

For Immediate Release
September 1, 2005

The Wonders of Japan Inspire and Delight This Fall with *Momijigari: The Japanese Autumn Garden*

Exhibition Runs October 4–November 17, 2005

A blaze of color will enthrall visitors to The New York Botanical Garden this autumn with the opening of the acclaimed outdoor exhibition, *Momijigari: The Japanese Autumn Garden*. This popular, evocative display can be seen in the courtyard of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory from October 4–November 17, 2005.

Swaths of colorful chrysanthemums cover pathway borders in skillfully trained cascades, pillars, and globes. Elegant Japanese conifers, bamboo, ferns, and grasses enhance the arrangement, which aims to capture the evolving harmony of a traditional Japanese garden during the autumn season. Later, Japanese maples burst into vivid hues of orange, red, and yellow around the courtyard.

For centuries, the Japanese have celebrated and deeply revered the seasonal changes of the natural world. ‘*Momijigari*’ is the traditional pastime of taking excursions to view foliage in autumn. Landscape architect Susan Cohen, Coordinator of the Garden’s Landscape Design Program, took inspiration from the custom to create a garden that evokes this atmospheric experience.

As visitors step into the world of *Momijigari*, they will feel a sense of calmness that encourages quiet contemplation of the beauty of the natural world and the passing of time. The courtyard setting is the perfect backdrop for the maples, whose gorgeous colors are reflected in the large pool. Ornamental architecture, stone paths, and gateways draw visitors through the garden to appreciate the wonderful diversity of plants used in Japanese gardens.

From October 14–23, the exhibition includes a special display by the Yama Ki Bonsai Society in the exhibition galleries of the Conservatory. The ancient Japanese art of miniaturizing mature shrubs and trees to create graceful, living sculptures is a timeless tradition that continues to intrigue and fascinate. These select specimens of evergreen and deciduous trees are presented in beautifully arranged compositions and miniature landscapes.

A lively program of public talks, tours, and demonstrations for adults and children accompanies the exhibition, celebrating the autumn colors and traditions of Japan.

Visitors to the Garden can also enjoy America’s own impressive fall foliage. Serving as a magnificent backdrop for the entire seasonal celebration, the Garden’s historic 50-acre ancient Forest produces vibrant displays of color for invigorating autumn walks.

Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by Enid A. Haupt.

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road in the Bronx. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday holidays, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. April through October, and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., November through March. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *Combination Ticket*, which includes grounds admission, the Conservatory, Rock Garden, Native Plant Garden, Tram Tour, and Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, and costs for \$13 for adults; \$11 for students and seniors; \$5 for children 2–12. Grounds admission is free to everyone all day Wednesdays and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call 718.817.8700, or to purchase tickets online visit our Web site at www.nybg.org

###

Media Contacts: Karl Lauby or Maria Izquierdo 718.817.8616
Photos available