

JOURNAL

FRIENDS OF THE 'SHAMROCK' HYDRANGEA COLLECTION

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www.shamrock-varengeville.com



Letter from the Président

Bryan Woy

Dear members of "Shamrock", 2022 has been a major year of consolidation for our Association.

First of all, we finally signed a 9-year renewable rural lease with the Manoir d'Ango; until recently all we had was a verbal lease waiting to be put in writing and signed.

Following the demise of our greatly regretted treasurer, Henri Pavie, we have entrusted the Association's accounting to the Cerfrance accountancy group in Dieppe.

A new website is now online, at the address www.shamrock-varengeville.com.

It includes a PayPal button, facilitating purchase of publications and donations from our friends abroad.

Finally, in our relationship with the French Ministry of Agriculture and our recognition as a "national collection" manager (GEVES), we have acquired the means of propagation required by this organisation and a first propagation campaign has been carried out by some of our members. This will enable us to duplicate certain parts of the collection nationally and internationally. In view of climate change, we now have two rainwater retention tanks for a total of 60,000 litres, which are now full and ready to face the new season. Our car park has been increased by about ten places, which should provide enough space to welcome the ever-growing number of visitors.

In addition, the past year has seen the resumption of certain activities: in particular, our "Hydrangea Festival" which was held on the weekend of 1st May in Bruno Blanckaert's garden; we would like to thank him once again for his friendly hospitality. We are organising a similar festival this year over the Ascension weekend, on 20 and 21 May 2023. This will coincide with the launch of the new edition of our International Index of Cultivar Names 2018-2022, awaited by many collectors and universities.

Finally, the Association has set up an endowment fund, called the "Réserve Hydrangea Shamrock", in order to deal with any possible difficult times ahead. This kind of French-style "trust fund" allows donations and legacies to be received with

tax advantages. We can provide the necessary bank details on request via our email address: shamrock76@wanadoo.fr. We would like to thank our friends from the American Hydrangea Society who have once again made a generous donation, this time to replace our crumbling ticket booth.

This Journal should provide you with advice on how to cope with the climatic challenges we have already experienced and are, unfortunately, likely to be seeing again.

Warmest regards,

Bryan Woy

Le 31 mars 2023

Bryan Woy



Obituary: Franklin Picard 1943-2022

It's difficult to imagine the great cause of gardens and plant collections without him.

Without him and his work on national botanical inventories with Jean-Pierre Demoly and the APBF (Association des Parcs Botaniques de France). Without this preliminary work, how are we today to build a French policy to conserve plant biodiversity that will enable us to adapt to the climate disruption we will have to face in France?

Some memories of Franklin and the plant world:

Following in his footsteps, we visited the Parc de Segrez, a "botanical reserve" for the future in which he invested a lot of time and passion. With him we visited many coastal gardens and collections, as far as Italy with La Mortola and many further exploratory visits to England.

No wonder he was chosen by the International Dendrology Society as Vice-President for France

In 1973 the APBF was created, where the main botanical gardens of the time were represented. Le Vasterival, Kerdalo, La Roche Fauconnière, and so on. The opportunity to meet passionate personalities like him, Greta Sturdza, Peter Wolkonsy, Charles Favier.

One day he decided to visit the Parc des Moutiers in Varengeville sur mer. It was a revealing shock of beauty in this magical place. A few years later, on his way to England by the Dieppe ferry, he was there to meet Claire Fougerolles - the woman who was to become his wife and the mother of his children

In 1982, it was the first Courson plant fair, later transferred to Chantilly, an event that he would support all his life.

In 1990, it was the creation of the CCVS (Conservatoire des Collections Végétales Spécialisées), of which he was a powerful instrument.

In short, as I have heard from friends who loved and admired him, beyond his immense qualities, he was a remarkable "facilitator" of meetings between nature-loving people.

We can also say without fear of contradiction that in the eyes of all believers he was a true "worker in the vineyard". The fervour felt by many during the burial service at St Sulpice de Favières was a moving reminder for all. R.M.



Lunch together at Shamrock: "Fête des Hydrangéas" at Varengeville sur mer (1st May 2022) - Franklin, Dominique Evrard, R. Mallet



Planting of a birch tree in memory of Franklin Picard, October 31st 2022. As soon as his death was announced and thanks to Jean-Pierre, who brought this rare birch, *Betula kweichowensis* (*insignis*) ssp *fransipanensis*, in the presence of Galina Guillaume, Madeleine Alves, Jean-Pierre Péan and R. Mallet.

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Thanks for 2022

The Association would like to thank all the members and friends who have contributed in a thousand ways to the preservation and embellishment of the collection.

For continuation of the work in the collection, we cannot express enough thanks to our weekly "dream team": Jean-Marie Rouet and Jean Marc Schoepfer an unbeatable pair who can't be put off by any task, however hard it may be, Pascale Gicquel, in charge of the avenue of lime trees, Claire Perrin, Anne Nicolle, Stéphanie Poulain, Christine Barge, Valérie Lobry, Benoit Granger, and, recently, Francis Mulot, a great bramble specialist. A huge thank you, too, to Ghislaine du Tertre, that outstanding cook and caterer. André Diéval and Madeleine Alves have often come to carry out woodcutting, hedge trimming and clearing work, assisted by the ever-faithful Hervé Lepetit. As a professional tree pruner, we can always count on our friend Emmanuel Gasdon from "Sol en cimes": emmanuel.gasdon@orange.fr. This year we have had the help of Léo Largeaud for cutting the grass, and Clément Varin for numerous transplantings, stump removals, and various installations, fences and new parking spaces, not to mention the burial of the new rainwater tank, assisted by Patrick Savouray, a contractor from Hautot sur mer.

Thanks to our friend Hubert Van Elslande who helped us with the drafting of our rural lease with the owners of the Manoir d'Ango.

Finally, on the American side, we would particularly like to thank the AHS (American Hydrangea Society) and its vice-president Ozzie Johnson, himself a researcher and explorer and a very dear friend. At the end of 2022 the AHS sent us a substantial donation to enable us to consolidate our reception facilities. The loyalty of this association to us over more than 20 years has been second to none.

New introductions of cultivars for 2022

- 'Blue Ball'
- 'Camino'
- 'Cathy'
- 'Dream'
- 'Françoise'
- 'LissJudy' ou 'Petite Lantern'
- 'Mouillère 723'
- 'My sisters Garden'
- 'Ophelia'
- 'Panther'
- 'Panzola'
- 'Pépite d'Automne'
- 'Petite Star'
- 'Pink Petticoat'
- 'Renaissance'
- 'Rosso Glory'
- 'Snow World'
- 'Starlit Sky'
- 'Summer Glow'
- 'Wedding Ring' = 'Fanfare'

New members for Shamrock

Gilles & Coralie Bigot
Eliane Dalgas
Évelyne Devallez

Hervé Dezerald
Patrice & Christelle Dupas
Karin Ehrenfeuchter-Pourtalès
Pierre-Marie Haguët
Jean-Marc & Sybille Heftler
José & Christine Leprêtre

Laurence Le Prince
Xavier Moreau
Francis Mulot
François & Élisabeth Pignal

A faithful friend

The jubilee of Jean Renault in the gardens of Les Renaudies in the spring of 2022 was the occasion for us to mark the 'Shamrock' collection's recognition of this great nurseryman, discoverer and breeder of many remarkable plants, including the famous *H. paniculata* 'Vanille Fraise', 'Dentelle de Gorrion' and their successors. (Photos taken by Jacques Soignon of the CCVS).



Jean Renault and his family

Coping with heatwaves

This season has seen an increasing number of heatwaves (5 in 2022, compared to 2 in 2021).

Abundant watering was necessary (70,000 litres in 2021 and 60,000 litres in 2022).

It is obviously the *H. serrata* of the “Bois du Dragon Vert” that are always served first, despite their shady location and extensive mulching with leaves and mixed grass clippings in the late season. Watering is carried out often and in small quantities, as the root system of *H. serrata* is close to the surface and too much water can harm them.

For the *H. macrophylla* hybrids (so-called ‘hortensias’) that had recovered well from the late frost in April thanks to a rainy spell, we tested an improved watering method. Whenever a hot spell was forecast (close to 40°C), we watered preventively to allow the plants to transpire, instead of drying out due to lack of moisture. Moreover, watering a plant that has been severely dehydrated can cause its permanent death by root rot. With two petrol-engined pumps, two pipes, two tanks and two people to operate them, we were fortunately able to cope. It should be remembered that for *H. paniculata*, *H. heteromalla* and *H. aspera*, watering at the foot of the plant is not recommended as it can cause rotting of the base of the trunk.

In the future, the key words for coping with heatwaves will be shade, protection against drying winds and mulching or covering to reduce evaporation.

Finally, remember that plants should not be watered too early in the season, in order to encourage the plants to sink their roots deep into the ground and help themselves to water. Once they are above 60 cm tall, plants can withstand the heat better, as their roots go deeper. However, they still need to have a good base so they can establish themselves.

RMa

Golden rules for collectors

- Never transplant a parent plant without first taking cuttings.
- Always write the entry code of the plant on the label of the cutting.
- Never plant too deeply: this results in death by asphyxiation and a first-class burial (always respect the level of the root collar).
- Never mulch too thickly at the base of the plant, as this can lead to white rot.
- When pruning old branches, keep enough of the young stems to draw the sap (the foliage is the plant’s stomach).
- Pruning too severely can lead to weakening of the plant and, at best, later flowering.

RMa

A Forgotten Season - The Late Season

Inflorescence colours of *H. macrophylla* or *H. serrata* hybrids (*)

Photos taken on 21 November 2022 at “Shamrock”.

As Michael Dirr pointed out in his latest book “The Hydrangea Book, the authoritative guide” (Stipes Publishing, 2021), we often forget that there is a late season of great floral interest for hybrids of *H. macrophylla* (the ‘hortensias’) and for some *Hydrangea serrata*.

2022 was particularly remarkable. Here are the plants that surprised us the most.



‘Altona’



‘Atlantica’



‘Bloom Star’



‘Elbtal’



‘Flambard’



‘General Patton’



'Goffersberg'



'Grayswood'



'Hopaline'



'Immaculata'



'James Grant'



'Libelle'



'Mme Emile Mouillère'



'Parzifal'



'Passion'



'Pink Elf'



'Shamrock'



'Souv. Mme Chautard'



'Stolpen'



'Veitchii'



'Wedding Gown'



'Xian'



'Hopaline' à Shamrock dans les couleurs d'automne

Two Newcomers from André Diéval

H. macrophylla 'Mélia' is a mutation of *H. macrophylla* 'Mikawa Chidori'. A mutation, so early flowering with white flowers (photo taken on 10 June 2014). It is relatively drought resistant and still looks very pretty in the late season. Mélia is my granddaughter's name; she turned 4 on 22 December.



