



Topiary Cascade Chrysanthemums



Topiary chrysanthemum forms are covered in a dense carpet of flower buds which break into beautiful bloom in early November.

Plants are trained to metal forms to create graceful shapes.







Cuttings are taken from special varieties of cascade chrysanthemums which have the ability to stretch and grow longer. In January the cuttings are potted up into four inch pots and carefully labeled.



Pinching



Terminal bud removed



Chrysanthemums are pinched throughout the process to remove the terminal bud, creating more stems and more potential flowers until the final form is reached.

It's the grower's job to continually groom and train the plants according to the final design shape.

New side shoots







Creating our signature large hanging baskets requires months of dedicated work starting in January.

In November, the reward is dramatic balls of thousands of tightly packed blooms hanging overhead.





Growers start with eighteen rooted cuttings planted into large peat covered wire baskets.

Plants for cascades and hanging baskets are all started on an angle to make it easier for gardeners to bend the stems later in the training process.



These plants have been purposely wilted so they can be bent to the training framework.

During late May the large baskets and other forms are moved outdoors and trained onto their final frames.





Gardeners carefully twist and manipulate the stems without breaking them as they bend them to shape.





Each hanging cascade column form is held to the frame by thousands of hand inserted wires which also must be removed later.

The stems are wired every six inches as they grow to force them to grow downward.







Plants are sheared, or stems are individually pruned, to shape the plants before they begin to set flower buds in early September.



## Creating Spirals

These chrysanthemum plants are grown out in an unfinished form and then trained with wiring and pruning onto a frame by the gardener.



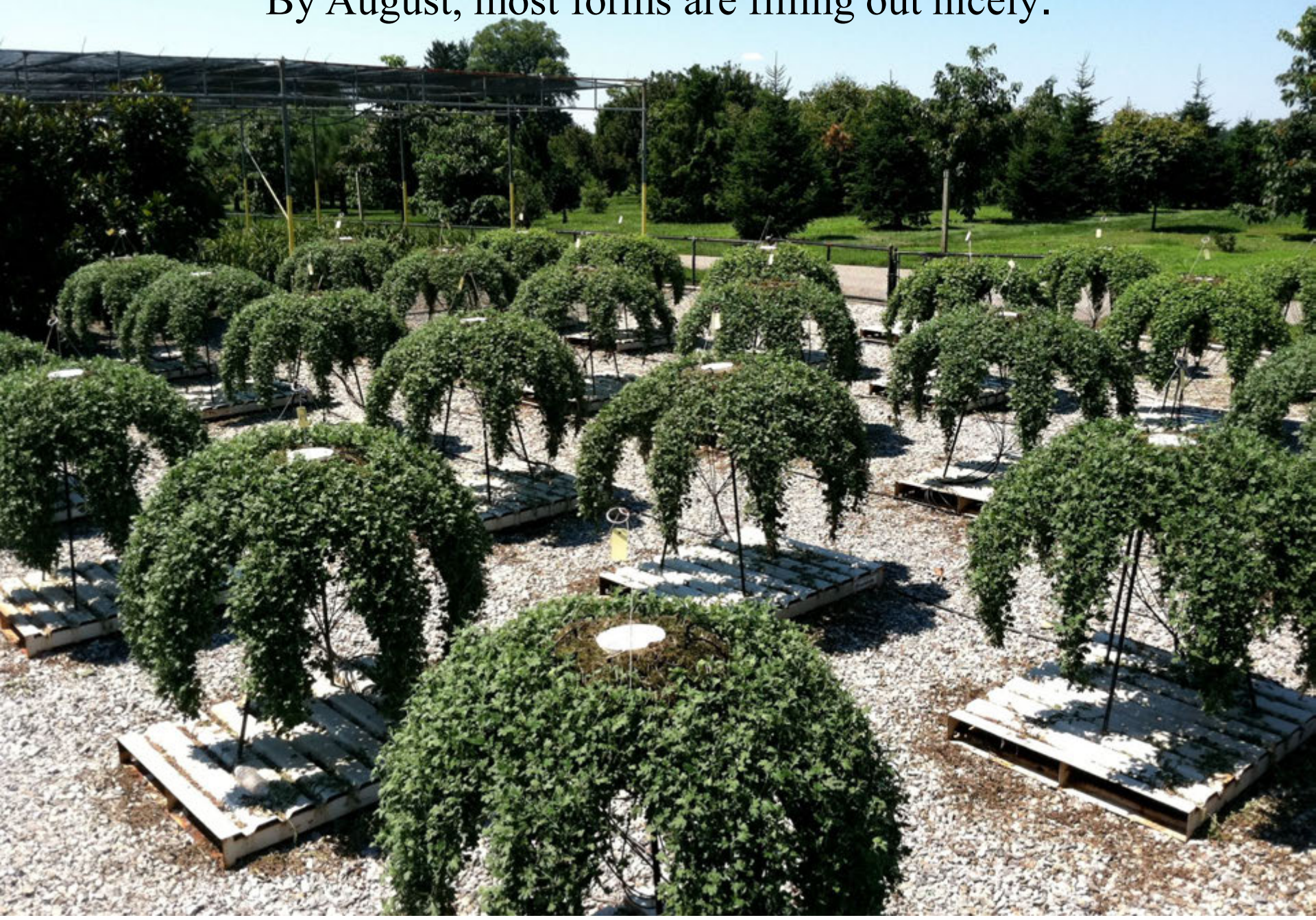


Each year new forms  
are created.  
This is one section of  
a fountain form  
inspired by our  
famous fountains.





By August, most forms are filling out nicely.





# Baskets in the Nursery await delivery to the Conservatory





More than 40 classic Longwood  
topiary chrysanthemum forms can  
be found throughout the  
Conservatory each year.

