

MSU IN BLOOM

MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



Korean and Japanese Mums

These fall beauties are blooming now!

Holiday Guide

Celebrate the season at the MSU Gardens

Plant Sale Success

Fall fundraiser a huge hit

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Open House	Dec 1
Holiday Porch Pot Class	Dec 5
Spring Program	April 29



Visit

[HTTP://WWW.HRT.MSU.EDU/OUR-GARDENS/](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/our-gardens/)



PLANT SALE SUCCESS

BY DAEDRE MCGRATH
ANNUAL TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

The MSU Horticulture Gardens recently put on a Houseplant and Succulent sale on November 1st, 2016. The sale featured a variety of succulents, foliage houseplants, tillandsias (also known as air plants), and holiday- and spring-blooming bulbs. The sale was a hit! Visitors were so enthusiastic that we sold out of succulents after three hours and sold out of other houseplants by the fifth hour. Over 500 plants were purchased! Originally planned to take place over a three-day period, the event was so successful that we had to conclude the sale at the end of the first day.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the sale and for everyone who planned on attending! Your support helps keep our gardens growing. We plan to hold this event again next year, so if you missed your chance to shop, stay tuned! Next year's sale will be even bigger and better.





KOREAN AND JAPANESE MUMS

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BETHANY TROY
PERENNIAL GARDEN MANAGER



As fall continues to make daily changes in the garden, Korean and Japanese Chrysanthemums are at their peak, displaying hundreds of daisy-like, bright flowers in eye catching colors. Even at a distance, these late blooming, hardy perennials are true show stoppers, blooming longer than several varieties of asters (with some exceptions, including *Aster tataricus* 'Jindai').

The common name for Korean mums is a bit deceiving, as their country of origin is not properly represented. These were actually bred in Connecticut by Alexander Munnings at Bristol University. Developed from rubellums (another mum variety that can be found in the perennial garden), Korean mums are hardy, often to Zone 4. While hundreds of cultivars were bred, only few remain in nursery circulation, including 'Sheffield Pink'. Japanese poms are derived from 'Mei-Kyo', originating from Japan as cuttings. These sport clean, small foliage on stems reaching around two and a half feet tall, in colors ranging from bronze to buttercup yellow. Visit the perennial gardens to get an up close look at our collection!



Photos (top to bottom): 'Mei-Kyo', 'Venus',
'Scheffield Pink'



HOLIDAY GUIDE

CELEBRATE
THE SEASON
AT THE MSU
GARDENS

Holiday Open House -

Thursday, December 1st from noon to 7:30

- See our poinsettia tree under evening lights
- Santa arrives with his sleigh, holiday kids' activities, and Capital Area Railway Society model trains, beginning at 5:30 pm
- Enjoy decorated holiday trees, and refreshments
- Park FREE in the Garden visitor lot off Bogue St.
- No admission charge
- Bring your camera and the kids!

Curious Gardener Holiday Porch Pot Class - Monday, December 5th

- Create an inviting entrance to your home for holiday visitors by attending our Holiday Porch Pot workshop. Each attendee will create a personalized container of holiday greenery, pinecones, red twig dogwood, and other accessories to adorn their front porch. All materials will be provided. Want a matching pair to flank your doorway? Attendees may create a second container for an additional \$15.
- Section #2, 6-8pm - Spots Still Available!
- \$35 for garden members, \$40 for non-members, parking not included
- [Click here to register online](#)

VIP Wine and Chocolate Reception - Tuesday, December 6th

- By invitation only
- Enjoy red wine and dark chocolate during this festive event
- Become a 2016 garden member at the family level or higher to attend
- [Click here to become a member](#)

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Thursday, December 8th

- By invitation only
- Open to MSU Horticulture Gardens volunteers

1990



POINSETTIA TREE: THROUGH THE YEARS

BY DAN BULKOWSKI
GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE MANAGER

The holiday poinsettia tree, located in the Horticulture department's teaching greenhouses' conservatory, is a seasonal tradition. While it's called a "tree", it is actually composed of 300 individual poinsettias held on a metal framework. An additional 50 poinsettias sit on the floor surrounding the tree to hide the tray the tree sits in. The tray collects water that drains from the poinsettias as they are watered. They are not watered by hand, as it would be difficult to reach the top of the 16' structure. Instead, a network of irrigation drip lines, one for each pot on the tree, dispenses fertilizer solution.

The garden staff starts assembling the tree shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday. It takes approximately a full day to put together the framework, test the water lines, and place the poinsettias on the tree. The poinsettias are positioned from top to bottom. When it's completely finished, at first the tree appears a little "green". But after a couple of days, the poinsettias orient themselves toward the light and the tree then takes on a more reddish hue...or pink, or white, depending on the varieties of poinsettia used.

(continued on next page)

2011



2012



In 1988, the metal framework was purchased from a company in Minnesota by Doug Badgero, the greenhouse and garden manager at the time. For the first several years, the poinsettia tree was placed in the middle of the conservatory. At that time, there were four pillars in the center of the conservatory that supported metal bars containing lights (see photo from 1990). The lights on that square structure then were pointed at the tree to highlight the colors of the poinsettias. After the structure was removed, the tree moved to its current, off-center position. This position increased the usable space for events like dinners, holiday parties, and other garden events.