H. macrophylla 'Mikawa Chidori'.

H. 'Bullivant' is a mutation of *H. 'Bicolor'* (breeder Anthony Bullivant). Mutation in 2012. It is a plant with large dark green leaves. The inflorescences are large and easily turn blue. Shrub measuring 1m20 or more. Both plants look great in my garden.



Letter from Denmark

My best serratas of Poul Hagedorn

Which one is the best? Most hardy, the most beautiful or those with the longest flowering period?

Here comes – in alphabetical order – my choices:



H. s. 'Aihime' (syn. 'Shichihenge') is a nice and beautiful little hydrangea. Good for small gardens. 40 cm high. If your garden has sandy soil, you can try to add pulverized clay without chalk after lying in acetic acid a month or two, and then dried. It provides the most beautiful, dark blue inflorescences. Later the inflorescence is going to be brown/pink. The young shoots are dark red. Japanese sort.

It flowers well after a winter with -12°C and also after -5°C in April 2017, but only with few inflorescences after -5°C in April 2019.



H. s. 'Akishino Temari' (syn. 'Iyo Temari'). This is a delicate and elegant plant, 1.2m tall, with numerous small pink ball-like inflorescences. Perfect for those who think that 'mophead' hydrangeas are too large or vulgar. Origin: Masaru, Japan. Flowers well after a winter down to -12°C and -3°C in April 2017, but with only a few inflorescences after a cold -5°C in April 2019.



H. s. 'Crawling Blue' gives a lot of dark blue, partly round, mopheads. The name comes from the lower branches, lying on the ground. The new shoots are almost black. This is one of my new sorts, so the experiences are limited, but it flowers well after a winter with -12°C . 80 cm high.

Origin: Poul Hagedorn, Denmark.



H. s. 'Hallasky' is a cross between H. s. ssp. yezoensis and H. s. 'Spreading Beauty'. Both of the parents are rather hardy. H. s. ssp. yezoensis is wild from northern Japan and H. s. 'Spreading Beauty' is wild from the Hallasan volcano on the South Korean island Jeju-do.

'Hallasky' flowers well after a winter with -18°C . When it is 1 m high, it is 1,5 m broad. The inflorescences are light blue and flat. The flowering time is very long, from July to frost.

Origin: Poul Hagedorn, Denmark.



H. s. 'Kaikyo' is a charming and different hydrangea, which only demands little space. 40 cm high. The dark blue inflorescences are beautiful, but can be partly hidden by the leaves (economize the fertilizer). At the end of the season the inflorescence fades to red violet and part of the leaves become dark brown.

It flowers well after a winter with -12°C and -3°C in April 2017, but with half as many inflorescences as usual after -5°C in April 2019.

Origin: Japan.



H. s. 'Opalis' has many colours in the flat inflorescences. They flower over a long period in July and August with both red and blue nuances. Textured leaves. 'Opalis' become 1 m high, and flower well after a winter with -12°C .

Origin: Poul Hagedorn, Denmark.



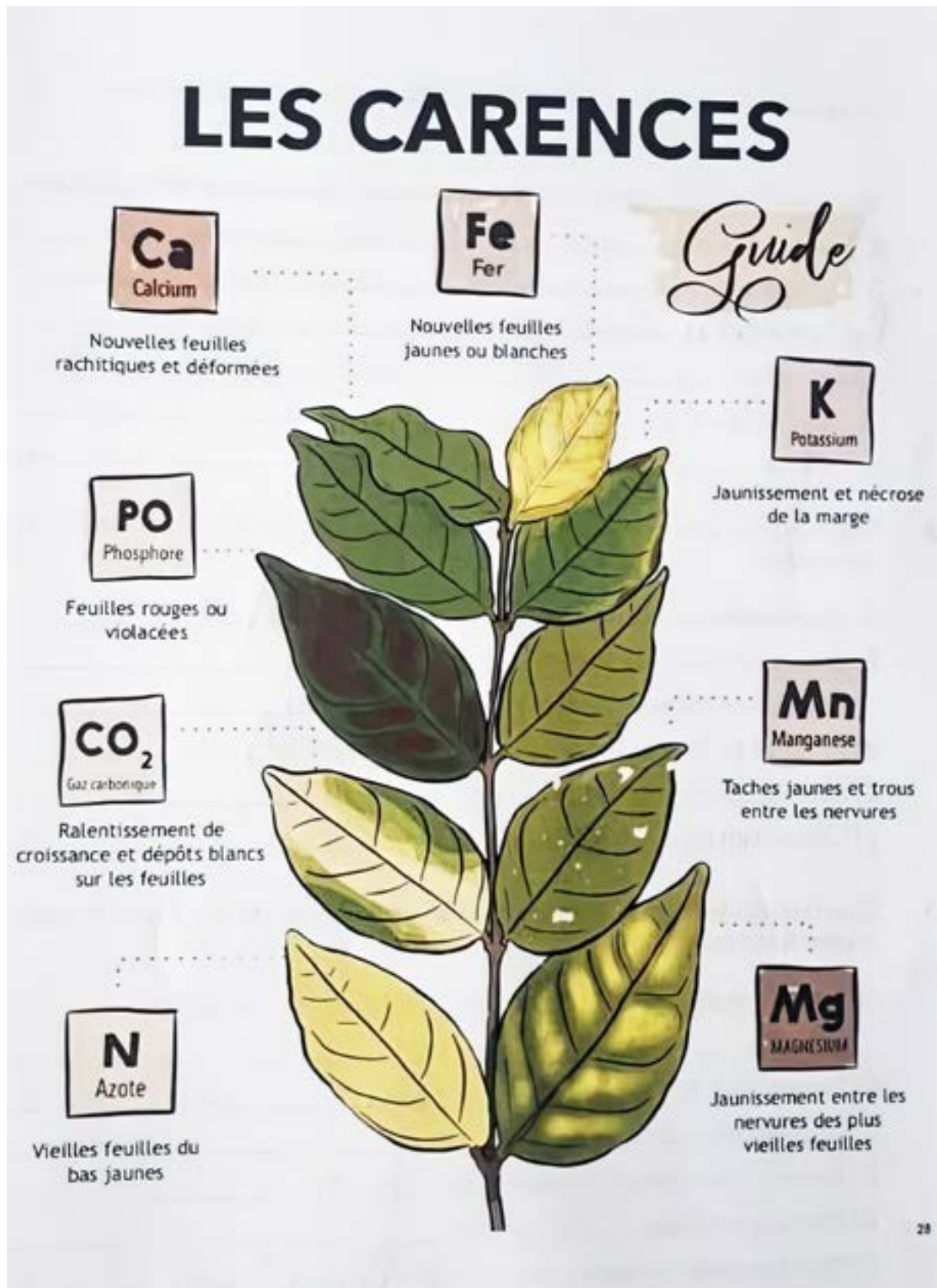
H. s. ssp. angustata 'Fuji-no-Taki' is small, different and interesting. It becomes 40 cm high. The small, double, white sepals form "flowers" in bunches or layers.

It flowers well after a winter with -12°C and -3°C in April 2017, but almost not after -5°C in April 2019.

Origin: Kazuyoshi Katsumata, Japan.

A deficiency in *H. arborescens*

During the year 2022, we noticed an anomaly in the foliage of some (but not all) *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Strong Annabelle' plants. It was André who went looking and found this chart showing different types of deficiencies and the corresponding missing element (see chart). Obviously, it was a lack of Magnesium (Mn). After several applications of a fertilizer containing Mn, by the end of the season we could see new young foliage appearing that was nice and green.



Necrosis of hydrangea plants

After more than twenty years of growing *H. macrophylla* hybrids in the “Shamrock” collection, we’ve been able to observe some distinctive ageing phenomena.

For the almost pure *H. macrophylla*, notably those collected by Corinne Mallet on the Izu peninsula in Japan in 1993, the plants have abundantly layered around a parent plant that is itself often untraceable, except when it is well labelled!

For these large, vigorous hydrangeas, which are close to the *H. macrophylla* species type, the plant is rejuvenated when the oldest branches are cut off at the base in summer or early spring. This allows young shoots to flourish by providing light to them at the heart of the bush. The lifespan of this ‘type’ species seems to be unlimited.

For *H. macrophylla* hybrids, the lower branches reproduce by layering. New plants appear all around a base that is already in the process of lignifying. Over time, the plant only survives if it manages to produce at least one new plant by layering (see photo of ‘Albrechtsburg’).

An example confirms this analysis. The cultivar ‘Harry Pink Topper’ = ‘Harry’s Red’ (Aimé Gyselincq, 1955) seemed to have disappeared, but finally we found 5 layered plants, perfectly alive, surrounding a dead, necrotic base, of which all that remained was the label. A good surprise, indeed, for the cause of conservation.

In another example, while transplanting a ‘Colorado’ cultivar of the “River Line” series (F-X & K Rampp, 1980), the necrotic base accidentally broke into four pieces, fortunately all viable. This is also a sobering thought: how do we deal with ageing cultivars, especially the rarer ones, which are still propagated from the parent plant, but increasingly rarely and without having produced at least one new plant by layering?

What we should avoid is putting soil on top of the lignified part, as this leads to fatal rot, especially when the plant is watered heavily in a dry period. Even at the time of planting, burying a plant too deeply is generally lethal.

The only satisfactory solution is to take cuttings while the plant is still producing young shoots. They can also be encouraged with a little fertiliser (organic liquid geranium fertiliser). But in general, it’s better not to wait until the first signs of weakening appear; these are almost always irreversible.

It’s true that the cause of a plant’s demise can also be competition from the roots of a neighbouring tree (a frequent cause) or the local activity of field mice. But that’s another story.

RMa



St Josse s/mer (AD) The Hydrangea Garden



CNV FV COMITÉ NATIONAL VILLAGES FLEURS

Paris, le 21 octobre 2022

Monsieur le Maire,

J'ai le plaisir de vous adresser que le jury national des « Villages et Villages Fleurs », ainsi en classe globale le 14 septembre 2022, a décidé de consacrer le label « Quartier Fleurs » de Saint-Josse-sur-Mer et de la faire adhérer à la Fête d'Un Village.

