



Newsletter No 17

Summer 2019

www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org
Member of www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.orgFacebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MedGardenersPortugal>

Welcome to members and friends in Portugal with an interest in Mediterranean Gardening. If you know of any others who may be interested in Mediterranean gardening please pass this along to them and remember all are welcome to attend our events.

Bem-vindos, membros e amigos em Portugal com interesse no Jardinagem Mediterrânica. Se souber de alguém que esteja interessado em jardinagem mediterrânica agradecemos que passe a palavra, ou o favor de dar um destes boletins informativos, e não esquecer que todos estão convidados a participar nos eventos por nós organizados.

2019/20	EVENTS	Info
September 2019 Date to be confirmed	Which Succulents Grow Well in Algarve Gardens? Visit to succulent garden and talk by Marilyn Medina Ribeiro	More Info mgapevents@gmail.com
October Date tbc	Jardim Seco Nursery in Tavira – Guided Visit, dry landscape planting advice and <i>plants for sale!</i>	Numbers strictly limited More Info mgapevents@gmail.com
Saturday 26 October 10:00h – 18:00h Sunday 27 October 10:00h – 16:00h	MGAP Autumn Mediterranean Garden Fair <i>First time held over two days!</i> FISSUL building, Silves Town Centre Specialist Plant Nurseries, FREE talks and MGAP Plants, Book Shop, Plant Crèche, Refreshments etc.	All Welcome / Free Entry Donations on the door for MGAP Projects More info and all offers of help please contact mgapfairs@gmail.com NEW VENUE! Extensive free parking Stalls all under cover
10 November Sunday Garden Open 10:30 – 16:00	Botanic Garden Open Day and Bulb Planting Bring tools and strong shoes! See what is growing at the start of the gardening year in the Algarve & plant native bulbs.	Garden Open 10.30 – 16.00 Come along any time! More info from mgapsec@gmail.com
Nov / December Date tbc	Family Day at Quinta da Figueirinha A fun day for adults and children to take part in nature-based Winter and Christmas themed crafts and activities	For further details contact Kristina MacDonald at hellokriss@wildaboutthere.com Or Marilyn Medina Ribeiro at mgappres@gmail.com
Date tbc	Visit to Colares / Cabo da Roca Eunice and Carlos Barroso invite MGAP members to visit their garden and lunch at their home in Colares, Sintra. Nearby garden and plant nursery visits included	An opportunity to meet Lisbon area members. Transport from the Algarve may be possible. Further information from mgapevents@gmail.com
15 February 2020 Saturday 10.00 for 10.30	Annual General Meeting – Assembleia Geral Business meeting to be followed by talk / guided visit / MGAP book sales etc.	More info from mgapsec@gmail.com Details to be confirmed

Message from Marilyn Medina Ribeiro

President – Mediterranean Gardening Association of Portugal



I'm not quite sure how the time since our AGM has gone so fast but this summer newsletter gives the chance to put out some thoughts and a "Hello!" message to everyone. First of all, a big thank you to our outgoing Founding President, Burford Hurry – a steady hand during the early formative years and I have much appreciated the opportunity to work with him in MGAP. So, a brief introduction for those who I've not yet met, and say a few words about what I believe is a vitally important entity doing useful work - MGAP - and what it means to me to have been elected its President

I am English but have been living in the Algarve now for nearly 11 years. My passion for plants was fostered by keen gardening grandmothers, and after a spell in graphic design I retrained as a landscape manager. Since then I have enjoyed various horticultural posts, from nursery worker to jobbing gardener, municipal landscape inspector to hotel grounds manager, and so on up to my current position as garden designer. The philosophy I gleaned from both my studies and work experience remains: choose the right plant for the right place. It is as true in the north of Europe as it is here, but it's especially vital to make this a mantra in hot, summer-dry climates.

