



Longwood Gardens

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Brief: Longwood Gardens Chrysanthemum Festival October 25-November 23.

KENNETT SQUARE, PA – More than 20,000 colorful chrysanthemums take center stage October 25 thru November 23 during the **Chrysanthemum Festival** at Longwood Gardens near Kennett Square, PA. Longwood’s famed horticultural expertise is evident throughout more than 4 acres of indoor conservatories. Giant mum baskets hang in the Exhibition Hall and Orangery, and more than 20,000 chrysanthemums trained into colorful cascades, curtains, towering 6-foot-tall specimens, tiny bonsai, and “thousand blooms” await around every turn. This year, Longwood displays its largest thousand bloom ever—454 blooms on one plant!

In addition to the Chrysanthemum splendor, Longwood transforms its elegant Music Room into a **Fall Fantasy in Glass**. Natural materials form an autumnal backdrop for a dazzling display of hand-blown glass pumpkins and gourds especially crafted for Longwood. A large grapevine cornucopia overflows with a glittering array of glass gourds and pumpkins in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. The glass works of art were crafted by Cohn-Stone Studios of Richmond, California. Artists Michael Cohn and Molly Stone are known for their elegant, yet whimsical pumpkin creations that enchant any home or garden.

Weekends activities for the entire family include strolling puppeteers, musical performances, special tours and talks, and more.

Chrysanthemums the floral feature

Throughout Longwood’s four acres of indoor gardens, 20,000 mums, including 81 varieties are grown as colorful cascades, huge hanging baskets, towering single-stemmed blooms, and huge flower curtains to epitomize the art of horticulture. The flower-filled scenes include the Exhibition Hall and Orangery where giant chrysanthemum baskets hang and a graceful 150 sq. ft yellow flower curtain adorns the Music Room Wall. The Orangery’s center aisle boasts rotating cubes of chrysanthemums, especially created by Longwood’s inhouse craftsmen. Flower beds are carpeted with mums in a variety of colors, including brilliant yellows and golds, rust, burgundy, white, and amber.

A team of Longwood gardeners use as many as nine different growing techniques to train the mums. The scale ranges from diminutive bonsai mums to six-foot-tall specimens. Longwood’s expert growers remove

almost all the buds from more than 2,500 exhibition-type single-stem mums, leaving just one giant flower that crowns the stem of each plant. The flowing cascades on the Conservatory columns blossom with a multitude of small flowers on their long, flowing stems that the gardeners create through careful training and shearing.

Of special note are the magnificent **“thousand blooms”** that take over a year to grow following a method first developed in Japan 200 years ago. A dying art form, Longwood is one of only a few growers in the United States that know how to grow these rarities named for the ambitious early goal of one plant producing 1,000 perfect blooms. This year, Longwood will feature three thousand bloom plants in the East Conservatory, including its largest ever, which has 454 blooms.

Bonsai and Ikebana show. Nov. 1 & 2

Longwood Gardens showcases Japanese horticultural arts with exhibits of ikebana and bonsai on November 1 and 2, when the Philadelphia Chapter of Ikebana International and the Brandywine Valley Bonsai Society join forces to present an unforgettable display during their annual show.

About Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens located near Kennett Square, PA, offers 1,050 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows; 20 outdoor gardens; 20 indoor gardens; 11,000 different types of plants; and spectacular fountains. Longwood Gardens is open daily 9 am-5 pm. The Gardens Shop and Terrace Restaurant, offering full and self-service dining, are also open daily. Admission is \$16 for adults, \$14 for Seniors (age 62+), \$6 for youths ages 5-22, and free for children ages 4 and under. For more information, call 610-388-1000, or visit www.longwoodgardens.org.

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