De tels honneurs communaux a été réservé au jury en votre présence et à une seule une équipe locale et son conseil dans le label.

La reconnaissance du village par ses habitants et l'attribution d'un aspect du Commissaire des espaces publics des Fleurs a été votre objectif.

L'attribution de 3 sites classés National 2022 qui représente 80 % du territoire communal et 15 % de la territorialité municipale de la région ne sera plus réalisée et votre reconnaissance.

Les habitants du Village, de Villers, Cappel et Villeneuve obtiennent une riche variété floristique et botanique.

Une végétation épaisse et diversifiée accompagne l'espace public et les parcs de votre territoire de plusieurs générations. Le jury a également apprécié le jardin de collection d'horticulture.

Tous vos espaces sont très bien gérés, une rue si agréable que est le sujet de votre, d'entretien, d'entretien notamment sur l'amélioration du climat et de vos parcs paysagés d'espaces locaux.

Le village est attractif et accorde de nombreux visiteurs grâce à ses commerces, restaurants et chambres d'hôte, ainsi que le « Labyrinthe » en plein air.

Il leur espère que Saint-Josse peut être une belle destination grâce à son environnement « à Plein » et est déjà 60 ans. Ce territoire a été bien géré et nous avons pour l'avenir ont été des espaces attractives sur le label et les nombreux prix attribués.

Une telle reconnaissance ne se passe - documentation, diplôme, un manuel pour le village fleur, etc.

De nombreux visiteurs s'attendent tout au long de l'année, notamment des « visites scolaires » avec les enfants, les plantes, et toutes vos en toutes choses »...

Le village est vivant, accueillant et il y a de nombreux lieux de vie.

Le moment des prix nationaux se tiendra à Paris le 14 décembre, une invitation officielle vous sera prochainement adressée.

Avec toute une bienveillance, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Maire, l'assurance de ma considération dévouée.


Thérèse BEAUTE
Présidente du CNV FV

Monsieur Jean-Claude DESCHAMBLES
Maire de SAINT-JOSSE-SUR-MER

UN JARDIN D'HORTICULTURE POUR FAIRE FRUCTIFIER QUATRE FLEURS.

Voilà quarante ans que le village de St Josse sur mer situe dans le Parc de Calés à quelques kilomètres du Touquet Paris Plage attire avec fierté ses quatre fleurs. Et c'est naturellement l'intention d'un abandonner en chemin malgré des critères d'attribution qui vont bien au-delà du simple fleurissement. Ce label de qualité s'engage aujourd'hui sur des enjeux tels que l'amélioration du cadre de vie, le développement de l'économie locale, l'attractivité touristique, le respect de l'environnement, la préservation du lien social et surtout le plaisir du végétal dans l'aménagement des espaces publics.

C'est un vrai atout pour une durée de trois ans. Automatique que personne à St Josse, n'a le temps de se reposer sur cet genre de laurier. A peine étonnés du confinement, les quatre fleurs sont à reconquérir.

Le jury apprécie à l'attention ne se satisfait pas, au fait, de l'harmonie et de la monotonie. Pour le début et le consensus, il faut faire preuve de fraîcheur, de nouveauté, d'originalité, d'autisme sans. Ce label de qualité s'engage aujourd'hui sur des enjeux tels que l'amélioration du cadre de vie, le développement de l'économie locale, l'attractivité touristique, le respect de l'environnement, la préservation du lien social et surtout le plaisir du végétal dans l'aménagement des espaces publics.

Et quand une formidable opportunité d'expansion à nouveau se présente, faire déjà reconnu s'est présentée en 2017 suite au réaménagement du jardin du presbytère, en centre village et clos de murs, quartiers d'elles ont commencé à fleurir. Comment aménager cette île paradisiaque de 300m² et la transformer en un abri magique ?

Y installer une nouvelle 7 Traps classiques. Une mise à jour 7 déjà présente dans le village. Une grande fleur 7 Traps label 100 Saure. Il en jamais qui a suggéré un jardin d'horticulture. Cela est pourtant vite apparu comme une évidence pour une majorité de décideurs locaux, animés par un enthousiasme partagé.

Quelques recherches ont rapidement orienté les porteurs du projet du côté de la collection Sharronck, et c'est à la suite d'une fructueuse rencontre avec Robert Malet, André Dieval et Daniel Fuzati à Valenciennes - sur Mer en avril 2022 qu'une délégation d'élus, Charles Carpentier, Philippe Navasartian et le jardinier Frédéric Parnel se sont laissé convaincre du bien-fondé de leur choix.

Restait à trouver un fil conducteur, un thème, pour présenter de façon harmonieuse et cohérente la quarantaine de variétés qui allaient peupler l'épanouir à leur sein sur le parterre. Les fleurs par couleur ? Par espèces ? Par pays d'origine ? C'est finalement un thème à haute portée éducative qui fit l'unanimité. Le jardin des horticultures de St Josse - sur Mer sera ainsi une « section de l'horticulture des variétés à trois jours, au travers des plus belles obtentions françaises ». Une belle et saine reconnaissance du travail d'hybridation effectué par les Lammone, Moufflers, Cayeux, Dubouché, Guigois, Thuffaut... depuis plus d'un siècle, mais aussi celui d'horticulteurs contemporains.

Une fois le plan du jardin élaboré, il revenait à André Dieval (responsable) de fournir les quarante variétés sélectionnées dont certaines, historiques, ont été depuis longtemps les chouchous communaux malgré des qualités de rusticité et de vigueur jamais démenties.

Mise en place à la fin de l'été 2022, la collection est aujourd'hui bien installée et a fière allure. Bienvenue par Frédéric Parnel, elle n'a pas eu trop à souffrir des conditions successives, et sera de nouveau à son meilleur en juillet 2023, à l'heure du passage du jury des villes et villages fleuris. Une table de lecture accompagnée d'un plan détaillé, des étiquettes en plastique autocollantes et faciles à identifier (chaque variété, ne pouvant qu'indiquer les couleurs, prestigieuses du noir, la porte à la découverte du monde fascinant des horticultures. A portée de main, à portée des yeux.

Le collectionneur Sharronck aura donc eu jusqu'à St Josse sur Mer dans les Hauts de France par le soutien de quelques citoyens amoureux de leur village et soucieux de lui offrir un lieu d'été, fait en couleur, mais aussi harmonieux et cohérent. Le jardin des horticultures est ainsi à l'écoute cette belle palette tout en apportant une dimension culturelle non négligeable qui méritait à elle seule l'attribution d'une... quatrième fleur.

Ground cover

André Diéval - 1 January 2023

Nature abhors a vacuum, so a living blanket covers it. The carpet consists of organic matter, leaves, dead plants and animals, and perennials and shrubs. This blanket protects and nourishes the earth. We must learn from this.

The benefits of ground cover for the gardener are to reduce watering, to reduce the growth of unwanted plants, to protect the soil from the elements (driving rain, scorching sun and frost) and to feed the soil with organic waste.

Ground cover is essential for the balance of the soil. Life is present in the soil, and it is life that feeds the plants!

Before creating a bed, it must be demarcated, nourished and protected. Green nitrogen fixing plants are welcome (phacelia, white mustard, clover etc.). These plants loosen and nourish the soil. The perennials, trees and shrubs that you plant will appreciate this.

Once the bed is made, planting can take place. Mulching with dead leaves, shredded plants (RCW wood chips) and even grass clippings will work wonders (the waste will turn into humus and feed the plants).

After planting, once the mulch has done its job, you can use certain perennials as ground cover. The aesthetics of the bed is essential. Harmony of form and colour is the hallmark of a good gardener.

The choice of perennials is very important: you must choose well. Overly greedy and invasive ground cover plants should be avoided.

The aim of all this work must be to protect the soil from the scorching sun, the ravages of driving rain, the rigours of the cold and the wind, while preserving the beauty of your creation.

Local native plants can also be included, in the spirit of the successful Country Garden. Mastery of local plants is essential, and the overflow of perennials will make other lovers of beautiful gardens happy! Sharing is one of the gardener's main qualities!

We must respect, understand, love and copy nature.

Here are photos of some examples of ground cover plants adapted to hydrangeas:



hydrangea and epimedium



hydrangea and lamium



hydrangea and geranium



hydrangea and epimedium



Variegated ivy



Tolmeia menziesii



Symphytum



Geranium phaeum



Bluebells and G. macrorrhizum



hydrangea and lungwort



hydrangea and geranium



hydrangea and wild garlic

Views of the Jardin des Lianes

Guy Lebel has clearly understood that nature abhors a vacuum!
The harmony is perfect.



List of ground cover plants that I recommend for hydrangeas (mid-shade and sun)

Guy Lebel

Epimedium: -> I advise clearing the root collar of hydrangeas.

Lamium maculatum:-> avoid the very invasive *Lamium galeobdolon* (to be reserved for large areas).

Tolmiea menziesii:-> I like the yellow 'Cool Gold' and the yellow spotted 'Taffe's Gold'.

Campanula:-> *carpatica* (Carpathian bellflower) and *portenschlagia* (wall bellflower) for sunny and semi-shade situations.

Geranium :-> many varieties are available. (mid-shade to sunny)

Vinca major and minor (periwinkle):-> the plant must be kept under control to avoid overgrowth. A tip: cut back the plant every 2 or 3 years, this will enhance the periwinkle's flowering (shade and mid-shade).

Mitella ovalis :-> this is a nice ground cover for shade to mid-shade. (the *H. involucrata* will appreciate it).

Hedera (ivy) :-> it is preferable to use the variegated varieties. Green ivy is too invasive.

Pulmonaria (lungwort) :-> not really a ground cover, but planted in groups it becomes superb in the flower bed. There are many interesting varieties. Possibly combine with mulch (mid-shade).

Saxifraga:-> *Saxifraga stolonifera* forms a more or less dense carpet (shade or mid-shade). *Saxifraga fortunei* (Japanese saxifrage) is a small ground cover plant for shade to mid-shade. *Saxifraga x arendsii* is more suited to the sun.

Hosta :-> is not a ground cover plant, but combined with mulch, it gives a very nice effect in spring and summer. It loses its foliage in winter. It should be planted in groups. (Half-shade and sunny positions).

Ground cover plants from nature, such as comfrey (*Symphytum*) and many others. It is best to use plants from your region. I advise you to control spontaneous seeding.

In any case, you should always share these plants with your gardening friends.

