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The New York Botanical Garden Fall Programming Offers Spectacular Day and Nighttime Experiences for All Ages in Celebration of the Season

Daytime Experiences Include the Return of Pumpkin Carving Favorite Adam Bierton and a Giant Pumpkin, the Beloved *Kiku* Display, the Opening of a WICKED Broadway Garden in Collaboration with WICKED on Broadway, and the Continuation of *Van Gogh's Flowers*

Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail Returns to NYBG for a 10-Week Limited Engagement, with Brand New Character Moments, on Select Evenings September 25 through November 30, 2025



[Left to right] Pumpkin carver Adam Bierton; Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) today announced its public offerings for this fall, which include an array of seasonal activities, programs, and photo opportunities. Reinforcing NYBG's role as a connective hub among people, plants, and the planet, and as an iconic New York City cultural destination, presentations this season include the return of **Adam Bierton**, one of America's leading pumpkin carving experts, and the opening of a new **WICKED Broadway Garden** in collaboration with the blockbuster Broadway musical WICKED. Visitors will also experience the turning of the season across NYBG's 250 acres with opportunities to enjoy fall foliage and seasonal plants, such as stunning, colorful displays of Japanese chrysanthemums, without leaving the City.

Additionally, NYBG comes alive again at night with the return of **Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail** on select evenings from September 25 through November 30, 2025. It's a dazzling outdoor, nighttime light spectacle, within the historic grounds of the New York Botanical Garden, transporting visitors to the magical worlds of Halloween Town and Christmas Town from the timeless 1993 film, with brand new scenes, music, and video projections, creating an exciting journey for all ages.

"There's nothing quite like the feeling of fall in New York, and we're delighted to offer a beautiful and convenient escape through our dynamic, living collections and seasonal cultural programs right here in the City," said Jennifer Bernstein, CEO & The William C. Steere Sr. President of the New York Botanical Garden. "Our visitors can immerse themselves in the stunning colors of the season, from our captivating floral displays to our historic Thain Family Forest, all without the need for a long journey. The Garden provides a perfect way to experience the magic of autumn with family and friends."

In addition to the new slate of fall programming and activities, ***Van Gogh's Flowers***, NYBG's current exhibition at the intersection of horticulture and contemporary art, continues through October 26, 2025. *Van Gogh's Flowers* immerses guests in the beauty of the natural world that inspired one of the world's most revered artists, Vincent van Gogh. Through botanical displays and large-scale contemporary art installations, NYBG is transformed into a canvas for the colorful brush strokes of the post-impressionist painter. The floral presentation changes with each season and the fall offers visitors a chance to experience some of the iconic sunflowers, growing to full height at up to 12 feet tall, that inspired the artist.

Additional details on all fall programming at NYBG follows below, with tickets now on sale at <https://www.nybg.org/event/autumn-on-tap/>.

Fall Daytime Programming at NYBG

WICKED Broadway Garden

October 11–November 2, 2025

Home Gardening Center

Get ready for a witchy good time as the blockbuster Broadway musical WICKED lands at NYBG this fall! Journey through a collection of vibrant and fantastical plants in shades of pink and green, and a photo opportunity inspired by the hit Broadway show. Join us for a special WICKED celebration on Saturday, October 11, featuring live performances by members of the Broadway cast, face painting, hands-on games, WICKED trivia, giveaways, and more.

Annual Pumpkin Carve-Off

October 18, 2025; 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Plaza

Now in its fifth year, NYBG’s annual carving competition is hosted by Adam Bierton and features three master carvers going head-to-head to create imaginative designs.

Pumpkin Carving with Adam Bierton

October 19, 2025; 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Leon Levy Visitor Center

Witness Adam Bierton’s monstrous and imaginative carved pumpkin designs and learn new tips and tricks to create the ultimate jack-o’-lantern at home. Bierton is a professional sculptor and pumpkin carver based in New York, most famously known for his 3-D pumpkin carvings and his season five win of the popular Food Network series *Halloween Wars* in 2015.

Meet the Giant Pumpkin Growers

October 19, 2025; 1 p.m.

Leon Levy Visitor Center

This year’s winning giant pumpkin from the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth weigh-offs will be on display at NYBG during the final weeks of October. Meet the grower and stay for deseeding demonstrations and conversations.

Giant Pumpkin Carving

October 23–26, 2025; 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Adam Bierton returns for the pumpkin-carving season finale to carve one of the largest pumpkins in the world, sourced by the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth, into an organic masterpiece. Witness Bierton and his team chisel, carve, and detail a seasonal design.

Fall Forest Weekend

November 1 and 2, 2025; 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Thain Family Forest

The Thain Family Forest—New York City’s largest remaining tract of old-growth woodland—is this year’s fall foliage headquarters. Leaf-watch locally and explore the Forest’s 50 acres full of vibrant fall color—a front row seat to the best views of the season close to home. This weekend offers activities, tours, and educational demonstrations.

Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition

November 1–16, 2025; 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections

Kiku: *Spotlight on Tradition* in the Nolen Greenhouses, displays Japanese chrysanthemums, or *kiku*, that have been expertly trained over the past 11 months into incredible shapes and styles. Chrysanthemum blooms burst with color, trained into traditional forms, including

the *ozukuri*, or “thousand bloom”—a feat of nature and intricate plant cultivation, which produces hundreds of chrysanthemum flowers from one stem. Seasonal fall flowers in warm, rich hues complement this must-see spectacle. Join us on November 8, 2025, for a taiko drumming performance celebrating this seasonal favorite display.