This environment is challenging to garden in, but our group can be a salve to this hardship. We can share knowledge about gardens and plants, specifically as related to our local conditions, and this brings me to a point I was left pondering after the AGM: what are we for? I realised that while the founding members of the Association had always discussed what we were doing this for, perhaps our membership and friends have been left out. So, here are a few words summing up what MGAP means to me, and what I believe it stands for.

Our mission statement is as follows: *"To promote Mediterranean plants and gardens, through education, culture, conservation and recognition of their community, environmental and economic importance in our everyday lives."*

It's all about education. Sharing knowledge of the beauty and utility of the species that grow well here, that thrive, that require less intensive care. It's about knowing how to choose plants, and when the plants you have to choose from are many thousands, any shortcut is welcome. It's also about being good custodians to our environment. The impacts from gardening on whatever scale can be positive or extremely negative, depending on our approach.

If there's one thing I've learnt, in work and in life, it's that you can't be all things to all men. I enjoy garden-related social events as much as the next person; however, we have limited resources, and thus we must choose to host the activities which we feel are important and, at times, under-represented in the current landscape. It's for this reason we focus on the educational aspect in our events. I'm reasonably confident that social interaction will always happen, often stimulated by and happily co-existing with educational content, and we curate our calendar with this in mind.

Our scope has never been just about the Algarve - the concept is relevant to gardening in Mediterranean climates worldwide, and there are huge amounts of experience and expertise for us to exploit among the gardeners in California, Australia, South Africa, the UK, the rest of southern Europe, and so on. We hope to forge ever-stronger links with them, and, above all, we want to get this knowledge to the people who need it - hobbyists and professionals, our members, and also the general public. Our garden fairs bring plants and people together, both from around the Algarve and beyond, who are keen to know more about sustainable gardening. We are building relationships with local schools to inspire children to look at their environment more closely; we have contact with professional gardening courses here and abroad, giving presentations and work experience; and we hope to provide more in-depth training to students and professionals in the future.

I look forward to working with you all to share our knowledge and experience as widely as possible. If we are at meetings, please come up and say 'Hello' or you can contact me via mgappres@gmail.com



We need your skills and talents to help MGAP so please consider joining the group setting future and exciting priorities for the Association. If anyone has **fund raising expertise** and would like to offer some advice that would also be very welcome.

Specifically, we are looking for technical help with updating **the web site**, help with admin of **Membership**, with running the **Garden Fairs** and with developing our popular **Book Sales table**. If there is something specific you would like to get involved with, please let us know. Contact mgaptreasurer@gmail.com for further info.

News from the Potting Shed



After serving five years instead of his planned three-year term the well-deserved retirement of our founding President, Burford Hurry, took place at the AGM held in April this year. We now have a new President (Marilyn Medina Ribeiro) and new Secretary. There have been some other administrative changes.

This gives us an opportunity to bring Members of MGAP up to date with the recent improvements in the way the Association is being run and supported. MGAP / APEJECM is fully registered as a not for profit legal entity in Portugal with all the relevant authorities including finance and social security. This provides members with protection for our activities and enables us to have bank accounts, financial oversight, and public liability insurance for MGAP events open to members and for the public.

Please note that the latest Minutes of Meetings, Membership information and budgets and financial reports for the information of Members are available on the Members Forum. You can also access the AGM Minutes via the web site front page or the link below. Any comments or questions welcome ! <http://www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org/minutesagm2019final.pdf>

As you will see, following research by our previous Fairs Organiser (Susan Finlay) the autumn event has been expanded to two days in Silves and we are investigating returning to the Museu in São Bras for the **Spring Fair** in 2020. We welcome participation from you all with the Autumn Garden Fair, and this year we are planning to have an **MGAP Plant and Bulb Sales table**. Please save your spare plants, cuttings and seeds and bring along your special plants to sell to other keen gardeners. There will be collection points for donated plants nearer the date.