Garden addresses:

Ô Jardin Paisible

53 rue de la Lombardie 62140 Fressin

Tel +33 3 21 90 64 15

Ground cover plants at “Shamrock”

A distinctive feature of the “Shamrock” garden is that it has some shaded, if not cool, areas, and also some drier semi-shaded or sunny areas.

In the former case we have seen a good result with a ground cover *Epimedium perralderianum* which does not need to be cleared back in winter.

Also, *Ophiopogon japonicus* (with green leaves) which reseeds itself naturally.

In a semi-shaded to sunny situation, *Lithodora diffusa*, a Moroccan rockery plant, has given us the most satisfaction (associated, for example, with a creeping rosemary). Two other plants have proved to be useful in providing uniform cover: comfrey (*Symphytum grandiflorum*) and borage (*Borago officinalis*). Among the *Geranium*, *G. macrorrhynchum* is unbeatable, but we also have the cultivars *G. ‘Johnson Blue’*, *G. ‘Rozanne’* and *G. ‘Amen’*, which are very dense and free-flowering and are also drought-resistant.

In general, we have to fight against creeping ivy and the local ferns: both killers of hydrangeas. Unfortunately, we also have to add the delightful “Solomon’s seal” (*Polygonatum*) to this list; it is a very heavy feeder, and needs to be removed at an early age to avoid the heavy task of eradicating it. There is also a very invasive white-flowered periwinkle, *Vinca difformis*, capable of choking young hydrangeas (so only to be used in large areas). We formally advise against two extremely invasive plants, even if they can sometimes be decorative, namely wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*) which resprouts abundantly, and, worse than this, a real plague of flowerbeds and even embankments, ground elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*), which is very difficult to eradicate. Needless to say, brambles, nettles and bindweed must also be closely monitored.

The ideal solution may be to use hydrangeas themselves as ground cover: several cultivars of *H. serrata* ssp. *yezoensis*, originating from South Korea or North Japan are now available in nurseries, and have been tested in several gardens: ‘*Magic Pillow*’ (30cm), and ‘*Veerle*’ (80 cm), in the Merksplas ‘*De Kleine Boerderij*’ botanical garden in Belgium, or ‘*Blue Billow*’ (30cm), in the New York botanical garden, or ‘*Varengeville*’ (80 cm), at “Shamrock” (see photos).

Following publication of Didier Willery’s excellent book *Une année au jardin, avec un dingue de plantes* (Ulmer, 2022) - pp.132 and following - we retain his concept of associating several ground cover plants to ensure the continuity of a covering “carpet” over the different seasons, one compensating for the weakness of the other as it dies back, thus avoiding “holes” caused by plants that are momentarily in decline. It’s up to all of us to experiment with new “mixes” while we’re enhancing our flowerbeds.



H. ‘Magic Pillow’



H. ‘Veerle’



H. 'Varengeville'



H. 'Blue Billow'



borage



comfrey (Symphitum)



Epimedium perralderianum



Lithodora diffusa



Ophiopogon japonicum



hellebores

List of ground cover plants at Shamrock (10-03-2023)

- Comfrey (symphitum)
- Borage
- Euonymus fortunei
- Hedera helix
- Muehlenbeckia complexa
- Cotoneaster damneri 'Skogolmen')
- Hemerocallis flava *
- Iris germanica
- Iris japonica (petit bois)
- Geranium macrorrhizum
- Geranium 'Johnson's Blue'
- Geranium 'Rozanne'
- Geranium 'Amen'
- Hybrid Hellebores
- Epimedium perralidianum (petit bois)
- Lithodora diffusa (Aile 1)
- Rosmarinus officinalis 'Pointe du Raz'
- Rosmarinus 'Pointe du Raz'
- Sarcococca humilis (petit bois)
- Phlox divaricata (Aile 8) *
- Stokesia 'Blue Star' (Pb 8) *
- Anagallis monellii *
- Brunnera macrophylla (Aile 3) *
- Luzulla (Aile 8) *
- Teucrium fruticans (Pb 1)
- Vinca difformis alba (southern bank)
- Vinca minor (southern bank)
- Scilla nutans 'Blanche'
- Pulmonaria officinalis
- Agapanthus
- Lamium galeobdolon
- Ophiopogon japonica (petit-bois)
- Ilex crenata

*New

The ‘Endless Summer’ saga

The original plant named ‘Endless Summer’ was named in 1988 by Michael Dirr (patented and marketed by Bailey Nursery Inc). In his book *Hydrangeas for American Gardens* (2004), Michael pointed out the ‘reblooming’ nature of this plant, which was to become the name of a series with the same advantage. Hence the American-style marketing campaign and distribution.

A genetic analysis conducted by ENITH in Angers proved a synonymy with another cultivar called ‘Semperflorens’ (a plant brought from Japan by a construction company).

In the “Shamrock” collection we have noted the similarity of ‘Semperflorens’ with the following plants:

- ‘Rosea’ (brought back by Charles Maries in 1880 for the Veitch & Co nursery)
- ‘Nikko Blue’ (brought back by the De Belders)
- ‘Dooley’
- ‘Mme Faustin Travouillon’
- ‘Stene’s Pink’
- ‘Générale Vicomtesse de Vibraye’

However, what does not seem to have been sufficiently reported are other common characteristics of these plants:

- Early flowering (from early June)
- Matte foliage (not glossy like pure *H. macrophylla*)
- They require shady situations and are very thirsty for water.
- Are frost resistant.

They are obviously mountain plants. This was confirmed to us by Japanese explorer friends. In fact, they are hybrids of *H. serrata*. They are not “always in flower”, so they are quite different from pure *H. macrophylla*, some of which do flower continuously, like ‘Otaksa’, ‘Ayesha’ or ‘Domotoi’.

RMa



Red-stemmed Hybrids - ‘Twist’n’Shout’ (PIHM-1)

The “Shamrock” Journal has previously reported on this distinctively named plant from the Georgia State University breeding programme in Athens run by our friend Michael Dirr.

It is a red-stemmed hybrid given as a cross between ‘Lady in Red’ and ‘Penny Mac’.

We had already noticed this red stem phenotype in the plant ‘Preziosa’ bred by Georg Arends in the 1950s. It was his daughter who, on the basis of her father’s diary, told us that as a young man he had visited the Fratelli Rovelli nursery in Pallanza and noticed an unusual plant ‘Ramis Pictis’ (i.e., with a coloured stem) after a nursery tour in Italy. Having taken cuttings and returned home, he obtained, by crossing with an *H. macrophylla*, the ‘Preziosa’ that we now grow with this Italian-spelled name.

Indeed, ‘Ramis Pictis’ (syn. ‘Akaeda Yama’, ‘yama’ thus indicating an *H. serrata*) was in the Rovelli nursery at the time of Georg’s trip, if we are to believe the catalogue of this nursery found in the library of the Meise Botanical Garden (Belgium). Today ‘Twist’n’Shout’ and more recently ‘Bloom Struck’ (or ‘Bloom Star’) and ‘Summer Crush’, to which we can add ‘After Midnight’ (bred from the same UGA programme, but discarded) have this characteristic red stem. Following molecular research by Dr Lisa Alexander (USDA), it has now been established that ‘Lady in Red’ contains a large proportion of *H. serrata* genes, which explains its hardiness.

Source: “The Hydrangea Book”, by Michael Dirr (Stipes Publishing LLC, 2021)

Why is this story so interesting?

Because all these red-stemmed plants have proved to be very cold hardy, as are most *H. serrata* varieties, being mountain plants.

On the other hand, these plants, including ‘Preziosa’, are sometimes accused of being more difficult to grow than an *H. macrophylla* hybrid. This is because they are less drought resistant. This is entirely consistent with the behaviour of mountain plants when grown on the plains. The moral of the story is that they should be given a shady spot, mulched well and their water supply monitored in times of severe drought. In the Shamrock collection, the most recent varieties now do credit to their Georgian breeder.

RMa

Phenotypic observations on some Japanese cultivars

Sometimes the typical parentage of certain cultivars is obvious. This year, four Japanese cultivars have demonstrated this:



‘Yodogama’ (syn. ‘Yodogawa’), ‘Ô Niji’, ‘Ezo Hoshino’, and ‘Shojo’

The first two are old cultivars:

‘Yodogama’ (before 1856) is a plant introduced in the 1990s to Shamrock. Reputed to be frost-sensitive and stunted, it first flowered in 2004. Today it is free-flowering, very vigorous and even ‘travels’ in search of more light.



‘Ôniji’, also introduced in 1992 by Corinne Mallet. Described by Yamamoto-san in his “Colour Guide”, it thrives in shady situations with rounded sepals like the previous plant.

The following two plants are Japanese hybrids of *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata*.



‘Ezo Hoshino’, introduced in 1994, was a gift from Yamamoto san, obtained by his friend Numao san. This beautiful plant is early-flowering and has a tendency to multiply locally by layering. Rounded sepals like the previous ones.



‘Shôjo’ is a plant bred by the great gardener Fujii san, now deceased, who was close to our friend Sugimoto san. Introduced to Shamrock in 1996, it requires a shady situation, but its flowering period is longer.

RMa

'Roy's Surprise'

(the continuing story)

An extract (p.21) from our Journal no. 27 concerns an *H. robusta* 'Pink Cloud' which is now called 'Roy's Surprise' following Roy Lancaster's visit to Trelissick Gardens in Cornwall to discover this famous flowering plant from his collecting expedition to Sichuan in 1993. It was Michael Hickson who brought an example of it to Courson on two occasions.

Letter from Michael Hickson (7 october 2015)

...Trying to trace the origins of 'Pink Cloud' has taken a while but worth it, as I have discovered another form from the same natural source seed collection. From what I have un-earthed the seed was sent from RBG Kew to Trelissick in 1995. This had arrived from Roy Lancaster after his expedition to the Baoxing mountainous region in N.W. Sichuan in 1993. Collectors number L.2021; 2100m in mixed woodland. Some authorities regard 'Pink Cloud' as a form of *Hydrangea aspera*, others *H. robusta* or even *H. longipes*. Can your experience shed any light on the species?

I am given to understand that a second seedling has been named from the same packet of seed, namely *Hydrangea aspera* 'Trelissick Blue Skies' and is good. Then there is *Hydrangea aspera villosa* 'Trelissick' which is said to be a fine selection. Another form raised by Barry Champion is *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Pengwylne' (head of white), differing from *H. macrophylla* 'Lanarth White'. As time passes I hope to be able to find young plants so that they can be sent to you for your interest.

