

NYBG

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Enjoy Fall's Spectacle at The New York Botanical Garden

Great Pumpkin Path, Whimsical Scarecrows, Meticulously Trained Chrysanthemums, and Vibrant Fall Foliage on Display at NYBG, Beginning October 3



Pumpkins and *kiku* on display at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG Photos)

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden is the perfect place to experience the splendor of fall. Beginning October 3, NYBG visitors can behold a plethora of pumpkins along the Great Pumpkin Path on the lawn of the newly reopened Enid A. Haupt Conservatory; spy whimsical, pumpkin-headed scarecrows around the Botanical Garden grounds; and marvel at displays of *kiku*—meticulously trained Japanese chrysanthemums in awe-inspiring shapes and styles—in and around the Conservatory and the Leon Levy Visitor Center. Explore the seasonal bounty of the Edible Academy, which is also reopening just in time for fall, and traverse the winding trails of the 50-acre, old-growth Thain Family Forest to view the changing colors and textures of autumn in the weeks ahead.

Hordes of gourds await discovery along the twists and turns of NYBG's Great Pumpkin Path all month long. On October 24, giant pumpkins that are some of the largest in the world arrive and will be on view through November 1. These humongous pumpkins, some weighing more than 2,000 pounds, have been nurtured from seed by doting growers and brought to the Garden in collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth.

Displays spotlighting *kiku* in and around the Conservatory and Visitor Center should not be missed. Expertly trained NYBG horticulturists spent 11 months growing and caring for these chrysanthemums (*kiku* in Japanese) that were cultivated from single cuttings, pinched back, and tied to frames. Flower buds develop as nights grow longer, and in fall, the plants burst into bloom in modern and ancient styles such as *ogiku* (single stem), *kengai* (cascade), and *ozukuri* (thousand bloom)—a highly complex technique in which a single stem is trained to produce hundreds of simultaneous blossoms in a massive, dome-shaped array.

During *Hello Harvest!* in the Edible Academy from October 3 through November 1, children can discover fall's bounty by participating in a scavenger hunt, learn how the garden is prepared for the winter season, and collect and save seeds with their own take-home seed packet. The Edible Academy is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 1:30–5:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

The Thain Family Forest is the largest uncut expanse of New York's original wooded landscape and one of the best places in New York City to see fall foliage as the season progresses. Track the changing hues with the [NYBG Fall Color Cam](#).

Since its temporary closure on March 15, due to COVID-19, NYBG has continued to develop and implement new safety protocols in accordance with the latest State and New York Forward requirements for businesses and cultural institutions, CDC guidelines, and OSHA standards. The Garden's gradual reopening process incorporates enhanced safety measures based on best practices and guidance from health authorities and government agencies. New measures include requiring staff and visitors over the age of two to wear face coverings; increasing sanitization of public and staff areas; daily health screenings for on-site staff; supporting hygiene and social distancing practices; requiring timed-entry tickets purchased in advance; operating at a reduced capacity; and more.

The new, limited timed-entry ticketing system staggers visitors' arrivals, promotes social distancing, and mitigates the risk of crowding in high-traffic areas. Advance purchase of timed tickets is required and will be confirmed by e-mail with the option to print or download a mobile ticket. Ticket options include the *Garden Pass + Conservatory* for access to the outdoor gardens and collections, the newly reopened Conservatory galleries, and the Courtyards; the *Garden Pass* for access to outdoor gardens and collections; and the *Grounds-Only Pass*, available to New York City residents only with valid proof of identification. Visitors who do not purchase advance tickets will not be guaranteed admission at this time. Garden Patrons and Members must also reserve timed tickets in advance. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit our website at nybg.org.

NYBG's reopening plan is subject to change based on government guidance and in response to altered circumstances. Subsequent phases of the Garden's reopening will be announced at a future date online at nybg.org and via the Garden's social media channels.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit nybg.org

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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