For this event we will have available a **TWO LABEL SCHEME** – anyone wishing to receive half of the price paid for a plant can do so by donating plants for sale. The donated plants should have two labels, one for the customer with plant name and one with the price and name of the donor. When the plant is sold, the donor label goes in the cash box with the money. At the end of the day the labels are collated and the money set aside for the donor. We hope this will encourage our keen propagators and give them some return for their time, compost and pots ! If anyone needs more pots or labels, please contact me.

We will also have new and **secondhand books for sale** so please bring along any books you no longer need and they can be sold in aid of MGAP. There is a new supply of paper seed packets available for sale – details available on request.

Please note this new contact email for any messages for the Secretary mgapsec@gmail.com

Rosie Peddle – MGAP Secretary

MGi Seed List - Chantal Guiraud has updated the seed list in readiness for autumn sowing. See the link below for the full list of over 600 plants and how to obtain and to donate seed. The list is divided into sections and there are many grasses available including the lovely Portugal natives, *Stipa tenacissima* and *S. gigantea* - pictured right.



<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/infSEE.htm>



Mediterranean Autumn Garden Fair

NEW ! Open for TWO DAYS

***Saturday & Sunday
October 26 & 27 2019***

10am to 6pm on Saturday 26 October
10am to 4pm on Sunday 27 October

FREE ENTRY & NEW VENUE for the Autumn Fair !!

Following the success of the spring event, we have been invited to hold the autumn fair in the dedicated FISSUL exhibition centre in the town centre of Silves, next to the river. There will be more space for exhibitors and all under cover. Free extensive car parking. Our partner for this event will once again be the Freguesia of Silves, and we are very grateful to the President, Sr Tito Coelho da Sousa, for his enthusiastic support.

A great mix will be available including native plant nurseries and seed sales as well as ornamental and container plants. We also plan to have rare and unusual plants from arid zones. An opportunity to buy the most appropriate plants for your garden and benefit from the advice and guidance of the knowledgeable nursery owners and MGAP Info Table. High quality botanical art area and notelets also available. The usual programme of free talks will be provided. Free Entry – Donations to support MGAP will be collected. Open 10am to 6pm Saturday, 10am to 4pm on Sunday.

A special feature at this event will be an extensive display of ornamental orchid species suitable for your Algarve garden and shady terraces. This will be organised by the **Orchid Society of Portugal** and there will be talks and workshops by their President, **José Santos**.

As always, we are interested to hear of any good **new plant nurseries** that may wish to be invited, please pass any recommendations to mgapfairs@gmail.com

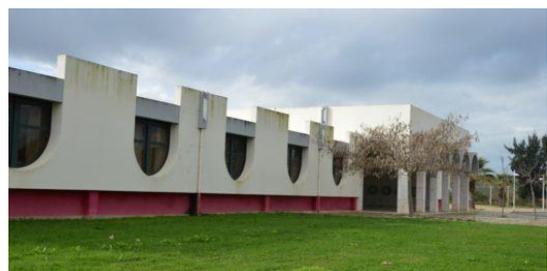
After completing your purchases, or if you need some time to consider the choices available, you can take in one of the free talks and take advantage of the plant crèche where you can leave your purchases in safe hands while you continue to enjoy the many attractions of the day. Once again, we will ask visitors to bring cardboard boxes and long-life bags to avoid the use of plastic.

Catering will also be available. There will also be a range of organic produce and products for sale and the MGAP stall offering new and **second hand specialist gardening books**, wildflower seeds, advice and information. Also, if you have **back copies of The Mediterranean Garden MGS Journal** to donate, we would be pleased to have those for the library at Quinta da Figueirinha.

As a **new attraction** for this event MGAP will also have an **MGAP Plant & Bulb Sales** table organised by our members with plants from their gardens and good advice about how to use them. There will also be a selection of bulbs for sale suitable for naturalising.