Letter from Roy Lancaster (6 april 2022) about this plant which now bears his name

Dear Robert, For me too it was a lovely surprise to meet up with you in Paris recently.

Thank you for your letter and it's contents including the Hortensia *Hydrangea* catalogue from Shamrock. Very interesting indeed. Very interesting too are the papers relating to my Roy's Surprise *Hydrangea* from Sichuan in 1993 as grown by Trelissick Garden in Cornwall. I was not aware of Michael Hickson's involvement with this nor with the seedling named 'Pink Cloud'. I probably did share seed of my L.2021 with Kew but I did not know that Trelissick had selected and named this seedling 'Pink Cloud' nor have I heard of 'Trelissick Blue Skies'. Could this really be a seedling from my collection and is it in the Trade? I might contact Trelissick to find out more.

Thank you to Corinne for her detective work in following this up. I remember seeing what I believe was *H.robusta* in both East Nepal and later in Bhutan.I was impressed with it large broad leaves.

Many thanks again,

Happy Days

Roy & Sue



Type collection : _Hooker, J. D. &
Thomson, T. 1858. J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 2: 76.

A new *H. serratifolia* (*Crûg Farm Plants* - <https://mailorder.crug-farm.co.uk/>)

Bleddyn and Sue Wynn Jones - 22 June 2022

Another climbing hydrangea, this time it is a Dan Hinkley collection from Chile. *Hydrangea serratifolia* HCM98056 a distinct species as the leaves are not serrated on a mature plant. Wonderful red-bronze new foliage worth growing just for that. Been growing here in North Wales for about 15 years shrugging off any cold weather, even a couple of bouts of -15C.

Other than we find it to be a very vigorous climber so allow plenty of room if it is going to be happy. Our label description : One of Dan Hinkley's collections from Chile in 1998 at around 1500m. A strong growing evergreen, aerial rooting climbing species. With (contrary to its name) un-serrated glossy, stiff and leathery leaves which emerge orange in this distinct collection, setting off the white distinct globular inflorescences which appear from the leaf axils at the end of the branches. Consisting of all fertile flowers without the normal sterile florets seen in most hydrangeas. Best planted in part shade growing into the sun in neutral-acid soils.



Climbing Hydrangea from Taiwan

Pictures from Hungyi of hydrangea in Taiwan



Hydrangea lobbii - BSWJ3214



An evergreen shrub with stiff hairless oblong-lanceolate serrate leaves, bearing terminal cymes of yellow fertile and white sterile flowers from summer through to winter under protection. Requires a sheltered site in full sun out of cold winds. Our collection from Dahtung-Dah-li in eastern Taiwan, gathered in the autumn of 1996.



Series Let's Dance



Hydrangea 'Sky View'



Hydrangea 'Sky View' late in the season

From 2 to 8 August 2022, a 3200 km journey through Germany, from Hesse, via Saxony and Lower Saxony. Return via Holland. Searching for lost or forgotten hydrangeas of German origin.

Éliane LEBRET

1st destination: Grossalmerode, near Kassel, the “Historische Hortensien” nursery located 1050 km from Tours.

A couple of hydrangea specialists and collectors in Grossalmerode, a village in Hesse, Germany.

Christine and Hans Alt have just moved from Bavaria to create a park dedicated to hydrangeas near Kassel. They are also nursery gardeners and have a very wide range of these plants. We are welcomed at 9 am by Christine Alt who shows us around their numerous greenhouses. A very good contact is established almost immediately. Her pronounced Bavarian accent charms me, but I sometimes have to ask her to repeat what she says.

Never mind, the language of plants and their Latin names is universal!

Having said that, ‘Beauté Vendômoise’ or ‘Générale Vicomtesse de Vibraye’ or ‘Madame Emile Mouillère’, which they spell ‘MEM’, are no more pronounceable for foreigners than ‘Schloss Wackerbarth’ or ‘Gartenbaudirektor Kuhnert’ or ‘Schöne Bautznerin’ are for French people. This is why it’s important to think carefully about the names of new varieties. Their future reputation on the market may depend on it!

The heat wave had caught up with the Alt couple in this part of Germany, where temperatures are generally cooler overall than in France. They are forced to water, which is not a common occurrence there. And on the other hand, last winter, during their move, they lost several hydrangeas with temperatures of minus 25°C.

They have a fine collection of hydrangeas, but not necessarily all from Germany.

We left anyway with the *Hydrangea macrophylla* ‘Grünes Gewölbe’ and ‘Kleiner Winterberg’, both bred by Katrin Meinel, the Saxon star of the last 25 years in Germany. She has created more than 30 new varieties!

We promise to keep in touch with our hosts. Thank you, Christine, for so kindly opening your overflowing greenhouses to us!

And now we’re on our way to Saxony, or more precisely the “Saxon Switzerland” area, near Dresden, on the border with the Czech Republic, which is currently experiencing huge forest fires. We don’t know exactly what we will find there. All very suspenseful...

2nd destination: 350 km further on, Pirna in Saxony, near Dresden.

Two objectives:

- ***Visit to the German Botanical Collection of hydrangeas and its 500 varieties.***

A whole day with Matthias Riedel, responsible for the German Botanical Collection of hydrangeas (and camellias) at Zuschendorf Castle. I had already had the opportunity to meet him in 2019 during a trip to Dresden. We have been in regular contact for at least 4 or 5 years now.

After the Bavarian accent of the day before, it’s now a matter of tuning myself into the Saxon mode!

In 38°C weather, we walked through the 6 hectares dedicated to hydrangeas. Stressed by these abnormal temperatures, which had now lasted for several days, Matthias regularly disappeared to check and water his plants. Our German friends are not used to such a heat wave, and neither are their hydrangeas! As for me, I almost had heatstroke, bareheaded, bent over the hydrangeas for several hours, with burning hot secateurs in my hand in the midst of the parent plants and the experimental fields. But there was no question of giving up after a journey of more than 3000 km! And what a collection! Most of the Saxons are represented. It must be said that Saxony has been the cradle of German creations for 100 years. French varieties, thanks to the “Shamrock” association, also have a lovely space reserved for them in this magical place.

The 500 hydrangeas in the collection, apart from the *paniculata*, *quercifolia* and *aspera*, are carefully kept in pots, individually wrapped and brought in each winter in semi-underground greenhouses. Temperatures can drop to minus 30°C in winter, although this year only minus 20°C, and the hydrangeas would find it difficult to survive. A titanic task carried out by a very small team.

The collection has been doubled up in open ground as an experiment, the aim being to test the degree of resistance of the different hydrangeas to frost and to observe which ones will be able to flower again in the summer. Very few succeed! ‘Westfalen’ is one of them, so I bring back some cuttings!

The German Botanical Collections are attached to the University of Dresden in the former East Germany, and have managed to survive the fall of the Berlin Wall, which was catastrophic for the nurseries, or rather the production cooperatives, as they were called, of the former GDR. Thanks to Matthias Riedel, many of the hydrangea varieties scattered throughout Saxony were saved and reunited at Zuschendorf Castle.

I came away with many cuttings of specimens that have been forgotten or are no longer produced and marketed. Most of

them belong to the Saxon series of the last twenty years: 'Sonnenstein', 'Bastei', 'Pilnitz', 'Meissen', 'Weesenstein bicolore', etc., but also old German historical varieties such as 'Westfalen' (1936), 'Ticino' (1960s), 'Lusatia' (1970), and 'Iris' (1960).

The highlight of the visit was the *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Elbe', which I had long been looking for. I thought I had finally found it at "Shamrock" last April, but the plant died (it came from New Zealand, I think). What a disappointment! Surprise: Matthias gave me a specimen in a pot, ready to flower and be planted!

- *Discovering the sites that gave their names to Saxon hydrangeas.*

As far as I'm concerned, a hydrangea is not just a flower, it's a whole history: the story of its breeder, but also the story of its creation and its name. When I look at the plants in our garden, I understand them all the better when I know the origin of their names.

My husband and I therefore decided to travel through Saxony and especially "Saxon Switzerland", despite the fires that were raging at the beginning of August. The hiking trails were all closed to walkers, but most of the sites were still accessible.

After visiting Zuschendorf Castle and its botanical collections, we climbed up to the Sonnenstein Castle, overlooking the small town of Pirna, in the heat of the day. Our hotel was on the banks of the Elbe. The next day we headed for our next stop, Königstein and its ramparts, passing of course the Bastei, with its very special rock formations. Our accommodation was directly on the Lilienstein Mountain and overlooked the Elbe valley (Elbtal). Please note that the 'Elbe' variety created by Schadendorf refers to the part of the Elbe located further north, at its mouth near Hamburg. Not to be confused!

Before leaving, I want to go to Rathen, a small bathing resort on both banks of the Elbe. We don't have time to see Weesenstein Castle. Too far away! That's for another time. As for the famous Pilnitz Castle and the no less famous Grünes Gewölbe Museum in Dresden, we already had the opportunity to discover them during a previous trip.

So, there we are, 11 sites, 11 hydrangeas! A special (and sentimental?) relationship has been born between these plants and myself! It's certain that I will never look at them the same way again...

3rd and last destination: 860 km, the Esveld nursery in Holland via Lower Saxony.

A small diversion via Ammerland, a region known for its wonderful horticulture, in the north of Lower Saxony and, incidentally, the place where my in-laws live. I discovered the *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Nizza' there during my wanderings. Rampp, its German creator, also from Dresden, wanted to honour the city of Nice. He created a whole series of hydrangeas called "City-Line". I adopted it immediately. It will be company for 'Côte d'Azur', already in our collection.

Time is getting short. Our garden can't be left without our care for too long, especially with the heat wave and the drought in Touraine at the moment.

We must continue our journey.

We go back down through Holland, stopping in Boskoop, at the magnificent nursery of Esveld, in the middle of a hundred-year-old botanical garden of the same name, intersected by dozens of canals. Bridges connect the various parts of the nursery. There are areas filled with hydrangeas growing in open ground and huge specimens lining the canal banks. So much water, when the rest of Europe is dying of thirst! Amazing and refreshing! I had ordered hydrangeas from there several times, but had never visited it. This nursery-botanical garden is definitely worth a visit!

But there were few employees at this time of year to give us information and little time to look round. We still had 700 km to go, so we quickly hit the road again to arrive in Fondettes that evening.