The poinsettia tree provides a colorful backdrop for many holiday photos. Families come in on the weekends to take pictures for Christmas cards to be sent to friends and family. At the Holiday Open House, there is a constant flashing from the photography. It's as much fun for the families to see the yearly growth of their children, as it is to see the different arrangement and colors of the tree. Each year, the tree takes on a slightly different appearance based on the types and quantities of poinsettias grown, as seen in the provided photos. For anyone interested in taking photos, the poinsettia tree is on display starting from our Holiday Open House (this year on December 1st) until just after the New Year.

**WHAT WILL THE TREE LOOK LIKE IN 2016?
COME CHECK IT OUT STARTING
DECEMBER 1ST!**

2013



2014



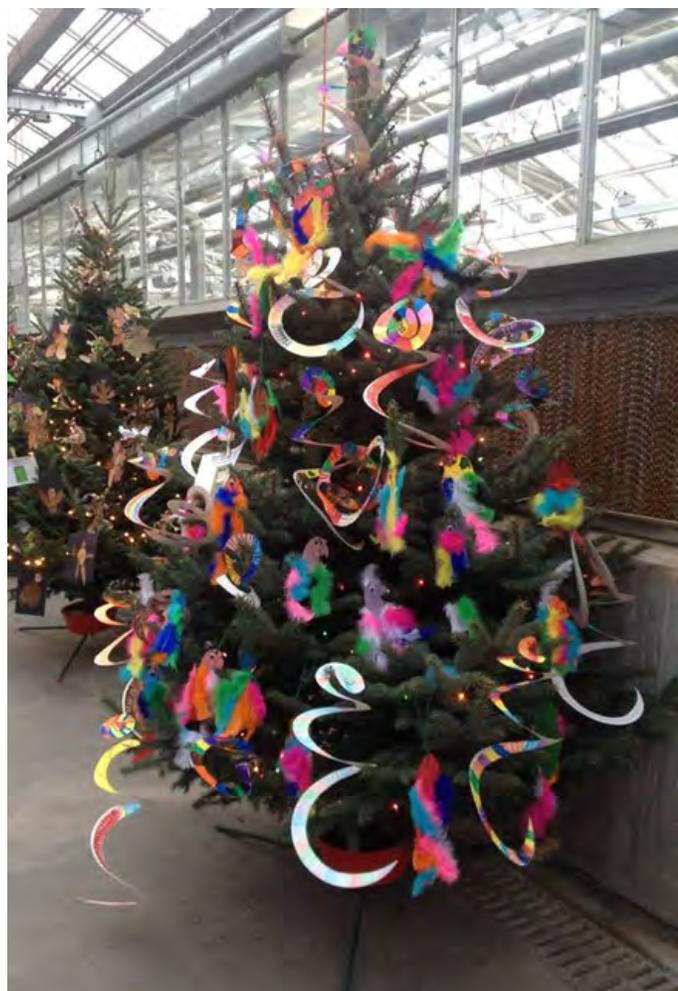
2015



FROM CLASSROOM TO CHRISTMAS TREE

BY JESSICA WRIGHT
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Every November Students from Local schools take part in the 4H Children's Garden annual Christmas Tree Classroom Project. Teachers that have been a part of the 4H Children's Garden field trip program are invited to select a nature-based book. Some titles include *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Great Kapok Tree*, *Planting a Rainbow*, and many more. Staff and volunteers will visit each classroom and students will create projects that are inspired by the books. The trees are set up in the conservatory hallway and decorated with the ornaments the students made in their classrooms. The trees are up from the first of December until after Christmas. This will be the garden's tenth year providing in-school garden based literacy lessons. About 450 students participate in the program each year from a dozen area schools. Please stop by in December and check out the trees.



HOLIDAY GIVING

HELP US
GROW DURING
THIS SEASON
OF GIVING

2017 Garden Membership

Memberships start at just \$35 and provide unlimited benefits throughout the year.

- VIP admission to our Plant Sale
- 10% discount on Plant Sale Purchases
- Free admission to gardens across the nation
- Program discounts
- Admission to our Wine & Chocolate donor reception (family level benefit)
- For additional information and to order a membership, visit www.hrt.msu.edu/join

2017 memberships will be available to purchase in December of 2016

Commemorative Brick

Commemorate a loved one this holiday season by purchasing a brick in their honor. This gift will last forever and create a special memory each time you visit the MSU Horticulture Gardens. Bricks are etched with your desired inscription and can be placed in our walkway or Anniversary Plaza. This is a great gift idea to commemorate weddings, anniversaries, retirements, or the birth of a child. For more information and our order form, visit : www.hrt.msu.edu/our_gardens/donor_opportunities_bricks_and_benches

To sponsor a Commemorative Bench, Lantern, Garden Bed, or other Garden feature, please contact:

Dr Art Cameron, Director, MSU Horticulture Gardens, or
Kenneth Vaughn, Assistant Director of Development
College of Ag and Natural Science
517-353-4749
vaughnk8@msu.edu

Support the Gardens and Give a Gift that Keeps on Giving!

The MSU Horticulture Gardens are largely self-funded. Your support helps fund staff, summer interns, educational programs, ongoing maintenance, and so much more! During this season of giving, keep the gardens in mind and make your holiday shopping a breeze with these unique gift options!





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