

For Immediate Release  
September 30, 2004

## **Acclaimed Outdoor Exhibition Returns to The New York Botanical Garden After Two-year Hiatus**

### ***Momijigari: The Japanese Autumn Garden* October 5–November 18, 2004**

Autumn beauty and serenity beckon visitors to The New York Botanical Garden for *Momijigari: The Japanese Autumn Garden*. After a two-year break, the hugely popular outdoor exhibition returns to the courtyard of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory October 5–November 18, 2004.

With the show's opening, Japanese maples will be bursting into vivid hues of orange, red, and yellow around the courtyard. Shrubs, ferns, grasses, and other plants of Japanese origin combine with bamboo in moss-covered pots and well-placed bonsai specimens to help transport visitors to Japan in fall—if only in their imaginations.

In November, swathes of colorful chrysanthemums will cover pathway borders in skillfully trained cascades, pillars, and globes. These vibrant “kiku” mums and the elegant Japanese conifers also on display capture the evolving harmony of a traditional Japanese garden during the autumn season.

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 15–24 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.

**-more-**

A 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 forest produces vibrant displays of color for invigorating autumn walks.

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

 *The Official Sponsor of Home Gardening and  
The Official Grass Seed of The New York Botanical Garden*

###

**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 on 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 *Garden Passport*, a combination ticket that includes grounds admission, the Conservatory, Rock Garden, Native Plant Garden, Tram Tour, and Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and costs \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students, and \$5 for children 2-12 (free for children under 2). For more details, call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org).**

**Media Contacts:** Melinda Manning or Maria Izquierdo 718.817.8616

**Photos available**