As ever, **VOLUNTEERS are needed** to make the event a success, we cannot run our major fund raiser for the year without you ! So please **let us know** if you can help - sitting down jobs also available !

email mgapfairs@gmail.com





CAPE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
(in association with Mediterranean Gardening International)
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – 28 to 31 AUGUST 2020
A VISIT TO THE FAIREST CAPE

MGI

Organised by the CAPE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY <https://capehorticulturalsociety.co.za/>

A VISIT TO THE FAIREST CAPE International Conference 2020

We still regard our part of the world as The Fairest Cape and the speakers we have lined up for you will tell you why. Talks will cover the South African contribution to the international plant world, how people explored our land in search of plants and what we are doing to preserve our national heritage.

23 to 27 August - Pre-conference tour of Namaqualand

Visit to Namaqua National Park, Hantam Botanical Garden and also the Clanwilliam Flower Show together with a Rooibos (Redbush) Tea Farm, Gannet Colony and the West Coast National Park.

28 to 31 August 2020 - Core programme International Conference held at the historic Athenaeum in Cape Town at the foot of Table Mountain.

Speakers on the Plants of South Africa, Plant Hunting and Lady Botanical Artists at the Cape together with visits to notable private and public gardens.

1 September - Day Tours to Stellenbosch/Karoo or Silvermine Nature Reserve.

2 to 4 September - Post-conference tour of Agulhas

Visits to Flower Valley Conservation Trust and Cape Agulhas together with the Harold Porter National Botanic Garden.

Costs now available for each option which include transport, entrance fees, accommodation, guides, teas and meals. Flights and airport transfers not included.

PLEASE NOTE For those travelling from Portugal it may be possible to organise favourable group rate travel fares and we have contacted a travel agent for help with this.

For more info please send a note of your interest in this to mgapsec@gmail.com

Varied accommodation options available in Cape Town, base for these events.

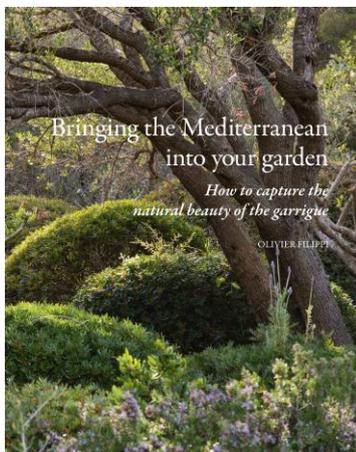
Full information and schedule available on request from mgapsec@gmail.com

Further details also available direct from CapeHortSoc

info@capehorticulturalsociety.co.za



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***Bringing the Mediterranean into your garden***  
***How to capture the natural beauty of the garrigue***  
Latest Book by Olivier Filippi  
***Now available on the Algarve !***

MGAP has copies for sale and you can reserve your own copy for collection at our events or to collect on the Algarve. This book is for sale at 40 euro per copy and can also be sent to you by registered post plus postage costs.

We are very grateful to Olivier Filippi for his great talk on this topic at the Spring Conference in Évora. We hope to make this talk available online very soon. Contact to reserve a copy or for more info

[mgaptreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mgaptreasurer@gmail.com)

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REPORTS on recent events via this link

http://www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org/recent_events.html

SPRING MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN FAIR, Silves March 2019 Our first at Silves and we estimate over 1,000 visitors enjoyed the event, which included free talks, colourful plant displays and MGAP info and book sales.

<http://newsandevents.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org/2019/04/spring-fair-2019-garden-and-climate.html>

SPRING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, Évora April 2019

Many thanks to Christine Daniels for her excellent report and some photos on the MGAP site.

Visitors from many other mediterranean climate zones came together to enjoy the Algarve and the Alentejo in springtime. <http://mediterraneangardeninginternational.org/baRptInt2019n01.htm>

GARDEN OPEN DAYS SPRING 2019

Many thanks to all those kind gardeners who opened their gardens for MGAP this year.

Especially so to Willem and Yolande who laid on a wonderful visit including a special talk, guided tour of their agricultural museum and you could cut your own rose bouquet ! Work has already started on the planning of the programme for Open Gardens in Spring 2020.