Éliane Lebret

Les Jardins d'Altona

41 rue de la Morandière

37230 Fondettes - France

(August 2022)



Schloss Sonnenstein and the Elbe



Lilienstein-site



“Saxon Switzerland”



Schloss Zuschendorf



Schloss Zuschendorf



Éliane with Matthias Riedel in front of 'Westfalen'

STOP PRESS

‘Schadendorf’s Perle’ returns home

Or the never-ending hunt for a hydrangea that had disappeared from Europe

Reminder:

Created in 1928 by the Hamburg breeder Heinrich Schadendorf, the hydrangea macrophylla ‘Schadendorf’s Perle’ was the first of a series of 7 new varieties. It had not been seen in Europe since the 20th century. The other Schadendorf varieties were called ‘Holstein’, ‘Elbe’, ‘Altona’, ‘Gloria’, ‘Hamburg’ and... ‘Europa’, created in 1930. And in a fitting tribute to this European of the first hour, enthusiasts from France, the Netherlands and Germany have joined forces to return this plant to its native country.

PS. I’m making an appeal here. If anyone has ‘Gloria’, I’m interested!

12,890 km: a real expedition!

15 February 2023: the hydrangea macrophylla ‘Schadendorf’s Perle’ finally left the small town of Aurora in Oregon (the “Hydrangea Plus” nursery) where I found it 2 years ago, almost 11,000 km as the crow flies from Touraine and Les Jardins d’Altona. There, it is called ‘Schnaderdorf Pearl’. A first shipment was cancelled last year because of a too-mild winter in that part of the United States, where the plants had not lost their leaves.

With a mixture of excitement and apprehension, I followed its progress through the real-time tracking information transmitted by DHL, its carrier, and I still had some surprises in store.

The customs formalities and especially the sanitary controls for plants entering our continent are daunting and abstruse. You have to have read the administrative forms and try to fill them in to realise how complex the task is. Who said Europe was a “colander” that lets everything through? In any case, plants are subject to so many regulations that private individuals who are not highly motivated will very quickly abandon their project - or else do it illegally, and that wasn’t my choice.

To facilitate the return of our hydrangea to Europe, and with the help of a CCVS member who is more familiar with importing plants than I am - thanks again to you, dear Jan - we decided to do it via Holland.

Amsterdam was, therefore, the port of entry, or rather the airport, for our ‘Schadendorf’s Perle’. I forgot to mention that it was travelling thousands of kilometres by plane! We’re no longer in the 19th century, when plants travelled the seas for several months on board magnificent sailing ships. The new navigators that accompany our plants are now called DHL, UPS, FEDEX... I therefore reasonably expected a 3-day journey for our hydrangea that was coming back home.

So, on February 15, 2023, our ‘Perle’, with its American health papers, bade farewell to Kristin VanHoose, the nursery woman who may have saved it from permanent extinction. It has undergone all possible treatments to disinfect it, rid it of all parasites, in short to make it, from a phytosanitary point of view, acceptable for Europe. The week before, it had received the Inspector of Agriculture’s final visit to the American nursery, and was officially presented with a certificate of good health: an indispensable passport for emigration. It should be noted that our friend can only cross the European borders in a state of full vegetative rest, without any leaves and with bare roots. No soil is allowed to pass through customs!

On 16 February, it took off from Portland, then returned to Seattle on 17 February. Next stop, 3500 km further, on 18 February in Cincinnati, Ohio. A well-deserved rest. Then on 19 February, a short transit via Leipzig, Germany, 7500 km away, where it landed at 7.27 pm to greet the country of its ancestors before

taking to the air again for Holland. And finally at 2.26 am, 530 km further on, on February 20th, our 'Perle' arrived in Amsterdam.

Despite my fears, the phytosanitary and customs controls went smoothly. 5.25 am: permission to stay granted. No need for you to become illegal, dear friend. Welcome to Europe!

8.54 pm. DHL takes over again. 'Schadendorf's Perle' takes off again from Amsterdam. Destination: Touraine this time. Only 730 km to go. YESSS! Message from the carrier: the package will be delivered tomorrow evening. I'm thrilled!

21 February 2023. Wake up at dawn. This is the big day. A look at the DHL tracking system. I burst out laughing: our 'Perle' has passed through Leipzig again during the night! (For your information, the National Conservatory of German Hydrangea Collections is just a few kilometres away. A coincidence?). Modern navigators have many surprises in store for us. The shortest routes are definitely not the least long! On its way back to Germany, our friend has just extended its journey by 700 km. Incredible!

5.50 am on 21 February and 760 km later. Our hydrangea is finally breathing French air, not the purest of air, no doubt, as it lands in Paris in the middle of a fine-particle alert. 6:52 am: it leaves Roissy. Another 240 km to reach the Touraine region. 10.38am: it's in Orleans. Suspense is the order of the day...

12:26 pm: 'Schadendorf's Perle' is knocking on the door at Les Jardins d'Altona...

After 3 years tracking it down, 18 months of waiting to meet European phytosanitary requirements, 7 days of travel and approximately 12,890 km, 'Schadendorf's Perle' is finally back in its native continent. It will join the Zuschendorf botanical collection in Dresden and 'Shamrock' this summer, as soon as it's been given a clean bill of health.



The Art of Gardening: the problem of “borders”

When it comes to garden styles, a revealing fact when the public is brought into contact with the world of wild plants is the question of “borders” made of various materials, bricks, wood, metal, plastic, to enclose and “fix” the beds. The alternative is to avoid these artificial borders altogether and let plants cover the whole space as they do in nature. This is in line with the recommendation of William Robinson, author of “The Wild Garden” (1870), to “naturalise exotic plants” in reaction to the excesses of the “mosaic” beds favoured in the Victorian era. There are at least two parks in Varengeville and one in Sainte Marguerite that are completely free of these borders and they arouse the spontaneous admiration of those who visit them. But what can be done to preserve the areas necessary for visitors to circulate? On one hand, it is appropriate mowing techniques, and on the other hand, enough gardeners (paid or voluntary) to allow for this maintenance. We therefore advocate limiting the use of artificial borders, as they create obstacles between the public and the plants. In the “Shamrock” hydrangea collection, everything is done to encourage visitors to immerse themselves in the world of plants and to allow them to discover, with all their senses, the natural plant wonders offered by the Hydrangea genus. In the centre of the collection, we have even allowed a “jungle” area to develop, exactly reproducing the impression given by the famous Izu peninsula in Japan, where thousands of hydrangeas, all different, although of the same species, multiply naturally. Going beyond the disorientation provoked by an exotic change of scenery, contact is made directly between humans and the world of plants. You can touch, smell, penetrate, even let yourself be “swallowed” by the vegetation. All this without barriers or prior recommendations, with as few so-called “educational” interventions as possible, such as paper guides in hand that have to be read and that prevent one from actually seeing, and lead to criticism when the description in the guide does not exactly match what is before one’s eyes. The natural desire to know more should come after the wonder and amazement, not before. First see and experience the joy of discovery, and then ask all the questions you want. Often, the happiness we feel is enough, and the impression will remain, for it makes us like children again.

And here are some beautiful thoughts from Édouard Cortès in his admirable book *Par la Force des arbres* (p.108) “It is not wonders that are missing in our world, but our eyes that are missing the wonderful” and (p.96) “The soul has made the eye its pathfinder on the earth”.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the presence of people who are unable or unwilling to indulge in sensory experiences when confronted with the plant world: fear of the unknown, fear of getting lost, fear of not being up to the task and of being considered ignorant in the eyes of others, or simply a psychological block due to cerebral overactivity in a specialised intellectual field. This is where an expert garden guide can act as an intermediary, not to overwhelm visitors with a flood of knowledge that they will not be able to retain, but to reassure them, sometimes to help them discover, by focusing their eyes on an astonishing detail, suggesting that they discover a scent, or putting the sense of touch within their reach. This sudden opening up to perception of a new world, hitherto ignored, should provoke a rush of gratitude for the wonders of nature, so rich in emotions. It should be a “sublime moment” of discovery, far from the boring “run of the mill”, or things that are incomprehensible or out of reach.

RMa



Horticultural therapy at “Shamrock”

Laurence Le Prince

Over the years we have received many positive comments from visitors and friends about the benefits they have experienced during their visit to the garden. Many organisations responsible for the health of our fellow human beings have included the garden in their programme of “outings”. We think of Rouen University Hospital, which regularly brings some of its residents to the garden, and we remember groups of young autistic people who find peace in this non-aggressive environment of plants. But also, the most common remark we hear when leaving the collection: “magnificent”: an expression of inner contentment that does not deceive. This phenomenon can undoubtedly be explained by the character of this privileged space, far from noise and stress, which allows tired and busy people to escape for a moment from the aggressions of our society. We want to stay, to rest on a bench, to fill our eyes with the natural beauties offered to our gaze. Our bodies and hearts open up to the unison of an inner music. We are made for this contact with the plant world, with which so many of us have lost contact.

L'HORTITHERAPIE : JARDINER POUR MIEUX ETRE

Nous avons tous ressenti les effets positifs de la nature : la vue d'un paysage, l'observation des couleurs, le toucher des feuillages ou des écorces, le bruit du vent ou de l'eau ainsi que le goût des herbes, des légumes et des fruits !

Les expériences d'activités au jardin menées depuis plusieurs dizaines d'années aux USA et au Canada, au Japon et dans le Nord de l'Europe et depuis une vingtaine d'années, en France, montrent des bénéfices réels sur la santé.

Selon la situation de la personne, la fréquence de sa présence au contact des éléments naturels, le choix adapté de travaux, voici un certain nombre de bienfaits reconnus :

- 1) Effets psychologiques
 - Réduction du stress et de la fatigue mentale
 - Baisse de l'anxiété
 - Amélioration de l'humeur et de l'estime de soi
 - Amélioration des capacités attentionnelles et de la cognition, des capacités émotionnelles et de la créativité
 - Réduction des troubles émotionnels
 - Augmentation du sentiment de contrôle et d'autonomie
- 2) Effets physiologiques
 - Amélioration des conditions cardio-vasculaire et respiratoire
 - Entretien et développement musculaire
 - Renforcement de l'immunité grâce à l'oxygénation et à l'exposition au soleil
 - Amélioration du sommeil par l'exposition à la lumière naturelle
 - Plasticité des aires cérébrales par la stimulation sensorielle
 - Réduction de la sensation de douleur physiologique
 - Baisse des temps de convalescence
- 3) Effets psycho-sociaux
 - Développement des comportements prosociaux
 - Réduction du sentiment de solitude
 - Réduction de l'agressivité envers soi ou envers les autres

Selon l'American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) : « l'hortithérapie consiste à utiliser les plantes et le végétal comme médiation thérapeutique sous la direction d'un professionnel formé à cette pratique pour atteindre des objectifs précis adaptés aux besoins du participant ».

