

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 14, 2025

This Weekend at NYBG: See Pumpkin Carving with Adam Bierton, a Giant Pumpkin on Display, and a Corpse Flower Preparing to Bloom



[Left to right] Corpse Flower on display, preparing to bloom; Adam Bierton carving a pumpkin; WICKED Broadway Garden at NYBG's Home Gardening Center

Bronx, NY—What better way to spend a fall weekend than at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG)? This Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19, 2025, experience pumpkin carving with Adam Bierton, a Giant Pumpkin on display (one of the largest in the world), the WICKED Broadway Garden, and a Corpse Flower preparing to bloom. In the weeks ahead, 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.

Corpse Flower on Display

Enid A Haupt Conservatory

When will it bloom? An unpredictable, but always eagerly anticipated, *Amorphophallus titanum* is preparing to bloom at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG). Better known as the Corpse Flower, due to the infamous odor it releases during its brief 24–36-hour peak bloom—like the smell of rotting meat—it is sure to cause a sensation. Native to Sumatra in Indonesia, the first time the Corpse Flower bloomed in the Western Hemisphere was right here at NYBG in 1937. The bloom cycle occurs extremely quickly, and we never know exactly when it will decide to open, so come take a peek of it on display in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in anticipation of its moment in the spotlight. What better time than the month of Halloween to witness one of nature's most macabre but glorious marvels!

Annual Pumpkin Carve-Off

Saturday, October 18, 2025; 11 a.m. to 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

Sunday, October 19, 2025; 11 a.m. to 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 Grower

Sunday, October 19, 2025; 1 p.m.

Leon Levy Visitor Center

An award-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 of the 2112.5 pound giant pumpkin, Art Kaczinski from Erving, Massachusetts, and stay for deseeding demonstrations and conversations.

WICKED Broadway Garden

October 11–November 2, 2025; 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Home Gardening Center

A new WICKED Broadway Garden, in collaboration with the blockbuster Broadway musical WICKED, will be on display at the Home Gardening Center of the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) from October 11 through November 2, 2025. 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. Strike a pose in the WICKED Broadway Garden and view chrysanthemums, ruby grass (*Melinis nerviglum*), and ornamental cabbages (*Brassica oleracea*) to add lively shades of pink. Agaves, palms, and grass (*Carex oshimensis* 'Everillo') bring punchy contrast with shades of green that the Emerald City would approve! Deep purple and black touches from ornamental pepper (*Capsicum annuum* 'Purple Flash') and *Euphorbia* 'Miners Merlot' then add depth to the magical display. These easy-to-care-for species are just the start. See the WICKED Broadway Garden in person to find inspiration for your own plantings!

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.

Van Gogh’s Flowers

Through Sunday, October 26, 2025

NYBG becomes the canvas for the colorful brush strokes of one of the world’s most revered artists during *Van Gogh’s Flowers*, where you’ll revel in the beauty of the flowers that inspired Vincent van Gogh’s iconic paintings—by day, and by night. Find yourself immersed in botanical displays and large-scale art as you wander through a breathtaking lawn of monumental sunflowers, and see the expressive masterpieces bloom in recreations made of living flowers. You’ve seen the paintings, now see them come to life in a way that only NYBG can deliver—and let Vincent van Gogh’s unforgettable world of art and nature envelop you in a vibrant daydream during this botanical celebration of the internationally acclaimed painter.

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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