



FESTIVALS (see other side for ground plan)

- 1. January / February**
Chinese New Year
Prunus mume
The Chinese New Year is celebrated from the beginning of the second and sometimes the third new moon after the shortest day. According to our calendar, this celebration always occurs sometime in January or February. The *Prunus mume* originates from Southern China. This wild plum blooms there in January on otherwise bare branches and thus heralds the spring. The tree signifies endurance and spring, as it overcomes the winter every year again. The fragrance of the blossom comes from the bitterness and cold, as a Chinese saying goes.
In *La Saison des Fêtes* the *Prunus mume* is replaced by the *Prunus subhirtella* 'Rosea'. This flowers in January here, the same month as the *Prunus mume* in China. Next to it stands the *Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra', which flowers slightly later. Pierre Huyghe chose this *Prunus* for its brown leaves, as the transition from winter to spring.

- 2. January / February**
Vietnamese New Year
Ochna integerrima
New Year in Vietnam is celebrated on the same day as in China and is called Tết. The *Ochna integerrima* is the symbol of Tết. It brings good fortune and prosperity and blooms profusely in February with bunches of fragrant yellow flowers. The *Ochna* is very suitable for growing in bonsai form. Like the Western Christmas tree, it is placed indoors and decorated.
The *Ochna* is not winter hardy in the Netherlands and is therefore replaced by *Jasminum nudiflorum* in *La Saison des Fêtes*, the winter jasmine, which also blooms in February with yellow flowers.

- 3. 14 February**
Valentine's Day
Rosa species
In 496 AD Pope Gelasius I declared 14 February the name day of Saint Valentine, possibly to replace a pagan fertility festival forbidden by the church. Centuries later, English emigrants introduced Valentine's Day in America and the custom spread for lovers to exchange gifts or flowers and send cards on that day. Thus the connection with romantic love originated, with the rose as its symbol.

- La Saison des Fêtes* includes several varieties of roses (*Rosa species*) with a wild growing, natural character. The pink variety is a rose from the garden of Pierre Huyghe's mother.
- 4. 17 March**
St. Patrick's Day, Ireland
Trifolium repens
Patrick is Ireland's best-known missionary. His name day on 17 March, St. Patrick's Day, is the country's national holiday and is celebrated everywhere. Patrick is usually depicted with a shamrock (*Trifolium repens*). According to legend he used the three-leaved shamrock as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity. The small plant grows in temperate regions all over the world.
The *Trifolium repens* in *La Saison des Fêtes* comes from a roadside near Otterlo.

- 5. April**
Hanami, Japan
Prunus
The Japanese cherry blossom festival, Hanami, originated about eight hundred years ago in the Japanese court. The brief flowering period of the Sakura, as the cherry tree is called in Japan, symbolizes both the beauty and the transience of life. Today, the news media announce the expected opening time of the blossoms and the arrival of the 'silver world', after which millions of Japanese people flock together under the cherry trees.
La Saison des Fêtes includes the Japanese ornamental cherries *Prunus serrulata* 'Accolade' and *Prunus incisa* 'The Bride'. Both were selected by Huyghe for their multi-stemmed shape and flowering period.

- 6. March / April**
Palm Sunday
Trachycarpus fortunei
On Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, Christians celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. As a sign of his sovereignty, the faithful paved his way with palm branches. Hence, in the Catholic Church Palm Sunday is traditionally celebrated with the blessing of palm branches. Due to the climate in more northern regions, these are often substituted with branches of boxwood and in Central Europe with willow.

La Saison des Fêtes is a 'living artwork' by the French artist Pierre Huyghe (Paris, 1962). Huyghe is fascinated by the ambiguous way that people relate to nature. He works in many different media and creates, among other things, large-scale installations in which animals or plants play a role.

In *La Saison des Fêtes* it involves plants: a colourful collection of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and bulbs, arranged in a circular garden. The plants are related to festivals and memorial days from all around the world, twenty in total and all selected by Pierre Huyghe. From the large, visually dominant palm tree to the tiny clover, all the plants play a role in a celebration or commemoration, somewhere in the world.

Many of the festivals hark back to ancient traditions, superstitions and rituals, often handed down through and combined with the Christian faith. They often stem from a time when humans still had a close relationship with nature and plants had a major significance and symbolism in everyday life.

