

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 10, 2026

Celebrate the Fall Season at the New York Botanical Garden with *Día de los Muertos* Activities, Music and Dance Programming, Puppet Parades, Continuing Education Classes, and Autumn Horticultural Highlights



Examples of *papel picado* (left) and silk flowers (right), some of the hands-on craftmaking activities at NYBG this fall.

Bronx, NY—This fall, the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) celebrates the season with an array of experiences that highlight the beauty of autumn and the rich connections among plants, culture, and community. Visitors can explore spectacular displays of seasonal foliage and flowers, enjoy the final weeks of the Flower Power exhibition, and take part in NYBG's inaugural *Día de los Muertos* celebration, featuring traditional music and dance, hands-on crafts, puppet parades, and family programming. Continuing education classes offer birding excursions, watercolor workshops, gardening courses, and more, making NYBG a destination for discovery and inspiration throughout the autumn months. Against a backdrop of fall foliage, late-season blooms, ornamental grasses, and harvest displays, guests of all ages can discover the beauty and traditions that define the season.

Fall horticulture display at NYBG brings together late-season flowers, ornamental grasses, colorful foliage, fruits, and sculptural seedheads across the Garden. Highlights range from asters, goldenrods, salvias, dahlias, and chrysanthemums to fiery maples, tupelos, and hickories, with especially rich displays in the Native Plant Garden, the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and the nearby Maureen K. Chilton Azalea Garden and the Thain Family Forest. And from October 31 through November 15, *Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition* showcases centuries-old horticultural techniques that transform mums into amazing living sculptures.

Visit www.nybg.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Día de los Muertos

October 3–November 2, 2026

With vibrant marigold blooms and a colorful *ofrenda*, the rich traditions of Mexico’s *Día de los Muertos* come to the Garden for a celebration of memory, life, and renewal—new this year at NYBG. Explore a trail of floral displays and artfully arranged *calaveras*, listen to the music of the holiday on weekends, and experience joyful moments of reflection among fall’s golden foliage and festive pumpkins.

Flower Power

Through October 18, 2026

Channel the spirit of the ’60s at *Flower Power*, a joyous celebration of the enduring symbolism of flowers as icons of peace and love. Immerse yourself in a groovy and colorful flower show spotlighting the ways in which hippie culture advanced closer relationships with the natural world and explore vibrant botanical displays. NYBG’s galleries showcase photography and visual art from the 1960s, while installations on grounds invite all of us to “come together” and be empowered to embrace flowers as symbols in our own lives.

Daytime programming during the fall season includes:

Hands-on Tradition: The Art of *Papel Picado* & Silk Flowers

October 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25, 2026; 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

October 31 and November 2; 1–5 p.m.

Ofrenda near the entrance to the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden

Visitors of all ages are invited to create unique vibrant silk flowers to wear and take home. Discover the medicinal plants and botanical traditions that inspire teaching artist Blanka Amezkua. Join the artist in learning the traditional Mexican art of *papel picado* by creating miniature decorative banners. These hands-on workshops offer a fun and meaningful opportunity for families to explore creativity together while learning about the rich cultural traditions.

Folk Music Performances

October 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, and 18, 2026; Sets at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1 p.m.

Entrance to Everett Children’s Adventure Garden

Enjoy live musical performances by a local band bringing the sounds of Mexico to *Día de los Muertos*.

Mexican Folkdance Performances by MAZarte

October 31 and November 2, 2026; Performances every half hour from 1–5 p.m.

Select locations throughout NYBG grounds

Inspired by traditional dances from various regions in Mexico, MAZarte Dance Company brings folklore dance to the Garden. The choreographies embody the fusion of Mexico's old and new dances to preserve the histories for future generations and incorporate *zapateado* (foot stomping) techniques to evoke the sound of joyful celebration to call the spirits back to us.

Día de los Muertos Parade

November 1, 2026; 1–5 p.m.

Celebrate *Día de los Muertos* with an afternoon of family-friendly festivities honoring loved ones who have passed. The event begins with a selection of hands-on, wearable art-making activities to prepare for the *Día de los Muertos* Parade, led by Son Pecadores musicians and dancers as well as Mascara Viva's larger-than-life puppets. Join La Catrina, skeletons, and monarch butterflies as you follow the music together in this joyful procession. After the parade, guests can enjoy traditional Mexican music and dance performed by MAZarte Dance Company, learn *cumbia sonidera* dance steps with instructor CoolMarx and dancers Kacia and Cinthya, and take part in an afternoon dance party featuring live music, community-led dancing, photo opportunities with puppets, food for purchase, crafts, and joyful remembrance activities.

