

2026 Fall Seasonal Display Design Overview

Summer will officially change to fall in the gardens on September 21. That is the date when the trucks will roll in, bringing all the mums and cool season annuals. This year's color palette will consist of swaths of pinks and purples in the corridor from the conservatory to café. More pinks will be found at the putting green and Friendship walk. Hot colors will start around Eros and the edges of the motor court and continue through the French parterre, rose garden and Lunar Lawn beds.

A handful of plants will be staying in from the summer displays. The walking stick kale has been growing at the corner of the cutting garden wall all summer. We will add more from the greenhouse to buff up the area for fall. These actually have been growing since last summer and have not bolted (gone to flower) yet. These mammoth plants can range in height from 3-8' tall. We will see what the future has in store for them. We have also been happy with the yellow inchplant growing in the porte cochere. We will try to keep it through fall and then add at least a few plants to our tropical plant collection. Cordyline 'Maria' will also stay to keep some height along the cutting garden wall.

Since a lot of our greenhouse efforts go into growing specialty mums, a majority of the fall display is bought in from local vendors. This year, they have increased the variety of colors of an important series of pansy called 'Cool Wave'. We have found them to be vigorous, filling in with a spreading habit. When they were first introduced, there were only a handful of colors. Now there are nearly twenty and a new series is being developed from it with larger flowers. Another series the growers are embracing is Colossus. This has been touted by a group of master gardeners in Texas for its good performance in heat and humidity associated with early fall in the south. The Colossus series is also known for large, up-facing blooms. We will be trying them out along the cutting garden wall and at the lower visitor center entrance and taking note of their performance.

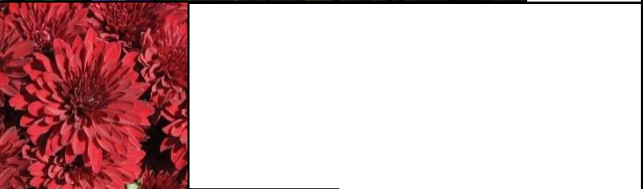
Other Additional Items to Note:

- By the numbers:
 - 7,172 total plants
 - 2,140 mums
 - 3,421 pansies/violas
 - 839 Kale and cabbage including
 - 800 other plants not including the specialty mums
- Plants grown in house for the display include 21 specialty mum topiaries, 191 millet and 248 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. Thank you!- Jessica Bonilla

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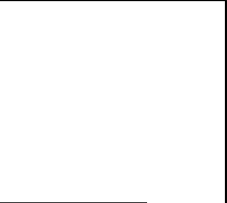
(Pictures start from left to right in order of appearance in the text)

Outside conservatory	The backbone of the containers will start with one of the following elements: woody shrubs (not pictured), pencil topiaries of Chrysanthemum 'Megumi'; 'Purple Baron' millet and Canna 'Cannova Yellow' from the summer display. Filler plants will include Osteospermum 'Serenity Yellow', 'Purple Flash' ornamental peppers, 'Redbor' kale, and Euphorbia 'Ascot Rainbow'. 'Crystal Clear Lavender' alyssum along with 'Cool Wave Violet Wing', 'Cool Wave Purple Sunburst' and 'Colossus Tricolor' pansies will soften the edges of the pots.	
Motor court	The perimeter and the center bed around Eros will contain 'Kathleen Dark Red' mums.	
Motor court containers	The crape myrtle pots will feature Osteospermum 'Serenity Red', Euphorbia 'Ascot Rainbow', 'Redbor' kale and purple-leaf heuchera in the center. 'Penny Pro Red' violas and perennialized Artemisia 'Silver Brocade' will adorn the edge. These plants will also be found in the other containers. 'Purple Baron' millet will be the focal point in the square pots.	

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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 'Jane Yellow'. The tiered pots will be refreshed with 'Pigeon White' kale, 'Sorbet Tiger Eye' violas and Tradescantia zebrina 'Yellow' left from the summer display. 'Matrix Buttered Popcorn Mix' pansies will fill in along the edges of the beds.		
Pavilion	Pots of 'Jane Yellow' mums		
French parterre	A mix of 'Beverly Bronze' and 'Sandra Purple' mums around the edge. 'Judy Bronze' mums around Diana with a border of Heuchera 'Watermelon'. 'Cool Wave Golden Yellow' pansies will edge the porch.		
Rose garden	A mix of 'Rhonda Bronze' and 'Bethany Yellow' mums in the center. The strips along the boxwood hedge will feature 'Ellen Golden Bicolor' mums and 'Sorbet Fire' violas.		
Friendship walk	A mix of pansies from the Cool Wave series: 'Raspberry', 'Strawberry' and 'Golden Yellow'		

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Putting green	For the planters: Dusty Miller 'Silverdust' surrounded with 'Osaka' kale and 'Matrix Lavender Shades' pansies. The same combination will be used in the beds with the addition of 'Purple Baron' millet.	   
Lunar	A mixed border of 'Wanda Purple', 'Rhonda Bronze' and 'Bethany Yellow' mums.	  
South portico	Pots and beds of 'Cool Wave Strawberry' pansies. Chrysanthemum 'Megumi' cascades will be added to the plant stands when ready.	  
Vista planters	'Silverdust' dusty miller with Heuchera 'Watermelon' and 'Cool Wave Raspberry' pansies.	   
Around the Dacha	'Matrix Lavender Shades' pansies mixed with Viola 'Sorbet Lavender Pink' and Viola 'Sorbet White'.	   
Holly walk	'Beverly Bronze', 'Wanda Purple' and 'Ellen Golden Bicolor' mums will be added closest to Lunar Lawn. 'Cool Wave Golden Yellow' pansies will line the rest of the path.	   
Security	Wanda Purple' mums accented with 'Emperor White' kale and 'Crystal Clear White' alyssum.	   

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Butler's house pots	Guara 'Belleza Dark Pink' repurposed from the summer		
Cutting garden wall	An backdrop of Cordyline 'Maria' from the summer alternating with 'Purple Majesty' millet. Blocks of 'Wanda Purple' mums and 'Peacock Red' kale will be underplanted with 'Colossus Tricolor' pansies.	    	
Greenhouse bed	A swath of 'Wanda Lavender' mums throughout the beds bordered in areas with a mix of 'Kamome Pink' kale, 'Pigeon Red' cabbage and Viola 'Colormax Blue Jeans'. Height and texture will be added with 'Peacock Red' kale and 'Purple Majesty' millet.	     	
Greenhouse Pots	Specialty mum topiaries of 'Pink Fleece' will take center stage and be surrounded by a purple leaf heuchera and Viola 'Colormax Blue Jeans'	  	

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