Evening Programming at NYBG

A wonderland of moonlit magic awaits as the New York Botanical Garden’s South Arboretum comes alive with Disney *Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail. Join Jack Skellington, Sally, and Zero for a frightfully fun frolic through a walk of wonders, now featuring even more of your favorite characters, scenes, and songs from the immortal film. Marvel as the classic film comes to life against the botanical beauty of New York’s most treasured garden—a must-see New York event for anyone who loves all things seasonal, festive, and fun. Back by popular demand with new refreshment and merchandise booths, this ten-week limited engagement runs on select evenings from September 25 through November 30, 2025.

Disney *Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail is created by Adventurelive, the producing team behind Broadway’s *Hamilton*, and LETSGO, the Madrid-based creative team behind *Tim Burton’s Labyrinth* and *Lights in Nature*, presented by special arrangement with Buena Vista Theatrical. Bringing the film’s distinctive characters and storytelling to life, the outdoor adventure will feature over 8,300 square feet of dazzling light installations forged by cutting-edge technology, including interactive video projection, intelligent LED lighting, and 3-D printed sculptures of the film’s iconic characters, including four brand new scenes. The experience will ignite the senses and invite audiences deep into the world of Jack Skellington.

To supplement the fun, custom Disney *Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail merchandise designed by Creative Goods Design & Supply will be available for sale. The new merchandise collection, which encapsulates the spooky yet playful nature of the trail, features t-shirts, sweatshirts, water bottles, bags, and more.

Operating hours for Disney *Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail are from dusk to 10 p.m. on Wednesdays through Sundays beginning September 25 through November 30, 2025. Schedule can vary week by week so please check the official calendar on TheNightmareBeforeChristmasLightTrail.com before visiting. Fans can follow Disney *Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Tickets for Disney *Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail start at \$33 for children and \$45 (timed entry) or \$56 (flex entry) for adults and can be purchased online at TheNightmareBeforeChristmasLightTrail.com.

About Adventurelive

Adventurelive is an experimental entertainment company that specializes in interactive works and storytelling within sensory theatrical worlds. Born from the success of Broadway production company, Adventureland, Adventurelive is owned and operated by Jeffrey Seller, four-time Tony Award winning producer of *Rent*, *Avenue Q*, *In the Heights*, and *Hamilton*; Pete Milano, Founder and CEO of the live entertainment merchandise company Creative Goods, and RPM Agency; and Maggie Brohn, Chief Operative Officer of Adventureland and Executive Producer of *Hamilton* on Broadway and on tour.

About LETSGO

LETSO COMPANY is a Spanish production company, promoter, and creator of shows and experiences that reimagines the art of storytelling, blending artistic disciplines, technology, and high-level technical production to bring memorable projects to life that captivate audiences around the world. LETSGO, together with Andrew Lloyd Webber, is behind a new version of the musical *The Phantom of the Opera*, which just completed its successful second season in Madrid and is now embarking on its first tour across Spain and first overseas production in Mexico. Alongside Tim Burton, LETSGO also created the immersive experience *Tim Burton's Labyrinth*, which premiered to great acclaim in Madrid in 2022 and has since toured Europe (Paris, Brussels, Berlin, and Milan), and is now breaking box office records in Mexico City. The company is also responsible for Naturaleza Encendida, which attracted more than one million visitors last season to some of Spain's most iconic outdoor heritage sites (the Royal Alcázar of Seville, the Royal Palace Gardens of Pedralbes in Barcelona, the Alcázar of Córdoba, and more). LETSGO is now entering a new phase of international expansion, thanks to collaborations with Disney, Adventurelive, and Tim Burton on Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail at the New York Botanical Garden for the second year in a row, after a successful run in São Paulo (Brazil), with Netflix on *Squid Game: The Experience*, and with Neon on *Jurassic Park: The Experience*. LETSGO transforms spaces into magical worlds where culture and entertainment merge with excellence, innovation, and artistic sensitivity, with the goal of becoming a global creative benchmark.

About the New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has been a connective hub among people, plants, and the shared planet since 1891. For more than 130 years, NYBG has been rooted in the cultural fabric of New York City, in the heart of the Bronx, its greenest borough. NYBG has invited millions of visitors to make the Garden a part of their lives, exploring the joy, beauty, and respite of nature. NYBG's 250 acres are home to renowned exhibitions, immersive botanical experiences, art and music, and events with some of the most

influential figures in plant and fungal science, horticulture, and the humanities. NYBG is also a steward of globally significant research collections, from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library collection to the plant and fungal specimens in the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the largest such collection in the Western Hemisphere.

The plant people of NYBG—dedicated horticulturists, enthusiastic educators, and scientific adventurers—are committed to helping nature thrive so that humanity can thrive. They believe in their ability to make things better, teaching tens of thousands of kids and families each year about the importance of safeguarding the environment and healthy eating. Expert scientists work across the city, the nation, and the globe to document the plants and fungi of the world—and find actionable, nature-based solutions to the planet’s dual climate and biodiversity crises. With eyes always looking forward, they train the next generation of botanists, gardeners, landscape designers, and environmental stewards, ensuring a green future for all. At NYBG, it’s nature—or nowhere.

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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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