L'hortithérapie est maintenant reconnue comme une pratique de soins non médicamenteuse. Des jardins à visée thérapeutique (JAVT) sont de plus en plus développés dans les établissements de soins. Le personnel médical établit un suivi d'évaluation du mieux-être des patients après leurs occupations extérieures.

Dans ces créations, les paysagistes prévoient des zones réservées aux activités de jardinage réalisées en pleine terre ou dans des bacs pour un accès facilité. D'autres zones sont des lieux de promenade et de convivialité ; selon les établissements, elles seront accessibles aux salariés et aux visiteurs.

Ces différents espaces permettent :

- l'amélioration de la vie sociale dans l'établissement en soudant les équipes
- le développement relationnel avec le monde extérieur en organisant des événements
- un usage passif ou actif de ces espaces verts
- un impact bénéfique sur le bien-être physique, mental et social des résidents, des malades mais aussi des salariés, des visiteurs, des bénévoles

Voici un aperçu d'activités qui développent motricité, sensorialité et créativité :

- 1) Jardinage le plus écologique possible
 - Semis, bouturage, rempotage, plantation, binage et arrosage
 - Compostage des déchets végétaux en vue de l'amélioration physique et chimique des sols
 - Cultures de légumes, de plantes aromatiques et d'herbes, de fruits et petits fruits
 - Récoltes pouvant alimenter la cuisine de l'établissement
- 2) Activités autour des productions florales et potagères :
 - Réalisation d'étiquettes ou de panneaux
 - Compositions naturelles ou séchées
 - Installation d'hôtels à insectes, de nichoirs et de mangeoires
 - Aménagement d'une mare, espace de vie pour la faune, avec protection pour les résidents
 - Pose de carillons, de fontaines en bambou
 - Activités artistiques : dessin, peinture, photographie, chant et musique
- 3) Activités culinaires
- 4) Repas ou goûters dans un cadre reposant



Jardin à visée thérapeutique
dessiné par Florence
Gottinaux, paysagiste
Salon JARDINS, JARDIN
Les Tuileries, Juin 2022
pour JARDINS & SANTE,
la FEDERATION FRANCAISE
JARDINS NATURE ET SANTE et
INSTITUT AGRO Rennes Angers

La création de jardins à visée thérapeutique dans des établissements hospitaliers et médico-sociaux est soutenue par l'association JARDINS & SANTE qui offre des bourses suite à des appels à projets.

Les fonds proviennent essentiellement de visites de jardins ouverts par des particuliers qui ont la volonté de participer à cette mission en partageant leur passion. Si vous vous sentez interpellés par cette action, contactez l'association par le biais de son site :

www.jardins-sante.org

Laurence Le Prince

Pour en savoir plus :

- <https://f-f-jardins-nature-sante.org>
- <https://lebonheuredanslejardin.org>
- www.jardin-therapeutique.net



Shamrock garden: Hydrangea 'Veitchii' and Cornus kousa 'Satomi'

SNHF* Hydrangea section

“Hydrangea, tell me your genome, and I will tell you who you are”

Prof. Nathalie Leduc

Since the first time a plant's genome was sequenced in 2000 (*Arabidopsis thaliana* was chosen as a model plant), cost reductions and technological developments have made it possible to sequence the genome of a large number of plant species, among the various clades from algae to flowering plants. Some of these are wild and some are cultivated. The hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) is one of the latest plants to have had its genome sequenced. A first incomplete sequence was indeed produced in 2019, and very recently, in 2021, the evolution of sequencing technology has allowed the publication of a high-quality reference genome by a Japanese team. In this presentation, we can see what new information this genome provides and how it can contribute to varietal selection in hydrangeas.

Link to SNHF webinar on hydrangeas: <https://www.snhf.org/webinaire-tous-les-hydrangea-ne-sont-pas-des-hortensias-cs-et-section-hydrangea-2021/>

* *National Society of Horticulture of France (Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France)*

Prof. Nathalie LEDUC

Université d'Angers

UMR IRHS 1345 Univ Angers, INRAE,

Institut Agro

STREMHO Team (Stress, Epigenetic Memory in Horticultural Plants)

42 rue Georges Morel, CS 60057, 49071 Beaucauzé cedex, France, Tel (33)(0)241225652

<https://www6.angers-nantes.inrae.fr/irhs>



Research & Development

Hydrangeas under the molecular biology microscope

Marc Delêtre

This 18-month project, financed by the Community Plant Variety Office and conducted in collaboration with the Bundessortenamt (Germany), aims to genotype the national reference collection of Hydrangeas, nearly 1100 varieties, a large part of which are maintained at the Arboretum Gaston Allard in Angers, and to secure DUS trials through molecular marking. It started in May 2022.

Using the new technologies of genotyping by high-throughput sequencing, this pilot project aims to test a new approach that combines neutral genetic markers and markers linked to traits of agronomic and ornamental interest to describe the collection, confirm the identity of varieties, and guide the choice of controls for DUS testing.



Installing the 40,000 litre rainwater tank at Shamrock, spring 2022



Installing the 40,000 litre rainwater tank at Shamrock, spring 2022



Clément Varin in action

CCVS five yearly inspection



Bryan Woy, Corinne Mallet, Dr Jean-Claude Marzec, Camille Le Pape, Dominique Evrard

The Shamrock Team



Robert welcoming a group



André Diéval



André Diéval



Anne Nicolle and Claire Perrin



Gilbert Baudouin



Bruno Blanckaert and Galina Guillaume



Nicole Hagneré and Bryan Woy



Clément Varin

The Shamrock Team



Hervé Lepetit



Jean-Marc Schoepfer



Jean-Pierre Péan and Jean-Marie Rouet



Jean-Pierre Péan



Madeleine Alves



Martine Merlin and Madeleine Alves



Martine Merlin



Christine Barge and Pascale Schoepfer

The Shamrock Team



Robert and Florian Rossiter



Stéphanie Poulain

Remarkable Visits 2022

- Anne Sedant
- Jan Oprins and his family (*see photo*), Jan Hendricks
- Monique Mocer
- Stéphanie de Courtois
- Erwan Le Bec (Wespelaar)
- Marco Cobo and others (*see photo*)
- Eusebio Lopez Redondo
- Angela Fernandez Sanchez
- René and Gisèle Brisset (*photo*)
- Michael and Isabelle Potel



From left to right: Bryan Woy, Jacques Soignon (CCVS VP), Julien Goossens, Dominique Evrard (CCVS Secretary-general), Dominique Willery, Robert Mallet.



Marco Cobo and Eusebio Lopez Redondo, Angela Fernandez Sanchez

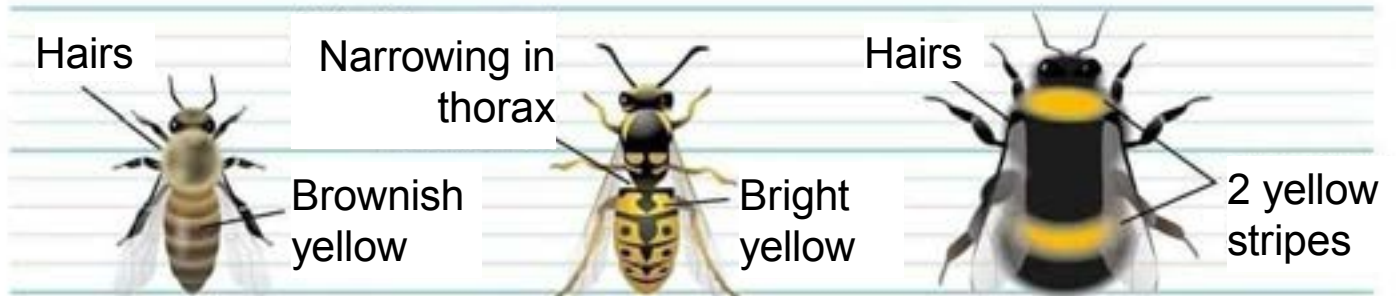


René and Gisèle Brisset

How to identify them



 Size
  Amount of venom released
  Behaviour



HONEY BEE
Apis mellifera


WASP
Vespula vulgaris

BUMBLE BEE
Bombus terrestris

 11 to 13 mm (worker)


11 to 14 mm (worker)

11 to 23 mm

 50 µg

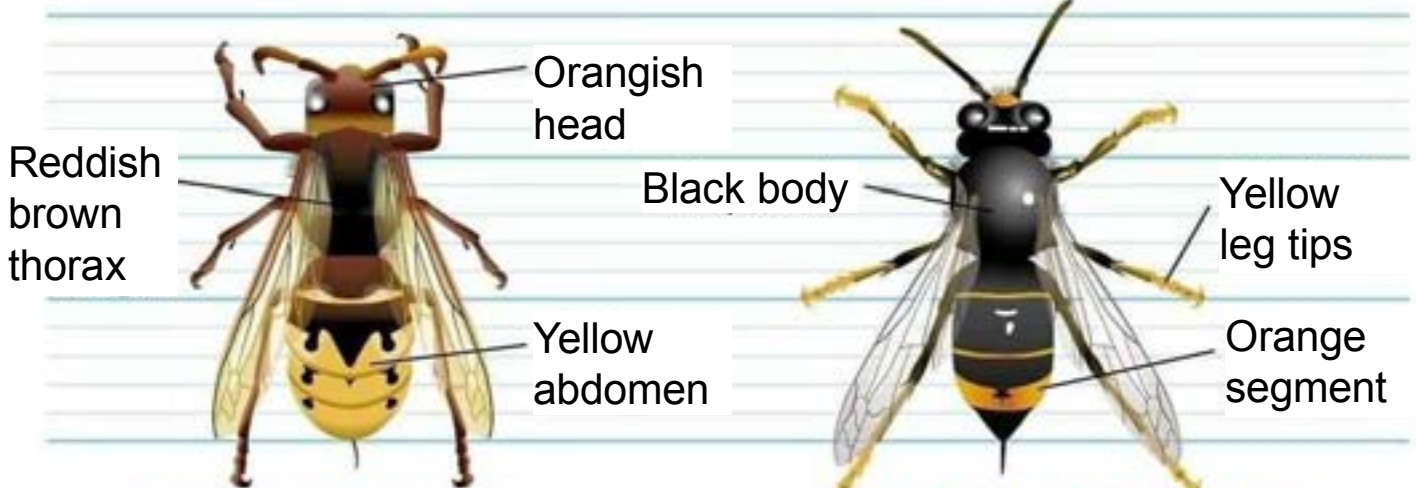
2 to 10 µg

2 to 10 µg

 Not very aggressive
Stings in self-defence
Dies after stinging

Somewhat aggressive
May sting several times

Not very aggressive
Stings in self-defence
May sting several times




EUROPEAN HORNET
Vespa crabro


ASIAN HORNET
Vespa velutina

 18 to 35 mm (worker)

17 to 32 mm

 2 to 10 µg

2 to 10 µg

 Very painful sting
May sting several times

Very painful sting
May sting several times

In all these species, only the female stings

Correspondence

Souvenir from Ozzie Johnson

I love this memory but it is so bitter sweet given so much loss of habitat and forest and everything else all over the world including our own homeland. By the way the trip was in the fall of 1996. Northern Yunnan.