The selected plants come from different climates and normally grow in different soil types and conditions. For *La Saison des Fêtes* it was sometimes necessary to find an alternative, adapted to the Dutch climate. Of the selected plants, Huyghe has used the most 'natural' varieties, such as trees with a multi-stemmed or whimsical shape and single-flowered roses instead of double-flowered.

The circle of *La Saison des Fêtes* is loosely divided into twelve segments, corresponding to the twelve months of the calendar year. The plants stand in the month in which the festival or commemoration with which they are associated takes place, but are

also spread out across the garden. There are also plants that keep the soil covered and that reinforce the atmosphere in various places.

La Saison des Fêtes reveals the connection between humans and nature in a stylized manner. Here, art has forced nature into a certain order. Humans, in this case the Kröller-Müller Museum, will have to continue intervening in the natural development to maintain the artwork in its intended form.

With the flowering of the different plants and the reference to the festivals, seasons and months, *La Saison des Fêtes* remains constantly topical. The work is an important moment in the oeuvre of Pierre Huyghe, who is less interested in making objects as incidents than he is in initiating processes and creating situations that develop and are subject to change.

La Saison des Fêtes is situated on what was previously a grass field of about 3500 m² in the sculpture garden of the Kröller-Müller. To embed the garden in its surroundings, an artificial landscape of dunes was designed using 3300 m³ of sand.

Behind the garden stands a crumbling concrete sculpture, *Mère Anatolica* (1975) by the French artist Parvine Curie (Nancy, 1936). The work once stood at the secondary school of Pierre Huyghe in Chevreuse. It was his first introduction to contemporary art. For a long time abandoned to its fate, *Mère Anatolica* has now been given a new lease of life in relation to *La Saison des Fêtes*.

- The palm *Trachycarpus fortunei* was selected for its winter hardiness. The tree is the most visually dominant plant in *La Saison des Fêtes*.

- 7. March / April**
Easter
Narcissus species
At Easter, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus three days after his crucifixion. Nowadays the celebration of the holiday is accompanied by all kinds of non-religious elements, such as the traditional Easter eggs. These are believed to originate from pre-Christian times and connect the holiday with the spring and the reawakening of nature after the winter. Spring is also the season of the narcissus (daffodil).
In *La Saison des Fêtes*, the *Narcissus* 'Thalia' and *Narcissus* 'Hawera' flower in March and April; two daffodils with a natural appearance.

- 8. 25 April**
Anzac Day, Australia and New Zealand
Papaver species
On Anzac Day, Australia and New Zealand commemorate their fallen soldiers (the letters of Anzac are an abbreviation of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). During the First World War, the troops from both countries suffered their first heavy losses on 25 April 1915. Particularly in the British Commonwealth, the poppy is the symbol of this war, because these bloomed so profusely on the churned up battlefields in Flanders. The seeds of the plant germinate easily in disturbed soil; the red petals are reminiscent of the blood of the fallen soldiers.
Included in *La Saison des Fêtes* are the wild poppy, *Papaver rhoeas*, and the *Papaver orientale* 'Allegra', a poppy from the Caucasus that returns every year and flowers longer than our wild poppy.

- 9. 1 May**
International Labour Day
Dianthus species
During the Second International (Socialist Workers International) in 1889, the red carnation was chosen as the symbol of the workers' struggle, whereby the flower became the worldwide symbol of socialism. The carnation is worn on 1 May, the International Labour Day.
Lilies of the valley grow all across Europe in woodland areas. *La Saison des Fêtes* includes the wild plant *Convallaria majalis* 'Rosea', together with *Hyacinthoides hispanica* and the *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, the wild bluebell, from the forest in the sculpture garden.








