

## 2025 Fall Seasonal Display Design Overview

Hillwood will be pretty in tune with the seasons this year as the fall seasonal display installation starts right on the autumnal equinox on September 22. Chrysanthemums, kale, and pansies will arrive replacing the summer annuals and tropical plants over roughly a two-week period. There will be plenty of yellows and oranges this year as this combination begins at the conservatory pots and wraps around from the greenhouse beds to the Lunar Lawn edge. The motor court will feature a new cultivar of chrysanthemums named 'Melody Bronze'. We have not seen this color in person and photos vary so it will be interesting to see what is true. The designs of this area pair 'Melody Bronze' with contrasting colors, in this case purples and greens, so whatever color it turns out to be will work out fine. Another area that will diverge from the yellows and oranges is the putting green display. Fiery red chrysanthemums and violas will shape this design and be augmented with fun 'Sangria' red ornamental peppers.

Another plant we will be experimenting with is called walkingstick kale. This is something Jarett Currin, greenhouse grower, and I have been interested in trying for some time. These mammoth plants can range in height from 3-8' tall. These are being grown from seed in our greenhouse. If all goes well, expect to see them as the thriller in the blue greenhouse pots. If not, we will put in an evergreen shrub, take notes on the kale, and try again at a later date.

At Hillwood, we like to incorporate smaller 6" or 4.5" pots of mums into the designs. These work well in the French parterre and in the containers across campus. Very few growers produce these sizes, so we support those that do and currently all of our mums come from one source. Typically, in June or July, we receive a list of mum cultivars from them and the numbers of each to be produced. Often the smaller sizes are produced in smaller numbers so, for example, in the French parterre, we would have to incorporate at least four different cultivars to have enough plants to fill the space. This year, we received the list and were told quantities were unlimited. This meant that there could be enough plants available to design the French parterre with only two colors, 'Cheryl Regal Purple' and 'Niki Orange'. Our supplier has hinted that they would like to make further changes next year and we may be able to tell them not only the numbers to grow but also which cultivars. It is a very exciting chain of events.

### Other Additional Items to Note:


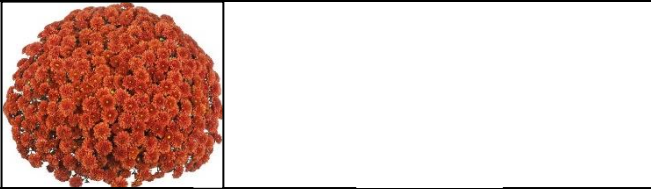

- By the numbers (new plants to be installed):
  - 2,396 mums
  - 2,710 pansies/violas
  - 947 Kale and cabbage
  - 680 other plants not including the specialty mums
- Plants grown in house for the display include 20 specialty mum topiaries, 293 millet and 261 kale.

The horticulture team is excited to have you back in the gardens. Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please feel free to email me at [jbonilla@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:jbonilla@hillwoodmuseum.org). Thank you!









Jessica Bonilla, Director of Horticulture

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(Pictures start from left to right in order of appearance in the text)







<p>Conservatory planters</p>	<p>The back bone of the containers will start with one of the following elements: woody shrubs (not pictured), pencil topiaries of Chrysanthemum 'Megumi'; 'Purple Majesty' millet and Canna 'Pretoria' from the summer display. Filler plants will include 'Cheryl Spicy Orange' mums, 'Purple Flash' ornamental peppers, Celosia 'Twisted Orange', Carex 'Everillo', and a touch of 'Redbor' kale and 'Niki Orange' mums. 'Penny Yellow Jump-up', 'Sorbet Purple' and 'Sorbet Deep Orange' violas will soften the edge of the pots and the silver inch plant (Tradescantia zebrina) will add a trailing element.</p>	
<p>Motor court</p>	<p>The center bed around Eros and the perimeter beds will contain 'Melody Bronze' mums.</p>	
<p>Motor court containers</p>	<p>The crape myrtle pots will feature 'Melody Bronze' mums with a mix of Carex comans 'Bronco', 'Redbor' kale, Heuchera 'Lemon Love' and 'Sorbet Purple' violas. Artemesia 'Silver Brocade' left in from multiple seasons decorates the edge. These plants will also be mixed into the other containers. A tall grass, Muhlenbergia capillaris (muhly grass), will be the focal point in the square pots.</p>	

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Porte cochere	Most of the tropical display will stay until the middle of October (not pictured). Mums will be added as the season progresses starting with 'Homerun Pink' followed by specialty mums like cone topiaries of 'Pink Fleece' and disbuds of 'Kokka Bunmi'. The tiered pots will be refreshed with 'Pigeon Red' kale, Heuchera 'Carnival Rose Granita', 'Penny Beaconsfield' violas and purple heart plant (Tradescantia pallida formerly Setcreasea).	
Pavilion	Pots of 'Niki Orange' mums	
French parterre	A mix of 'Niki Orange' and 'Cheryl Regal Purple' mums around the edge and a similar mix around the statue of Diana.	 
Rose garden	A mix of 'Festive Purple' and 'Party Yellow' mums in the center. The annual strips by the boxwood will contain only 'Festive Purple' mums with 'Sorbet Yellow Blotch' violas.	  
Friendship walk	'Cool Wave Mix' pansies	



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Putting green	'Sangria' ornamental pepers, 'Fiesta Red' mums and 'Penny Pro Red' violas in both the planters and beds.	
Lunar	A mix of 'Cheryl Spicy Orange', 'Cheryl Golden', and 'Cheryl Yellow' mums.	
South portico	Pots and beds of 'Panola Citrus Mix' pansies. The pots will be switched out with cascade topiaries of 'Megumi' chrysanthemums when ready.	
Vista planters	Dracena spikes leftover from summer with 'Cheryl Spicy Orange' mums and 'Colormax Citrus Mix' violas.	
Around the Dacha	A mix of 'Cool Wave Golden Yellow', 'Cool Wave Purple', and 'Cool Wave White' pansies.	
Holly walk	'Cheryl Spicy Orange', 'Cheryl Golden', and 'Cheryl Yellow' mums will be added closest to the Lunar Lawn. 'Sorbet Deep Orange' violas will line the rest of the path.	
Security	A mix of 'Osaka White' cabbage, 'Cheryl Regal Purple' mums, 'Snapshot Purple' snapdragons, and 'Penny Rose Blotch' violas.	

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Butler's house pots	'Red Bor' kale surrounded by 'Penny Rose Blotch' violas.	 
Cutting garden wall	Alternating groups of Canna 'Pretoria' with 'Sorbet Harvest Mix' violas and 'Purple Majesty Millet' with 'Party Yellow' mums. The groups will be seperated with foxtail asparagus fern left in from the summer.	    
Greenhouse bed	'Purple Majesty' millet, 'Peacock Red' kale and 'White bor' kale will provide height behind swaths of 'Party Yellow' mums, 'Sorbet Harvest Mix' violas and 'Nagoya Red' kale.	     
Greenhouse Pots	Walkingstick kale will take center stage and be surrounded by 'White Bor' kale and 'Sorbet Harvest Mix' violas.	  

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