

# Chrysanthemum Festival







The art of grafting chrysanthemums has been practiced for centuries in Asia

'Hyakushu setsubun kiku'  
Artist Kuniyoshi Utagawa (1798-1861)  
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Pierre du Pont, pictured here with Mrs. du Pont, hosted Longwood's first chrysanthemum exhibition in 1924, making this one of the oldest traditions at Longwood Gardens.





More than 200 different cultivars are preserved by a team of growers and tissue culture specialists who re-propagate the entire collection each year to maintain this stock-source for the nearly 16,000 specialty mums we grow for the annual display.



This year, the Conservatory is home to nearly 50 large scale topiary chrysanthemum forms, cascade, and 1000 Bloom forms, along with thousands of additional exhibition chrysanthemums.







Carpenters, painters, metalworkers,  
and gardeners all work together  
toward one perfect display.





# Creating the Multi-grafted Dome Chrysanthemum

In the spring, gardeners use their horticultural expertise to select more than 100 cultivars which all bloom at a similar time.

Grafts for the multi grafted dome are made in early July.

Gardeners artistically combine the different cultivars and various flower types to create a harmonious display.







Multi Grafted Dome Chrysanthemum





The Thousand Bloom Chrysanthemum takes over 2,000 dedicated staff hours of to complete.



One amazing stem !

This Thousand Bloom,  
a traditional Asian form,  
grows to be  
twelve and a half feet wide  
and eight feet tall over the  
course of a year and a half.







A fiberglass support ring is added about once a month as the stems grow outward. Stems are tied down to the rings.





The largest Thousand Bloom Chrysanthemum grown outside of Asia.



# Bonsai Chrysanthemums

The Chrysanthemum Bonsai are nine months old.

Bonsai training began in early May.

The cultivars are called Gnome Chrysanthemums.

The naturally small flowers and leaves are well suited to use as Bonsai.





# 13 Different Classes of Chrysanthemums each represent a different flower form

1. Irregular Incurve
2. Reflex
3. Regular Incurve
4. Decorative
5. Intermediate Incurve
6. Pompon
7. Single and Semi-Double
8. Anemone
9. Spoon
10. Quill
11. Spider
12. Brush or Thistle
13. Unclassified Exotic

The Fern Passage features examples of the thirteen Chrysanthemum classes