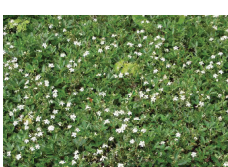


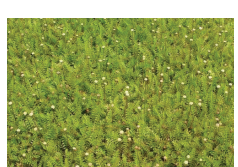
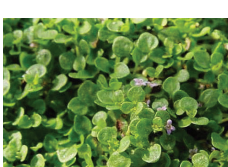
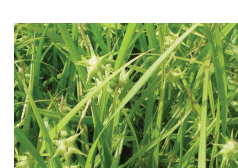





- 10. 1 May**
Labour Day, France
Convallaria majalis
On 1 May in France, bouquets of 'Muguet de Mai' (Lily of the valley) are sold everywhere and given to friends and lovers. This tradition dates back to King Charles IV, who received a bunch of Lilies of the valley as a lucky charm on 1 May 1561. He then decided to make a similar gesture every year to all the ladies in his court on the first of May. In the twentieth century the tradition became associated with Labour Day.
Lilies of the valley grow all across Europe in woodland areas. *La Saison des Fêtes* includes the wild plant *Convallaria majalis* 'Rosea', together with *Hyacinthoides hispanica* and the *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, the wild bluebell, from the forest in the sculpture garden.

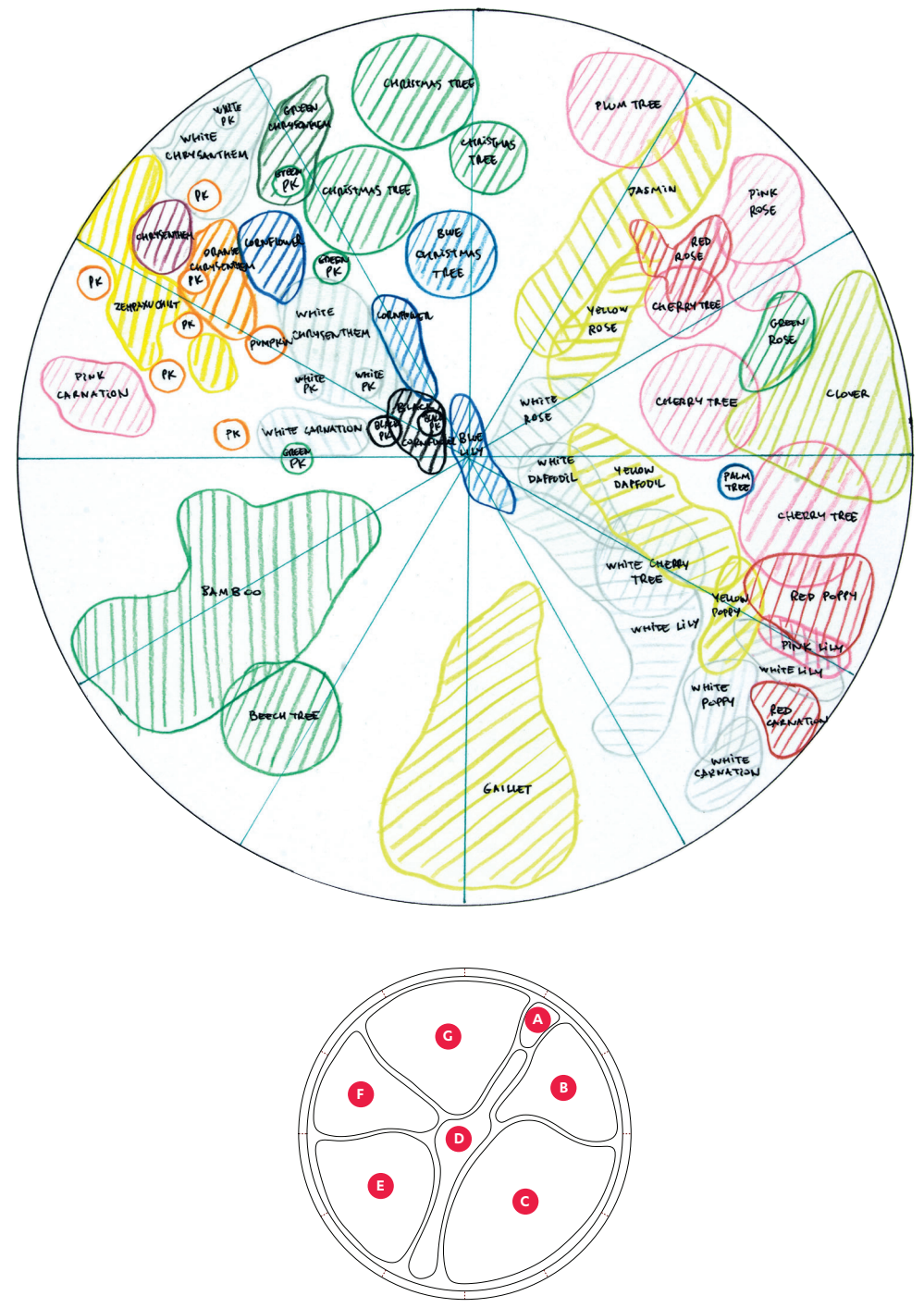
- La Saison des Fêtes* includes the red *Dianthus gratian-opolitanus* and the white-flowered *Dianthus deltoides* 'Albiflorus'.

