



FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

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MEIJER GARDENS' NEW AUTUMN HORTICULTURE EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS BEAUTY OF MUMS

*"Chrysanthemums and More!" features vibrant mum displays, garden color tours and more
September 16 – October 30*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — August 25, 2011 — In celebration of autumn's botanic beauty, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park presents "Chrysanthemums and More!" opening to the public September 16. Formerly named "ColorFall," the newly redesigned exhibition features expansive displays of mums, garden color tours and family-friendly activities. The exhibition will be on display until October 30.

"Chrysanthemums have always been a significant part of our autumn landscape designs," said Steve LaWarre, Director of Horticulture, "but this year's mum displays will be even more spectacular."

Visitors will be greeted with mums upon entering the Grand Entry Garden and Cook Entry Arbor and with floral arrangements by local florists as they walk through the Scenic Corridor.

The Seasonal Display Greenhouse will feature a major focal point, a chrysanthemum-covered wall, creating a vignette unseen at Meijer Gardens before.

Outdoors, expansive beds of colorful chrysanthemums will be arranged in large sweeps of vibrant hues of scarlet, burnt orange, purple and gold. Ornamental cabbage and kale will add color and texture. Yellow, the flower's primary color, will pull a variety of visual components together.

The Sculpture Park transforms as the autumn colors change and leaves begin to fall. The surrounding horticultural elements provide a unique backdrop for the sculptures. Visitors can tour the grounds by a 45-minute narrated tram tour or join in a 30-minute docent-led walking tour to discover the rich colors of fall foliage, autumn flowers, tree bark, grasses and more.

The Taste of the Gardens Café will feature seasonal daily lunch specials as well as dinner specials on Tuesday evenings, with some ingredients coming from Meijer Gardens' own Michigan's Farm Garden.

Exhibition Programming

- **Garden Color Tours**

Weekdays, September 16 – October 20, 11:15 am and 2:15 pm

Join us for a 30-minute docent-led walking tour and discover the rich variety of colors found in fall

foliage, autumn flowers, tree bark, seedpods, grasses and more. Free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

- **Tree-mendous Kids' Tram Tours**

Saturdays, September 10 – October 29, 11:15 am, 12:15 pm, 1:15 pm, 2:15 pm

Board the Kids' Tram for an engaging experience all about trees. Travel through the Sculpture Park, visit The Groves and come away with a new understanding of Michigan trees. Hop on and off at specific stops to participate in kid-friendly activities. Fee is \$3 for children, \$1 for adults.

- **Prodigious Pumpkins**

October 15–16

Discover giant pumpkins on display at Michigan's Farm Garden. Weighing in at hundreds of pounds, these pumpkins will amaze kids and adults alike. Enjoy a cooking demonstration (1:30 and 3 pm) that will highlight the versatile use of this popular fall gourd. Have fun learning interesting facts about giant pumpkins as you search the farm for answers. Free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

- **Mum Day**

October 23, 1–4 pm

Interact with Meijer Gardens' horticulture staff, participate in family-friendly activities and learn more about the fascinating chrysanthemum at this year's Mum Day. Watch a demonstration on creating "mum spheres," learn how to get the most out of your mums and discover companion plantings. Also, enjoy a walking tour of the exhibition led by our knowledgeable horticulture staff. Kids' activities in the Children's Garden and Garden View Room include creating mum collages, mum-themed games, and stories. All activities included with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

- **Hallowee-Ones**

October 28, 10 am–12 pm

Get creative at this special event designed for our youngest visitors. Dress your child as a sculpture, mammal, fish, insect, bird, tree, flower, geologist or any other way that highlights something about the Children's Garden. Bring your camera and celebrate Halloween with your wee-ones. No tricks, no treats, just fun! Children can join in a costume parade, listen to Halloween-themed stories and make a mask. Free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

"Chrysanthemums and More!" is sponsored by The Meijer Foundation and the Botanic and Sculpture Societies of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

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Images available upon request. [View thumbnails](#)

About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

One of the world's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park serves more than a half-million visitors annually. Meijer Gardens was recently ranked in the top 100 most-visited art museums worldwide by *Art Newspaper*, the leading publication in global art news. The 132-acre grounds feature Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the largest children's gardens in the country; arid and Victorian gardens with bronze sculptures by Degas and Rodin; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens; and a 1900-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, Borofsky, Calder and Chadwick.

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