NEWS from the world of plants

You may not be aware that there is **a monthly gardening article** prepared by MGAP for The Resident newspaper. You can see them here <https://www.portugalresident.com/gardening/>

If you have found **any web sites** particularly helpful with your **drought resistant** Mediterranean gardening and plant choices, then please send them in so that we can share them with others.

This recommendation for **cold hardy succulent info** from Phil Parry – thanks Phil !

<https://www.drought-smart-plants.com/>

Why Plant Blindness matters and what you can do about it

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20190425-plant-blindness-what-we-lose-with-nature-deficit-disorder>

Why are Britain´s roadsides blooming ? <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-48772448>

Tree Planting has the potential to tackle climate change

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/04/planting-billions-trees-best-tackle-climate-crisis-scientists-canopy-emissions>

The Hidden Value of Bud Banks <https://www.botany.one/2019/06/the-hidden-value-of-bud-banks/>

How Almonds Went From Deadly To Delicious

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2019/06/13/732160949/how-almonds-went-from-deadly-to-delicious?t=1560520518783&t=1562604746786>

How do leaf stomata respond to drought and water status ?

<https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nph.15899>

PODCASTS from the Linnean Society of London are available to everyone and cover all manner of Natural History related topics. The latest talk available looks at **Spiky Future Foods**.

Global warming affects every aspect of our lives including the food that we eat. Our attempts to slow the impact of global warming may not be enough and therefore we need to start looking towards foods that we may have to eat in the near future. In this episode we go from the highly trendy neighbourhoods of Dalston, London, to rural South Africa and back again to London, Kew Gardens, to explore **the potential of succulents as a future food**.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-679811756>

BARROCAL BOTANIC GARDEN UPDATE

2019 has seen the gradual development of the MGAP Botanic Garden near Silves and donations have underlined the interest in its further development.

Signboard first main name board installed in April at boundary of botanic garden. We are very grateful to our generous donors for their support for signage.

Track entrance gravel. Support from Silves Freguesia has created a new public entrance track

Watering the monthly summer schedule is in place, for new plants and trees.

Bulb planting day will be held on November 10 for further planting of native bulbs for naturalising in the garden.

Events / workshops / Family Open Day, plans for events this coming autumn

Volunteers for regular open days ? are you able to offer help with supporting regular open days – seasonal or monthly ? contact mgapsec@gmail.com



MGAP makes donation to support new Nature Reserve near Coimbra

[MilVoz - Associação de Protecção e Conservação da Natureza](#) – was set up by volunteers who wanted to create the first local nature reserve of the Coimbra region. They identified a special area of native forest rich in biodiversity in an already very degraded environment. Here they can preserve for the community, and for the future, an area full of life, which still resists the encroachment of the commercial plantations that surround it.

To support their vision MilVoz launched a public request for funds through the crowd-funding site ppl.pt. They requested a sum of €3000 to secure the preservation of part of the hillside. As the MGAP Board felt this was totally in line with our own Objectives, a sum of €170 euros was donated to help them reach the requested total. The crowd-funding eventually raised a total of €5082. This increased amount allows MilVoz to make possible the immediate expansion of the area to be preserved, especially along the stream, where they want to protect the river bank, the aquatic fauna and the conditions for the breeding of fish and amphibians. A visit for MGAP members will be arranged at a future date.

CONSOLFOOD 22nd, 23rd and 24th January, 2020 www.consolfood.org

Institute of Engineering, Universidade do Algarve, Campus da Penha, 8005-139 Faro-Portugal.

Third International Conference CONSOLFOOD2020 - Advances in Solar Thermal Food Processing is being planned for 22nd, 23rd and 24th January 2020 at the Institute of Engineering of the University of Algarve in the city of Faro in Portugal. This is their third conference focused on advances in solar food processing and solar cooking. More info on the web site.

Western Algarve – Garden Group for the Lagos area

A programme of informal friendly monthly meetings is organised for those interested in Algarve Gardening. Anyone wishing to become actively involved can contact the coordinator, Heather Thomson, by email at wagardeninggroup@gmail.com for more information. Meetings last about 2 hours and are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 10.00am.

