 5 April – Tuesday 13 April 2027
Spring in the Peloponnese– GREECE
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens


Ophrys argolica

Guided by Yiannis Christofides, author of The Illustrated Flora of Cyprus, the tour is based mainly in Gytheio, a historically important town which retains its Greek character. We will visit two Unesco World Heritage Sites: Bronze-age Mycenae and Mystras (a beautifully preserved Byzantine city). These archaeological sites harbour many wild flowers.
Book on **the MPG website.**


Onosma frutescens

Thursday 13 – Monday 22 May 2027
Botanical tour in Albania
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens


Photo: Shkreli Resort Qaftshame National Park

This botanical tour, led by Oron Peri, will explore several locations in this fascinating country, with its floral "crossroads". Because of its unique geography Albania is very rich in species, both Mediterranean and alpine. The tour covers several areas of the country, still developing after decades of communist rule and delightfully rural. It includes a day in the historic cultural city of Berat.
A similar tour in 2025 is described in the MPG **Tour Report**.

Booking opens soon on the **MPG website**.

Sunday 27 June – Thursday 1 July 2027
Summer garden tour: Cumbria and North Lancashire
Organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens


Photo: Levens Hall

This three-and-a-half-day tour will visit beautiful gardens in Cumbria and North Lancashire from a hotel close to Kendal. Visits will be led by owners and head gardeners with highlights including a visit to Gresgarth Hall Gardens – the private garden of Arabella Lennox Boyd, which is only occasionally open, a tour of the world's oldest topiary gardens at Levens Hall and a guided visit to one of the best areas of limestone pavement in Britain, with a wealth of unusual plants.
For more information and to book, go to **the MPG website.**

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs, workshops and open gardens

1 November	Foire plantes et Nature	Prades (P-O)
7 November	Atelier - Découverte des concepts de Gilles Clément	Domaine de Rayol (Var)
14/15 Nov	Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	Quissac (Gard)
22 November	Foire d'automne et les récoltes Jardins ethnobotanique de la Gardie	Rousson (Gard)
28 November	Formation "La taille au jardin" par Gabriel Gracia	Domaine de Rayol (Var)
29 November	Formation "Un jardin sec en région méditerranéenne" par Tao Ramsa	Domaine de Rayol (Var)
5 December	Livres aux jardins, le Palais de l'Agriculture	Nice (Alpes-Maritimes)
6 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 on the Hortus programme, contact Chantal Maurice.

14 November	Jardins du Vaucluse : diaporama des jardins visités par Hortus en mai 2026	L'Espace Culturel du Devézou, ou Foyer municipal de Montferrier sur Lez
5 December	Thème à préciser	Foyer municipal de Montferrier sur Lez

NEWS AND INFORMATION

New on the website



Photo: *Aptenia cordifolia*

Les terrasses de Sakura Garden

Read Chantal Guiraud's account of her first year as the custodian of the planters and pots of the new Guiraud home - a rooftop flat in Castelnau, with two huge terraces and three balconies.

Chantal describes how she pruned the existing plants and added cuttings and favourite plants from her former garden, mostly successful, but others failed to cope with the icy winds, downpours, drought and extreme heat experienced in 2026.



Safari Marbre à Caunes-Minervois

This account of a day learning about marble starts with a walk on the Montagne Noire, guided by Bernard, a volunteer with the association Les Marbrières de Caunes, then continues to a Benedictine abbey and an Écomusée, where sculptors were working on bas-reliefs.

Photo: 'Aeolus' in Turquin marble, on the Montagne Noire



After the summer heatwaves

"Whilst reading Liz's article in the September newsletter about gardening in the Aveyron in the face of a rapidly changing climate, I found myself thinking that the experience might vary slightly from one garden to another."

Read Roland Leclercq's reflections on how this summer's heatwaves affected his garden, in the latest update to his garden diary – *Un Jardin a Tourbes*.

Gardening in a rapidly changing climate

Reminder -
Please send your thoughts and experiences of gardening during this summer's extended period of heat to Roland Leclercq and Christine Daniels, with photographs if possible. We will publish a selection of comments in the next newsletter and create an article on the subject for the website.

David Bracey writes:

***Bryobia* ssp.**

Can anyone suggest a remedy for Bryobia mite? It is killing my eleagnus. My agronomist friend said the problem was aphids and of course my wife believed him. It took me an age to make an accurate identification. The first clue was the fact that cypermethrin, lambda cyhalothrin, and all the other synthetic pyrethroids had no effect, and they are lethal to greenfly. The mites certainly came with the plant and have spent the summer building up their strength. The trouble is there is nothing on the market for mite control - derris, sulphur and copper have no effect. May be an 'oil' would do the trick if there are any for sale. Any suggestions from readers?

Roland Leclercq writes:

David Bracey drew my attention to the beauty of desert blooms in autumn. For example, in Chile's Atacama Desert (watch the video **here**) or in the Namaqualand Desert in South Africa. It reminded me of another magnificent scene we discovered during a trip to **Cape St Vincent** (Portugal) organised in 2016 by the Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal. In late April, the Cape is covered in multicoloured carpets of flowers. Unforgettable!



Cape St. Vincent



Lysimachia monellin syn. *Anagallis monelli*

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

'Autumn, that marvellous autumn, mingled its gold and crimson with the last remaining patches of vivid green, as though drops of molten sunshine had flowed from the sky into the thick of the woods.' (Guy de Maupassant, French writer, 1850-1893, Contes de la Bécasse 1883)

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