Children's Programming

Guided Activities: Tuesdays through Fridays; 1:30–5 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays: 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Everett Children's Adventure Garden

Join us this autumn for a celebration of *Día de los Muertos*, a vibrant Mexican tradition that honors and remembers loved ones who have passed away. Explore the symbols, colors, and stories associated with this special holiday while learning about the importance of remembrance, family, and cultural traditions. Enjoy a selection of rotating activities like potting up your own marigold and reading through a new story trail, "The *Ofrenda* That We Built" by Jolene and Shaian Gutierrez.

Sing Along with Bilingual Birdies

October 31 and November 1, 2026; 1, 3, and 4 p.m.

Everett Children's Adventure Garden

Join Bilingual Birdies, a live music celebration designed for little ones and the grown-ups who adore them, for a special *Día de los Muertos* concert in Spanish and English.

Procession of Puppets

Select Dates and Times

Roaming throughout the Everett Children's Adventure Garden

- **Monarchs Puppets on Parade**

October 24 and 25, 2026; 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

The monarchs are among the largest and most beautiful butterflies in North America. With their distinct orange, black, and white wings, they are easily recognized. Each winter, millions of monarch butterflies migrate to Southern California and the high mountains of Central Mexico, where it is warm year-round. In the spring, the monarchs return to their northern breeding areas to start the cycle of life anew.

- **La Catrina and Skeleton Puppet**

October 31 and November 1 and 2, 2026; 1–5 p.m.

La Catrina was originally drawn as a satirical cartoon in the early 20th century by famous Mexican printmaker and illustrator Jose Guadalupe Posada. Named “La Calavera Garbancera,” the image was meant to represent the large gap between social classes and was inspired by Mictecacihuatl, the Aztec goddess of death and Lady of Mictlan, the underworld.

Continuing Education Classes

Fall is the perfect opportunity to learn a new skill through a variety of in-person or online classes at the New York Botanical Garden. From single sessions to weekly classes, there's something to fit any schedule. Visit www.nybg.org/event/fall-classes/ to learn more and to register.

- **Autumn Mushrooms**

Starts September 18, 2026

In New York City, fall is the best time to hunt for edible fungi. Paul Sadowski, 25-year veteran of the NY Mycological Society, will lead a mushroom hunt and show you how to identify many species and their look-alikes, where to find them, and how to cook or preserve them.

- **Beekeeping Basics**

Starts September 19, 2026

Expert beekeeper Frank Mortimer walks you through the ins and outs of what's needed to safely, productively, and enjoyably begin to keep honeybees in a populated area. You'll learn how and why a beehive functions as one living organism, as well as the practicalities of how to manage a colony and begin to produce honey.

- **Japanese Anemones in Watercolor**

Starts September 20, 2026

Learn the basic watercolor techniques used by botanical artists while painting a Japanese anemone from the photograph provided. Demonstrations will show how to lay a smooth wash and how to shade a form to make it look 3D, among other techniques and visual effects.

- **Container Gardening**

Starts September 23, 2026

Learn how to create a container garden for your patio, terrace, or entryway that's both functional and gorgeous, while helping your plants thrive in all four seasons.

- **Soil Science I: Physical Properties**

Starts September 23, 2026

Soil is a dynamic, living organism and the very foundation of sustainable horticulture and agriculture. This course focuses on the texture, structure, density, and color of different soils and the relationship that exists among soil, water, and plants. Through lectures and labs using microscopes, learn irrigation and drainage techniques and explore how soil, organic matter, and microbiology relate to plant health and soil conservation.

- **Fall Leaves in Watercolor**

Starts September 26, 2026

Focus on the most brilliant and seasonal foliage, the ginkgo leaf. Learn the basic watercolor techniques used by botanical artists while painting these fan-shaped leaves from the photograph provided. Flat wash, layering, and other techniques will be covered.

- **Introduction to Bulbs**

Starts September 29, 2026

Since autumn is the optimum season to plant bulbs, now is the time to decide what will look best in your garden. In this class, you'll receive an overview of bulbs, including what they are and how to properly plant them. Common problems and solutions for a successful growing season are also covered.