- 11. 24 June**
Midsummer
Galium verum
During the midsummer festival, mainly in Northern Europe, the summer solstice has been celebrated since pre-Christian times. Originally the festival took place on 24 June. On that day in Romania, the Sânziână is still celebrated, a midsummer night festival which honours the gentle fairies. Young women adorn themselves with yellow bedstraw (*Galium verum*), dance in the fields and sing songs. In Christian times the festival became connected with the birthday of Saint John the Baptist, which is also celebrated on 24 June.
Galium verum is planted in a sunny spot in the Hill Prairie zone of *La Saison des Fêtes*, among the grass, as it is also found in nature.

- 12. 9 August**
Maypole planting, Belgium
Fagus sylvatica
The Maypole or 'tree of joy' was planted for the first time in 1213 to celebrate a major victory of Brussels over Leuven. Various legends are in circulation about the cause of the fighting. The tree must be planted before

OTHER PLANTS IN THE VARIOUS BIOTOPES

 A. Tussock grass <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	 A. Tussock grass <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> 'Goldtau'	 A. Wavy Hair-grass <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	 A. Sand sedge <i>Carex arenaria</i>
 A. Common rush <i>Juncus effusus</i>	 A. Hairawn muhly <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	 B. Sweet woodruff <i>Galium odoratum</i>	 B. Cinquefoils <i>Potentilla tridentata</i> 'Nuuk'
 C. Tussock grass <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (with lawn)	 D. Soft shield-fern <i>Polystichum setiferum</i> 'Dahlem'	 D. Brass buttons <i>Leptinella squalida</i>	 D. Corsican mint <i>Mentha requienii</i>
 E. Common bur sedge <i>Carex grayi</i>	 E. Sedge <i>Carex morrowii</i> 'Mosten'	 F. Great wood-rush <i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	 G. Hart's-tongue fern <i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>
 G. Great wood-rush <i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	 G. Siebold's wood fern <i>Dryopteris sieboldii</i>		



- 17 hrs, otherwise the privilege goes to Leuven. Every year a colourful procession carries the tree through Brussels, accompanied by a brass band, giant mannequins and assorted folklore groups.
For his tree of joy, Pierre Huyghe chose the *Fagus sylvatica*, a beech from the forest in the sculpture garden.

- 13. August**
Ghost Festival, China
Pseudotsuga japonica

The Ghost Festival plays an important role in the ancestor veneration and takes place on the fourteenth and fifteenth day of the seventh month, according to the Chinese calendar. On this day, which for us usually occurs in August or September, the ghosts, including those of deceased ancestors, rise up from the underworld. Sacrifices are made to the deceased and rice is distributed at the end of the festival. Also, bamboo is burned to drive off the ghosts again.
In *La Saison des Fêtes* stands *Pseudotsuga japonica*, a variety of bamboo with a wide, dark leaf. The bamboo is the visually dominant element in the Jungle zone.

- 14. 11 October**
Streamside Day
Gleditsia triacanthos

Streamside Day is an annual festival for just a small part of the world: the American settlement Streamside Knolls near the Hudson River north of New York. In 2003 Pierre Huyghe declared 11 October to be Streamside Day and thereby gave a festival to the brand new residents of the new town, the starting point of a communal, self-conceived tradition. The day began with the planting of the Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*). This was followed by speeches, a parade and a large barbecue with performances by singer-songwriters and other musicians. Streamside Day is still celebrated every year.
The *Gleditsia triacanthos* is native to North America. The tree is also widely used in the Netherlands. It is a very popular tree among garden and landscape designers due to its transparent crown and the fact that it is resistant to paving, thus making it a good street tree.

