



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Experience Fall Landscapes of Japan at The New York Botanical Garden During *Kiku in the Japanese Autumn Garden*

**Maples, Bamboos, Autumn Perennials, and More Chrysanthemums Than Ever
Herald the Season at the Botanical Garden with Stunning Color and Beauty**

October 17 – November 15, 2009

From October 17 through November 15 at The New York Botanical Garden, *Kiku in the Japanese Autumn Garden* celebrates the ancient horticultural traditions and brilliant autumn color of chrysanthemums and Japanese garden plants. The Botanical Garden's Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Courtyards are transformed into a setting that evokes the designed landscape gardens of Kyoto. Scarlet Japanese maples glow against Japanese black pines and golden bamboos flash against emerald conifers. Undulating masses of ferns and perennials echo the complex topography that is a hallmark of Japan's classic gardens, while beautifully handcrafted pavilions constructed of Douglas fir, bamboo, and reeds, evocative of Japanese garden gates and tea houses, showcase *kiku* (Japanese for chrysanthemum), painstakingly trained into amazing floral sculptures. Combined with all of the Botanical Garden's natural attractions, *Kiku in the Japanese Autumn Garden* beckons visitors to indulge in fall's fleeting beauty.



More Chrysanthemums Than Ever and Magnificent Bonsai on Display

For the past two years, chrysanthemums trained using traditional Japanese methods have been the centerpiece of The New York Botanical Garden's lauded autumn offerings. This year the Botanical Garden presents more chrysanthemums than ever, showcased among the splendor and diversity of Japanese garden plants. In a **Mum and Bonsai Garden**, large installations of contemporary display styles such as cones, columns, and spheres join two traditional *Kiku* displays ("Thousand Bloom" and "Driving Rain") pioneered by the chrysanthemum masters at the Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden in Tokyo and recreated by the *kiku* experts at the Botanical Garden. *Kiku in the Japanese Autumn Garden* features most of the 13 different horticultural classes of chrysanthemums, providing the opportunity for visitors to learn about the fascinating history of the mum as it traveled from its native China to Japan and ultimately to the West.

A selection of large **bonsai** from Shanti Bithi Nursery in Connecticut, including forest bonsai on slabs and single specimens in pots, will be on view amidst the chrysanthemums for the entire run of the exhibition. A premiere educational bonsai display will be on view in the seasonal galleries of the Haupt Conservatory for the first two weeks, October 17–November 1, featuring specimens grown by members of the Yama Ki Bonsai Society. 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*.

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Japanese Autumn Garden Evoked by Red Maples, Japanese Plants, and a Stone Garden

A **Kiku and Maple Garden** will feature the intense fall hues of Japanese maples and the refined elegance of Japanese perennials, grasses, and ferns, complementing two other traditional *kiku* styles (“Single Stem” and “Cascade”). The combination of scarlet maples, emerald conifers, and red, yellow, and white chrysanthemums will transport visitors to the spectacular autumn landscapes of Japan. A stone and *kiku* garden, designed by Marc Peter Keane, will provide a contemporary interpretation of the dry gardens of Japan. Instead of the traditional use of raked gravel to suggest water, this intimate garden will use red, orange, and yellow bedding mums to evoke fiery fall foliage flowing down mountain peaks represented by large stones collected from the Botanical Garden’s grounds.

Last Chance to See *Kiku* at The New York Botanical Garden

This marks the final year of the Botanical Garden’s elaborate presentation of *kiku*. Botanical Garden experts work up to 11 months each year to grow, train, and shape the *kiku* on display. 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. At *Kiku in the Japanese Autumn Garden*, four traditional *kiku* styles will be displayed in the Conservatory Courtyards:



- **Ozukuri (Thousand Bloom):** In this highly complex technique, a single chrysanthemum is trained to produce hundreds of simultaneous blossoms in a massive, dome-shaped array. *Ozukuri* are planted in specially-built wooden containers called *sekidai*.



- **Ogiku (Single Stem):** These plants feature single-stems that can reach up to six feet tall, with one perfect bloom balanced on top. Each chrysanthemum pot is buried horizontally and the plant stem is bent, precisely arranged in diagonal lines that decrease in height from the back to the front of the bed. The plants are then arranged in color patterns resembling traditional reins called *tazuna-ue* (horse bridle).



- **Kengai (Cascade):** This technique features small-flowered chrysanthemums that are more typical of the wild varieties. They are trained to conform to boat-shaped frameworks that cascade downward like waterfalls for lengths of up to six-and-a-half feet. The result is a burst of hundreds of tightly clustered blooms.



- **Shino-tsukuri (Driving Rain):** These displays use *Edo*-variety chrysanthemums, with blossoms that open wide, accentuating two different colors of the flower, inside and out. Each flower has three kinds of petals—quilt, spoon, and flat—and change shape as it matures, curling inward like a pinwheel.

Throughout the exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to see many of the best Japanese garden plants. Dozens of maples, including exotic cultivars such as the lacy *Koto no Ito* and the cork-barked *Arakawa*, will be on display. Conifers, which define both Japan's gardens and its mountainous landscape, will be represented by sugi hedges and specimen Japanese black pines and Hinoki cypresses mixed among the maples. A variety of Japanese herbaceous plants will put the finishing touches on the display. Hakone grass and Japanese painted fern will provide soft foliage, while toad-lily and anemone will add late-season interest.

More to See Throughout The New York Botanical Garden

Kiku in the Japanese Autumn Garden will also feature fun and educational children's programming. ***Japanese Autumn Adventures*** provides innovative projects for the Garden's youngest visitors to complement the horticultural exhibition. Activities include an interactive Japanese tea ceremony, tea leaf exploration, chrysanthemum planting, and more. Using the Garden's own living collections enables children to make connections between art and horticulture and provides for an understanding of Japanese culture's intimate link with the natural world.

The Japanese Plant Tour will guide visitors through designed gardens and plant collections across the Botanical Garden's 250 acres, interpreting more than 30 plants known for their beautiful autumn appearance and significance in Japan. These plants include Tanyosho Pine, Japanese Beautyberry, Igiri Tree, Japanese Umbrella Pine, and Kousa Dogwood, among others.

Kiku in the Japanese Autumn Garden will also feature weekend **performances by taiko drummers**. Thundering and thrilling, the taiko (Japanese drum) has been called "the voice and spirit of the Japanese people." From its roots in agriculture and the ancient music of shrines and temples, traditional taiko folk music is believed to entertain the gods, attract good fortune, drive away evil forces and insects, lend strength and courage to warriors, and celebrate life.

From October 17 through January 10, visitors can also enjoy ***Ex Libris: Treasures from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library*** in the Rondina and LoFaro Gallery. Considered to be one of the world's greatest repositories of botanical and horticultural literature, the Mertz Library houses a treasury of published and archival documents that trace the development of botany and horticulture from the 12th century to the present day. Drawing from this wealth of materials, the exhibition highlights some rarely seen items that demonstrate the extraordinary beauty and depth of the collections. Eighty per cent of the items displayed in *Ex Libris* have never before been exhibited to the public.

What better place to view nature in its fall glory than at the New York Botanical Garden!

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.nybg.org.

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*Exhibitions in the Mertz Library are made possible by the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust
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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 Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. 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 and Native Plant Gardens, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available: \$6 for adults, \$5 for adult Bronx Residents; \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students with ID, \$1 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit www.nybg.org Read the Botanical Garden's popular blog, *Plant Talk: Inside The New York Botanical Garden* at www.nybg.org/wordpress

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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