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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MEIJER GARDENS CELEBRATES AUTUMN COLORS WITH THIRD ANNUAL *COLORFALL* EXHIBITION**

*ColorFall Activities and Programs Scheduled September 13 – October 31, 2008*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — September 3, 2008** — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the nation's most significant sculpture and botanic experiences, is pleased to present the *ColorFall* exhibition, an annual celebration devoted to the season of colorful changes. In its third year, *ColorFall* festivities will begin two weeks earlier than previous years, taking place September 13 through October 31, 2008.

Fall is the most colorful season of the year as it features constantly changing hues of scarlet, auburn, yellow and gold. The many colors of nature can be found along the walking trails of Meijer Gardens during this exciting celebration. The exhibit will feature fun and educational activities for the entire family, including color tours, giant pumpkins, and the largest Chrysanthemum display in Michigan.

ColorFall at Meijer Gardens includes the following educational activities to enhance the viewer's experience:

**Chrysanthemum Displays** – Our annual presentation is the largest mum display in Michigan featuring hundreds of flowering plants in both interior and exterior areas. Indoor highlights include varieties on display along the winding Scenic Corridor and the Seasonal Display Greenhouse, while outdoor plantings are featured in the English Perennial Garden, Michigan's Farm Garden and Volunteer Tribute Garden.

**ColorFall in the Children's Garden** – Participate in a variety of color-related art and nature activities for children. Discover why leaves change color, play a leaf identification game or go on a color search. There are also special daily activities to keep children busy while enjoying the autumn season!

**Michigan's Farm Garden** – Search for Indian corn, broom corn, gourds, pumpkins and scarecrows in the heirloom vegetable garden and orchard.

**Prodigious Pumpkins** – October 18 & 19 – Pumpkin carving demonstrations at 1pm. Discover giant pumpkins on display at Michigan's Farm Garden. Weighing in at hundreds of pounds these pumpkins offer plenty of fun for the kids.

**Taste of the Gardens Café** – Look for flavorful dishes infused with the fresh taste of the season. Fruits, vegetables, spices and more! Dinner specials include sautéed chicken breast with white wine, garlic, harvest tomatoes and kalamata olives; curried pork tenderloin with cashew cream sauce; wild mushroom and goat cheese strudel; beef rouladen with burgundy brown sauce; and more!

**ColorFall walks** – Take a self-guided nature walk through the Sculpture Park, Amphitheater, Volunteer Tribute Garden, and Michigan's Farm Garden where eye-catching "hue cues" help make your stroll memorable and enlightening. Guided tours are also available 1 PM daily.

**Tree-riffic Rides** - *Saturdays and Sundays – 1 & 2 pm* - Take an interactive Kids' Tram tour and come away with a whole new understanding of trees. Hop off and on at various stops to participate in these kid-friendly activities:

- Learn which trees are used to make baseball bats, musical instruments and popsicle sticks
- Use puppets to identify the creatures that live in trees
- Have fun with looking games based on tree-related sculptures
- Find out the difference between evergreen trees and deciduous trees
- Do a colorful, leaf-matching activity
- Play a crazy guessing game to see what leaves have in common with kids

**Fall Family Days & Herb Fest** – *October 4 (10am – 4:30pm) and October 5 (12 – 4:30pm)*. Enjoy the autumn colors and savory herbs during Fall Family Days & Herb Fest at Michigan's Farm Garden. Demonstrations are scheduled throughout the weekend including how to preserve herbs, make potpourri, and create your own "green" cleaning products. Additional highlights include: tasting foods made with herbs, discovering herbs used in aromatherapy, and making your own herbal blends to take home for dipping.

**About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**

One of the nation's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park serves more than a half-million visitors annually. The 132-acre grounds feature Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the largest children's gardens in the country; arid and Victorian gardens; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens; and a 1750-seat outdoor amphitheater, featuring an eclectic mix of world-renowned musicians every summer. The internationally acclaimed Sculpture Park features a permanent collection including works by Rodin, Oldenburg, Moore, Bourgeois and Plensa among others. Indoor galleries host changing sculpture exhibitions with recent exhibitions by Picasso, Degas, di Suvero and Chihuly. For additional information, please visit [www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org).

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