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- 15. 12 October**
National Day, Spain
Dianthus species

On 12 October, Spain commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in America. In Zaragoza, this festival day has grown into an entire week, the 'Fiestas del Pilar'. At its climax, thousands of people dressed in traditional costume lay flowers at the statue of the Virgin Mary on the Plaza del Pilar. At the end of the hours-long ritual, the Madonna stands atop a huge mountain of mostly red and white carnations. The carnation is the national flower of Spain. It has been revered for centuries there and is associated with passion and love.

La Saison des Fêtes includes the white *Dianthus deltoides* 'Albiflorus' and a *Dianthus species pink*.

- 16. 31 October**
Halloween
Cucurbita species

Halloween probably originates from the Celts, who celebrated their New Year's Eve and Harvest Festival on 31 October. They believed that on that day the 'door' to the underworld stood slightly open, whereby not only the souls of the dead could appear, but also evil spirits. By dressing up and wearing masks, people tried to scare these away. The tradition of hollowing out pumpkins and carving faces in them during Halloween has been imported from America.
Orange, white, green and black pumpkins (*Cucurbita species*) grow in *La Saison des Fêtes*.

- 17. 1 November**
All Saints
Chrysanthemum 'Melanie'

All Saints is a Christian holiday that commemorates all the saints and martyrs. The day precedes All Souls and in a large part of the world All Saints is preceded by Halloween. The name Halloween derives from Hallow-e'en, or All Hallow's Eve (All Saints Eve). All three days are dedicated to commemorating the dead. In France, the birthplace of Pierre Huyghe, chrysanthemums symbolize death. During All Saints, they are placed on the graves of loved ones.
La Saison des Fêtes includes *Chrysanthemum 'Melanie'*, a single-flowered, natural-looking chrysanthemum.

- 18. 1-2 November**
Day of the Dead, Mexico
Tagetes tenuifolium 'Orange Gem'

The Day of the Dead in Mexico coincides with All Saints and All Souls. According to tradition, on 1 November the souls of children briefly return to earth and on 2 November the souls of adults. The *Tagetes* (marigold) grows wild in Mexico and is the traditional flower of death. It is believed that the spirits are attracted by the fragrant smell that the plants produce.

La Saison des Fêtes includes *Tagetes tenuifolium* 'Orange Gem', a fine-leaved Marigold with a natural appearance.

- 19. 11 November**
Remembrance Day
Centaurea species

On 11 November 1918, the armistice was signed that ended the First World War. In France, the cornflower is a symbol of the veterans, as the carnation is in the Netherlands and the poppy in the Anglo-Saxon world.

To extend the flowering season, *La Saison des Fêtes* includes both annual cornflowers: *Centaurea cyanus* and *Centaurea montana* 'Caerulea' and perennials: *Centaurea montana* 'Caerulea' and *Centaurea montana* 'Jordy'.

- 20. 25 December**
Christmas
Picea species

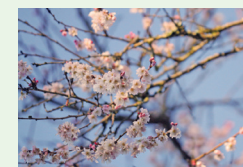
It is not precisely clear how the custom developed of placing an evergreen tree, these days usually a spruce (*Picea*), indoors and decorating it with lights and ornaments. In any case, the Christmas tree originally had nothing to do with the Christian Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Only later came the connection with the celebration of Christmas as a celebration of the return of light after the winter solstice.

In *La Saison des Fêtes* stand *Picea abies* and *Picea pungens* 'Hoopsii'.

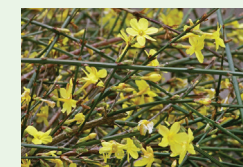
FESTIVALS (see other side for description)



1. **January / February**
Chinese New Year
Japanese ornamental cherry
Prunus cerasifera
'Nigra' multi-stemmed



1. **January / February**
Chinese New Year
Japanese ornamental cherry
Prunus subhirtella
'Rosea' multi-stemmed



2. **January / February**
Vietnamese New Year
Winter jasmine
Jasminum nudiflorum



3. **14 February**
Valentine's Day
Rose
Rosa 'Aspirin rose'



3. **14 February**
Valentine's Day
Rose
Rosa 'Burgundy Ice'