NEWS from the AAJBA (Associação dos Amigos do Jardim Botânico da Ajuda) of Lisbon

<http://www.aajba.com/Cursos/Cursos20182019.aspx> A full programme of **gardening courses** is held in Lisbon at the Botanic Garden.

Relembramos que ao participarem nas iniciativas da AAJBA estão a contribuir para o restauro do Jardim Botânico da Ajuda, pois o lucro das viagens será investido no jardim.

Visitem também o nosso [site](#) e a nossa página no [Facebook](#).

Jardim Botânico da Ajuda. Calçada da Ajuda, 1300-011 Lisboa. Portugal

Tel: [+351] 213 620 527 | telm: [+351] 915 989 259 web: www.aajba.com |

e-mail: info@aajba.com | [Facebook](#)

Rhododendron ponticum* var. *bæticum – do you grow this in your garden or on your land ? Although a pest in some areas of Europe, Portugal hosts the southernmost native populations. We have a request for your experiences which may help a restoration project. Please contact mgapsec@gmail.com see <https://flora-on.pt/#/1rhododendron>

Beira Grass Roots Gardeners – Friendly, free to join, group of enthusiastic gardeners in the Beira area of Central Portugal. We aim to bring together enthusiastic gardeners to share horticultural knowledge, tips, success stories and failures! We have regular meet-ups, visits to gardens and nurseries, and run many plant and garden events. For more info and to join the email list contact beiragrassroots@gmail.com

Facebook page Mediterranean Gardeners – Portugal is updated regularly with links and relevant information. Follow and Like to be kept up to date. Latest Info on our Facebook page :- <https://www.facebook.com/MedGardenersPortugal>

EVENTS in Mediterranean Gardening International (MGAP Members will be welcomed at events, subject to availability of places.) Please contact the local organiser shown. <http://www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org>

Activities are open to MGAP members, members of partner associations and, where places are available, guests. Where the number of places for a particular event is limited, priority will be given to local members. An exciting and varied programme of international events is available and a warm welcome from keen fellow gardeners is assured !

Mediterranean Gardening Forum for your plant and gardening queries, monitored by a panel of experienced and knowledgeable Mediterranean gardeners. Members of MGAP can access this forum via the link at top right of the front page of our web site and contact mgapmembers@gmail.com for login or further info www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org

Data Protection Notice

MGAP / APEJECM holds contact details (where supplied - name, address, telephone number and email address) for the purpose of membership administration and providing membership information such as emailing our publications and facilitating member networking. This information is not shared with any other organisation. We also send out regular information on events, etc. to those who request to join our general mailing list.

You can contact mgapmembers@gmail.com at any time – to request a listing of the information that we hold about you on file, and/or to be removed selectively from our different mailing lists.

Returning an email received from MGAP / APEJECM with "**REMOVE**" added in the subject line will delete your details and name from our records within 7 days, stopping all future email correspondence, after which we will not contact you again.

Regional Contacts:

Lisbon area – Ben Weijers Paquete, Tel: 219 291 841
Beira area – Marion ter Horst, Tel: 917 850 235
Algarve area - Rosie Peddle, Tel. 289 791 869
Minho area – Chloe Parrott Tel. 966 971 275

Email: quintadocorvo@yahoo.com
Email: s.m.terhorst@gmail.com
Email: mgapsec@gmail.com
Email: chloe@meo.pt

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We have a friendly and informal group for everyone who has a special interest in the plants and gardens of Mediterranean climates. The aims of MGAP (Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal) include education and encouraging the exchange of information and of experiences.

Web site www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org contains articles as well as news, notices, practical information and comment. Please pass on this newsletter to anyone interested. MGAP is affiliated to The Mediterranean Garden Society.

Membership Secretary email mgapmembers@gmail.com

If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters then please do let us know by sending a return email with **REMOVE** in the subject line to mgapsec@gmail.com