

# THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

*Studying, exhibiting, and conserving plants for 120 years*

For Immediate Release  
September 6, 2011

## **Celebrate the Tranquil Splendor of *Fall Flowers of Japan* at The New York Botanical Garden**

**New Autumn Exhibition Features Continually Evolving Flower Show,  
Dramatic Sculpture Made from Natural Materials,  
Bonsai Display, and Weekend Japanese Cultural Programming**

**September 17–October 30, 2011**

Autumn's splendor comes to The New York Botanical Garden's Enid A. Haupt Conservatory with *Fall Flowers of Japan*, beginning September 17 and running through October 30. The continually evolving flower show highlights the incredible diversity of fall-flowering plants of Japan and rewards repeat visitors with new blossoms and plants throughout the run of the show. The exhibition unfolds with Japanese maples and toad lilies amid sweeps of ornamental grasses and chrysanthemums, and continues with camellias and anemones. Other attractions during the exhibition include a dramatic sculpture in the reflecting pool of the Conservatory's *Palms of the World Gallery*, a bonsai display in the Courtyard of Shop in the Garden, and weekend programming that celebrates the culture of Japan. A display of *kiku*—Japanese for chrysanthemum—trained to grow in mesmerizing shapes and styles, will be featured during the final weeks of the exhibition.

For several years, The New York Botanical Garden has presented Japanese-themed autumn flower shows. *Fall Flowers of Japan* puts a new spin on that tradition, showcasing the diversity and magnificence of the flora from that island nation. Recorded Japanese music fills the Conservatory's *Seasonal Galleries* as the show pays homage to *hanami*, the Japanese custom of viewing and enjoying the delicate beauty of flowers on display. Scarlet Japanese maples exhibit their intense fall hues amid golden bamboo, tea olives, and hundreds of other flowers evoking Japanese gardens. A pagoda covered in chrysanthemums that will blossom during the course of the exhibition sits upon a shallow pool filled with stones and tall bamboo in the background. As the weeks progress, visitors can experience new visual delights. Hakone grass and Japanese painted fern provide soft foliage early on, while camellias and anemones add late-season interest.

### **Inspiring Spectacles and Programming**

Artist Tetsunori Kawana, channeling his skills as a master of ikebana (the Japanese art of flower arranging), has created an impressive sculpture in the Conservatory's reflecting pool. Made from reclaimed natural materials from the Garden grounds, such as stumps, twigs, branches, and plants, the work of art fills the pool and greets visitors beneath the Conservatory dome.

In the Botanical Garden's Leon Levy Visitor Center, a selection of large bonsai from Shanti Bithi Nursery in Connecticut, including forest bonsai on slabs and single specimens in pots, are on view in the Courtyard of Shop in the Garden for the entire run of the exhibition. Meaning "plants growing in a tray," bonsai is the sophisticated and ancient Japanese art of growing dwarf plants in containers. The bonsai are displayed among simple beds of Japanese plants and chrysanthemums on traditional display tables called *tokonoma*. On weekends from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., members of the Yama Ki Bonsai Society and Garden docents join experts from the Shanti Bithi Nursery to answer visitors' questions about these outstanding shrubs and trees trained to grow in delicately detailed miniature shapes. A variety of bonsai plants will be available for purchase at the Shop for the beginner as well as the advanced collector: Shimpaku juniper, Chinese elm, miniature jade, Australian brush cherry, and more. Other fall offerings at the Shop include bamboo tableware, fragrant potpourri, ceramic lanterns, and a wide selection of merchandise that is perfect for entertaining.

On weekends during the exhibition, an assortment of programming celebrates Japanese culture. Traditional Japanese music and dance performances by the Tomofuji-Kai Company led by *sensei* Mariko Watabe employ the *shamisen* (three-stringed instrument), hand drums, and vocals in the Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall at 1 and 3 p.m. Expert docents lead guided tours of the flower show in the Conservatory at 2:30 p.m. Additional guided tours and home gardening demonstrations are scheduled for opening weekend. On Sunday, October 16, at 5 p.m., a concert titled *The Sounds of Japan* in the Ross Lecture Hall features superb musicians, trained by renowned Japan native Masayo Ishigure, head of the Sawai Koto Academy of New York, playing contemporary pieces on the *koto* accompanied by the *shamisen* (both traditional Japanese stringed instruments).

On select Saturdays, September 17, September 24, and October 15, at 12 p.m. in the Jane Watson Irwin Perennial Garden, an expert provides a brief demonstration on “Ikebana: The Art of Japanese Flower Arranging,” showcasing a series of ikebana styles, including the 16th century’s *nageire* (“Flung Flowers”), the 19th century’s *moribana* (“Piled Up Flowers”), and the 1950s’ *jiyuku* (“Free Style” modern). The Botanical Garden’s Adult Education Program offers affordable classes on the subject. For more information and to register, visit [www.nybg.org/AdultEd/](http://www.nybg.org/AdultEd/)

During the final two weeks of *Fall Flowers of Japan*, the popular *kiku* return for public display in the Conservatory. Botanical Garden experts work up to 11 months each year to grow, train, and shape the chrysanthemums. Cultivated from tiny cuttings, the plants are pinched back, tied to frames, and carefully nurtured. Flower buds develop as the autumn nights grow longer, and in late October the plants burst into bloom, a true celebration of the changing of the seasons. A variety of *kiku* styles will be featured during the final weeks of the exhibition, including *kengai* (“Cascade”), *shino-tsukuri* (“Driving Rain”), *ogiku* (“Triple Stem”), and the impressive dome-shaped *ozukuri* (“Thousand Bloom”). Informal training styles on display will include a variety of shapes such as umbrellas, spirals, columns, and a pagoda—all made of chrysanthemums.

The New York Botanical Garden is a perfect destination during any season, and the new exhibition provides another enticing reason to visit this fall. Visitors can experience the Garden’s historic 250-acre landscape, family events in the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, and dining in two Cafes, and purchase items at Shop in the Garden as part of their autumn experience at the Garden.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)

Presented by:  
Mitsubishi International Corporation

J.C.C. Fund of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York

Supported by:  
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.

**The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, free for children under 2. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is also available: \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students with ID, and \$2 for children ages 2–12, free for children under 2. Grounds admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)**

**The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458**

**The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden’s general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.**

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