- **Fundamentals of Form**

Starts October 1, 2026

Learn the keys to successful floral design and master the mechanics needed to create round, triangular, parallel, and crescent arrangements. Experiment with shape, line, and symmetry while composing beautiful, balanced creations.

- **Botanical Latin**

Starts October 1, 2026

Botanical Latin is essential for anyone with a serious interest in identifying plants. Contrary to popular belief, mastering Latin plant names need not be intimidating or boring. Review the rules of taxonomy, Latin grammar, and pronunciation, and learn the history of the binomial system in use today.

- **Ornamental Pumpkins in Watercolor**

Starts October 3, 2026

Learn the basic watercolor techniques used by botanical artists while painting miniature ornamental pumpkins. Flat wash, layering, and dry brush technique will be covered. This class will offer demonstrations and individual feedback from the instructor in an enjoyable and supportive atmosphere.

- **Growing Hardy Roses**

Starts October 3, 2026

Many gardeners, beginners and experts alike, believe roses are difficult to grow, but this simply isn't true. In this class, you'll explore rose varieties that are easy to grow without a lot of extra maintenance, such as modern shrub roses and even some heirloom varieties. You'll review the hardiest roses growing on the east coast as well as the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to set you up for success in the growing season.

- **Natural History of Birds: Fall**

Starts October 4, 2026

With its wide variety of habitats and its position on the Atlantic Flyway, New York City is a bird-lover's paradise. Over 300 distinct resident or migratory species live here or pass through, including many nesting species such as Peregrine Falcons, Red-tailed Hawks, Yellow Warblers, and Baltimore Orioles. You will practice observing distinctive feather patterns, beak and body shapes, and evaluating songs and behaviors to improve your ability to identify species in the field and to use field guides effectively. We'll emphasize the role individual birds play in our ecosystem, while enjoying the unique nature of autumnal birding.

- **Field Sketching**

Starts October 4, 2026

Take your naturalist game to the next level by learning how to sketch. Drawing asks that you slow down and closely observe what you see, allowing you to identify unfamiliar species and investigate ecological connections. Focusing on trees, you'll learn how to accurately capture unique details by experimenting with a variety of

color combinations, materials, and mark-making. No previous drawing experience is required.

- **Cempazúchitl: Mexico's Marigold**

Starts October 30, 2026

In Mexico, the marigold flower, *Cempazúchitl* in the Indigenous language Nahuatl, has been associated with the *Día de Muertos* celebrations for centuries. Discover the cultural importance of this plant while creating a tonic that supports the nervous system, as well as digestive and respiratory health. All materials provided.

Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition

October 31 through November 15, 2026

Bourke-Sullivan Display House in the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections

Explore displays of 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.

- ***Kiku Highlight Weekend***

November 7 and 8, 2026; 12–4 p.m.

Take in a live taiko drumming performance, enjoy hands-on crafts, and explore *kiku* in the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections.

NYBG Farmers Market

Wednesdays, June 3 through October 21, 2026

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mosholu Entrance

The annual NYBG Farmers Market season is here with fresh local food and live music. Visit and enjoy a variety of locally grown produce, fresh baked goods, and other specialty items to celebrate *Flower Power*. Curated by Market Director Pascale Le Draoulec, the NYBG Farmers Market boasts rotating vendors each week, with two featured farms: Fino Farms and Trinity Farms.

NYBG Shop

Tuesdays through Sundays and holiday Mondays: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

NYBG Shop, frequently called the best plant shop in the boroughs by visitors, offers a curated collection of the best indoor and outdoor plants, garden tools and supplies, and pottery. It's also a one-stop shop for the best Garden inspired gifts and home products from local and independent artisans around the globe. Shop online 24/7 at www.nybgshop.org.

Dining at NYBG

Whether looking for a hearty meal, a sweet treat, a savory nibble, or an inventive handcrafted cocktail, all can find something to whet and satisfy their appetites.

- **Pine Tree Café**

Daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The family-friendly menu features artisanal panini, rustic Neapolitan-style pizza, and delicious signature salads, plus sweet treats and snacks.

- **Hudson Garden Grill**

Tuesday through Friday, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Weekends and holiday Mondays, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

No visit to NYBG is complete without a meal at its renowned farm-to-table restaurant, the Hudson Garden Grill. Savor seasonally inspired dishes and decadent desserts, all made from locally sourced, ethically produced ingredients.

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 135 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,
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