

# Kiku

During the **cool** days of autumn, **one** brazen flower dares to display its silken plumage. On a calm October evening in the Bronx, it **blossoms** in all of its traditional splendor.

Revered across the globe for its **flawless beauty**, the late-flowering chrysanthemum has captured the imagination of **countless** cultures. In Italy it is called “*crisantemo*,” (kri-’san-’teem-o) in the Netherlands it is known as “*chrysant*,” (kri-’sant) but in **Japan**, the flower’s spiritual home . . . it is . . . “*kiku*.” (’Kee-koo)

Beginning October 20 through November 18, visitors to The New York Botanical Garden will discover one of the world’s **most spectacular** ancient floral traditions. For more than **1,000 years**, Japanese horticulturists have grown and displayed *kiku* (’Kee-koo) in specialized styles.

*Kiku* (’Kee-koo) is **much more** than a flower, which is why *Kiku* (’Kee-koo): The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum is **much more** than a flower show. The Garden-wide exhibition includes **exquisite** *bonsai*, (bon-sigh) bamboo sculpture, Japanese maples, rare books and prints, as well as *Kiku Matsuri* (’Kee-koo mat-’sur-ee)—a celebration of **Japanese art and culture**—and *Kiku* (Kee’-koo) for Kids.

This is the most **elaborate** presentation of *kiku* (Kee’-koo) ever seen outside Japan, culminating a **five-year** cultural exchange and collaboration with Shinjuku Gyoen (shin-’joo-koo-gyo-en) National Garden in Tokyo. **There**, *kiku* (Kee’-koo) masters have developed and refined **hundreds** of growing techniques since the 1880s to cultivate and display these exotic flowers. The processes

are **extremely** rigorous, requiring expertise and **constant** attention for as long as **12** months.

*Ozukuri* (o-zu-'khur-ee), or “thousand bloom,” features **hundreds** (if not quite thousands) of simultaneous blossoms in a **massive**, domed-shaped array, all grown from a **single** plant. *Ozukuri* (o-zu-'khur-ee) is one of the **most** labor-intensive styles featured in the show, requiring a **minimum** of eleven months of meticulous care. They are planted in specially built display containers called *sekidai* ('se-kee-die).

Another type, *ogiku* (o-'gee-koo) [hard g in gee], or “single-stem,” reaches **six feet tall** and produces **one perfect** flower balanced atop the stem. The large, visually arresting incurved (*atsumono*, (at-soo-'mo-no) variety is a favorite to display in the *ogiku* (o-'gee-koo) [hard g in gee] style. These **magnificent** flowers require six months to grow from cuttings.

A third type, *kengai* ('ken-guy), or “cascade,” features **bizarre** waterfall-like plants **bursting** with hundreds of colorful blossoms. The smaller-sized flowers of the *kengai* ('ken-guy) style are similar in appearance to wild chrysanthemums and require a minimum of eleven months to grow. The plants are trained to **cascade downward** from their stems in **Technicolor** wonder for more than six feet.

Because the beautiful late flowering *kiku* (Kee'-koo) buds **begin** to form **only** as the autumn nights grow longer, the **first** of two groups of plants on display must be **fooled** into early flowering by shading them with black cloth to coincide with the opening of the exhibition.

ENDING 1:

Don't miss the chance to experience the wonder of *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum* from October 20 through November 18. To purchase your tickets today, visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)

ENDING 2:

Don't miss the chance to experience the wonder of *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum* from October 20 through November 18. Sign up for advance tickets today by clicking the **Ticket Alert** tab on the bar above.

ENDING 3:

Don't miss the chance to experience the wonder of *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum* from October 20 through November 18. Get your tickets online today by clicking the **Buy Your Tickets** tab on the bar above.

ENDING 4:

Don't delay, because your chance to experience the wonder of *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum* ends on November 18. Get your tickets online today by clicking the **Buy Your Tickets** tab on the bar above.