I would like to give a shout out to the eleven other souls, who 20 years ago were preparing to go on a Botanical Learning Adventure as I was, to Yunnan, China. Among those are my FB friends and our glorious trip leader Paul Jones, also Pierre Bennerup, Hans Hansen, Dan Hinkley, Frank Bell, Tony Avent, Mildred Pinnell Fockele, Kim Hawkes, Darrell Probst, Else Liner, Roy Herold and David DeRose... Anyway, it was a life changing/altering trip for many of us! Cheers folks! Thanks Paul.



Francine Domoreau (saturday 25/06/22)

Couleurs de Jardins.

Dear Mr MALLET,

Thank you for this particularly instructive and colourful visit. We are very impressed by the variety of your hydrangeas in colour, shape and size.

Bravo for this achievement and once again thank you

David Wheeler 30/06/22

Cher Robert, do you know this book? It has a very good chapter on shrubby hydrangeas and another on the climbing species. I can scan the relevant pages for you if you would like them.

Nota : 'The Explorer's Garden, Shrubs and Vines from four corners of the world' Daniel J. Hinkley (Timber Press, 2009)

I have just planted my Serrata Crescent – 30 different H. serratas in a semi-shaded area where I hope they'll flourish. I rather think I'd like to concentrate more on serratas now although the lacecaps continue to thrill me – as, truth be told – all hydrangeas do. I'm also building a good collection of paniculatas but I need to address myself to quercifolias, most of which (except 'Alice' and 'Ice Crystal') I left behind at Bryan's Ground.

Jean-Paul Davasse

Hi Robert,

Thank you, it's leaving today: there will be a 3-litre pot and 3 young plants that may need to be kept in the nursery for a while before planting (I don't have any bigger ones).

So that's just one package leaving today, you'll normally get them tomorrow or Thursday.

This is my little contribution to SHAMROCK ...

Best wishes to you.

Eliane Lebret

Hello Robert

I've been meaning to write to you for a long time, but the 60th anniversary of our twinning between Tours and Mulheim took most of my energy, and then the weekend of the RV aux Jardins where we had a lot of people in spite of the storms.

Our hydrangeas are going to be/are magnificent this year! The late frosts in April only scorched the leaves and we escaped, in my little commune of Fondettes, the various bad weather conditions.

I found the hydrangea festival on 1 May with you all in Varengeville very nice. I already knew a lot of people virtually, so I quickly felt at ease. So did Gert. The house and the garden were great!

My cuttings are doing wonderfully. I tested the perlite, André Diéval style. To make a good comparison, I planted the same cuttings in double: potting soil + perlite. I'm still waiting for my final opinion, but for the moment, the potting soil cuttings seem to be ahead of the perlite. To be continued.

Have a good weekend and see you soon I hope

Best wishes

Eliane

Bibliography

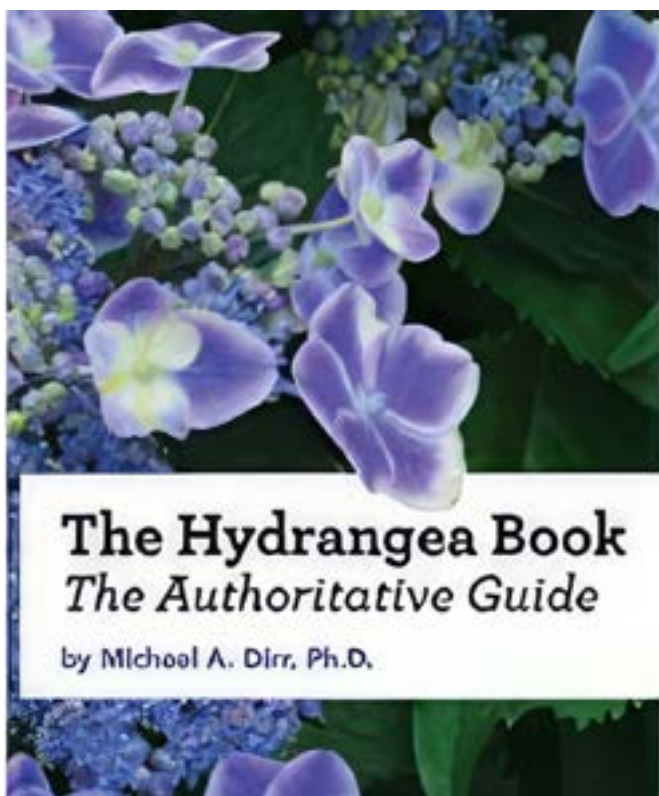
Dans un jardin forêt, promenade au Bois des Moutiers (In a forest garden, a walk in the Bois des Moutiers)

Hello,

I am writing to inform you of the publication of my photographic book: *Dans un jardin forêt, promenade au Bois des Moutiers*, with a text by Marco Martella. It seems to me that it could be of interest to your members and that is why I ask you if you could be so kind as to promote it. It is a self-published book and is therefore available on my website <https://louisgaillard.myportfolio.com/edition> and in some bookshops:

- la grande ourse / Dieppe
- le chat pitre / Fécamp
- les mondes de Zulma / Veules les roses
- la maison de Jules / Varengeville
- l'eau et les rêves / Paris

Louis Gaillard



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Illustrations by Bonnie L. Dirr

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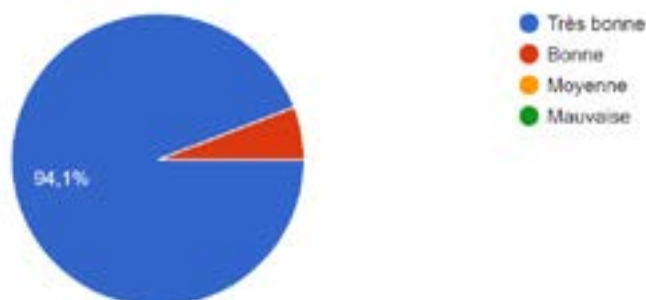
Report on the “Impressionism” éductour Organised on Thursday 30 June 2022 by Seine-Maritime Attractivité

Report based on the 17 responses obtained (representing 23 of the 29 participants who took part in this day of (re)discovery) in the online satisfaction questionnaire from 30 June to 7 July 2022.

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

VISIT TO THE SHAMROCK GARDEN IN VARENDEVILLE-SUR-MER: How do you rate the self-guided tour offered to you?

17 responses



VISIT TO THE SHAMROCK GARDEN IN VARENGEVILLE-SUR-MER:

Do you have any comments or suggestions for improvement regarding the presentation offered?

- Wonderful place!!!
- We didn't get to choose our favourite hydrangea. Perhaps he should have presented them to us. The aim was to get an idea of the garden. So, mission accomplished. Mr Mallet was very pleasant and, in the photo, we confirm with our thumbs that everything was fine. Absolute truth.
- Excellent! Guided by an enthusiast, what more could you ask for! Just the right timing so as not to be frustrated and to have enough explanations to pass on.
- Nothing to criticise, neither the visit nor the beauty of this garden Just the desire to return. Thank you.
- Remarkable garden - the guide just makes you want to visit it again!
- Our guide was an absolute enthusiast and this is a beautiful garden that I would definitely recommend.
- A fascinating and surprising visit.

Evaluation of the tour: average score from respondents 9.2/10

Summary of the satisfaction questionnaire
"Impressionism" Éductour - 30 June 2022
Organisation: Seine-Maritime Attractivité



Heard at 'Shamrock' (2022 season)

JUNE

"A symphony of Cornus"

"It's breath-taking"

"It's great"

"What do you say to your plants to make them look so beautiful?"

"Magic"

"Sehr Schön" "Wonderful" "Congratulations"

"Incredible, wonderful"

JULY

"We're jealous"

"We're stunned by so much beauty"

"A knockout"

"You leave with your eyes full of flowers"

"You must be blessed to create so much beauty" (Editor's note: it's nature that is so beautiful)

"The most beautiful garden in the world"

"It's bewitching"

AUGUST

"It was so great" (7-year-old girl)

"Beautiful garden" (a young German)

"Some people go to church, we come to 'Shamrock': it's our temple"

SEPTEMBER

"It's a labyrinth of flowers" (7-year-old child who had just guided his parents very seriously round the collection)

(very moved) "It is very beautiful ...thank you"

To contact the Association

Association des Amis de la Collection d'hydrangéas Shamrock (or "Association Shamrock")
1, chemin des Hortensias, 76119 Varengeville sur mer - France - Tel +33 2 35 85 14 64,
email : shamrock76119@gmail.com
website : www.shamrock-varengeville.com or www.hortensias-hydrangea.com

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Picture Credits

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PARIS

14/15 SEPTEMBRE 2023

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Spécial Bretagne

Trésors botaniques à (re)découvrir



Avril / Mai / Juin 2023

DES COLLECTIONS INSOLITES : pépinière de l'île de Bréhat, pépinières indigènes, Créa'Paysage • **DES COLLECTIONS DANS LEUR ÉCRIN** : conservatoire botanique de Brest, domaine de Trévarez, le parc botanique de Haute Bretagne, jardins de Brocéliande • **DES HOMMES PASSIONNÉS** : Albert Le Stum, Fanch Le Moal, Mickaël Jezegou, Yves Darricau...



Fête des Hydrangéas Shamrock

*Du samedi 20 mai au dimanche 21 mai 2023
de 10h à 18h*



hydrangéa 'General Patton'



Pivoine 'Soleil d'Ambre'

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