3. **14 February**
Valentine's Day
Rose
Rosa foetida
'Persian Yellow'



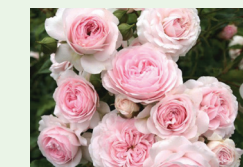
3. **14 February**
Valentine's Day
Rose
Rosa 'Francine Austin'



3. **14 February**
Valentine's Day
Rose
Rosa 'Kent'



3. **14 February**
Valentine's Day
Rose
Rosa 'Frühlingsgold'



3. **14 February**
Valentine's Day
Rose
species is unknown
(comes from the garden of Pierre Huyghe's mother)



4. **17 March**
St. Patrick's Day, Ireland
White shamrock
Trifolium repens



5. **April**
Hanami, Japan
Japanese ornamental cherry
Prunus serrulata
'Accolade' multi-stemmed



5. **April**
Hanami, Japan
Japanese ornamental cherry
Prunus incisa
'The Bride'



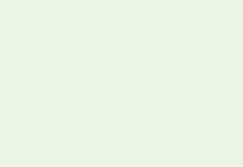
8. **25 April**
Anzac Day, Australia and New Zealand
Meconopsis
Cambrica



8. **25 April**
Anzac Day, Australia and New Zealand
Giant poppy
Papaver orientale
'Allegro'



9. **1 May**
International Labour Day
Carnation
Dianthus deltoides
'Albiflorus'



9. **1 May**
International Labour Day
Carnation
Dianthus gratianopolitanus



10. **1 May**
Labour Day, France
Lily of the valley
Convallaria majalis
'Rosea'



10. **1 May**
Labour Day, France
Bluebell
Hyacinthoides hispanica



10. **1 May**
Labour Day, France
Lily of the valley
Convallaria majalis



13. **August**
Ghost Festival, China
Arrow bamboo
Pseudosasa japonica



14. **11 October**
Streamside Day
Honey locust
Gleditsia triacanthos
multi-stemmed



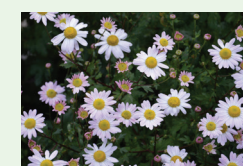
15. **12 October**
National Day, Spain
Carnation
Dianthus deltoides
'Albiflorus'



16. **31 October**
Halloween
Ornamental pumpkin
Cucurbita species
green



16. **31 October**
Halloween
Ornamental pumpkin
Cucurbita species
black



17. **1 November**
All Saints
Chrysanthemum
Chrysanthemum
'Melanie'



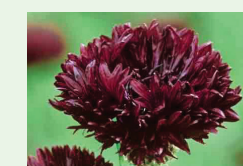
18. **1-2 November**
Day of the Dead, Mexico
Ornamental pumpkin
Star marigold
Tagetes tenuifolium
'Orange Gem'



19. **11 November**
Remembrance Day
Mountain cornflower
Centaurea montana
'Caerulea'



19. **11 November**
Remembrance Day
Mountain cornflower
Centaurea montana
'Jordy'



19. **11 November**
Remembrance Day
Cornflower
Centaurea cyanus
'Black Boy'



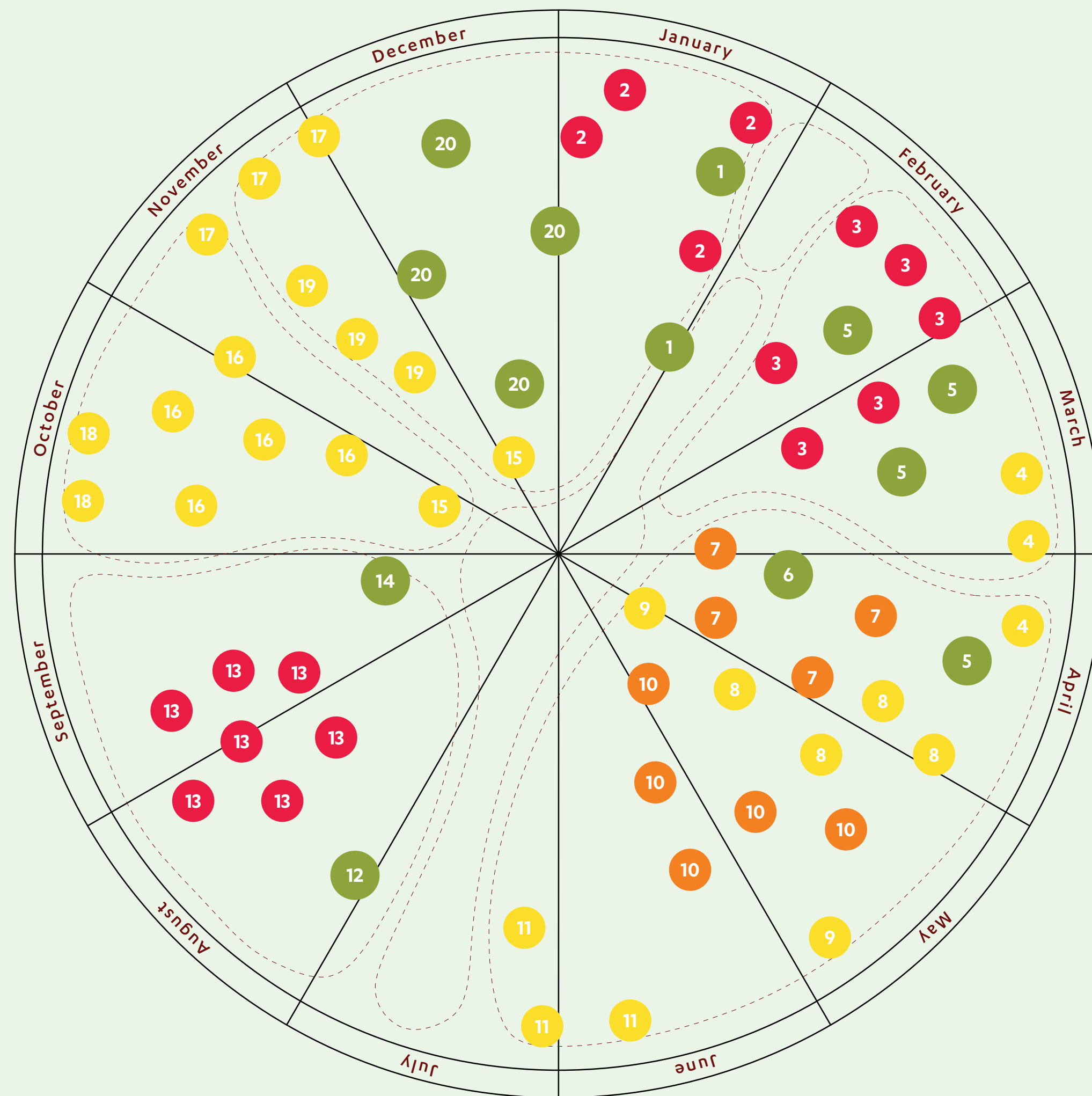
19. **11 November**
Remembrance Day
Cornflower
Centaurea cyanus



20. **25 December**
Christmas
Blue spruce
Picea pungens
'Hoopsii'



20. **25 December**
Christmas
Norway spruce
Picea abies



6. **March / April**
Palm Sunday
Chinese windmill palm
Trachycarpus fortunei



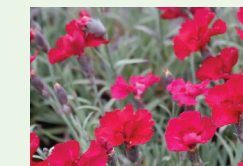
7. **March / April**
Easter
Daffodil
Narcissus 'Hawera'



7. **March / April**
Easter
Daffodil
Narcissus 'Thalia'



8. **25 April**
Anzac Day, Australia and New Zealand
Large poppy
Papaver rhoeas



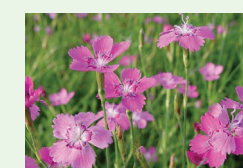
9. **1 May**
International Labour Day
Carnation
Dianthus gratianopolitanus



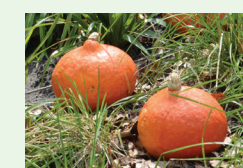
11. **29 May**
Maypole planting
Beech
Fagus sylvatica



12. **24 June**
Midsummer
Yellow bedstraw
Galium verum



15. **12 October**
National Day, Spain
Carnation
Dianthus species
pink



16. **31 October**
Halloween
Ornamental pumpkin
Cucurbita species
orange



16. **31 October**
Halloween
Ornamental pumpkin
Cucurbita species
white