



Thousand Bloom Facts 2009

What is a Thousand Bloom?

The Thousand Bloom (known in Japan as *Ozukuri*) is the most exacting and difficult of all the Chrysanthemum training styles. It derives its name for the ambitious goal of a single chrysanthemum plant producing 1,000 perfect blooms.

Why is a Thousand Bloom special?

The method for growing the Thousand Bloom originated in China and Japan more than 200 years ago. A dying art form, there remains only a few growers in the entire world skilled in the techniques needed to grow a Thousand Bloom. Longwood Gardens' team of growers is led by Yoko Arakawa, who has trained in Japan with the master chrysanthemum growers and continues to travel to Japan to advance her understanding of this rare art form.

How do you grow a Thousand Bloom?

The exacting growing technique takes 15-18 months and involves meticulous watering, pinching and tying of the chrysanthemum to a customized frame to get the plant to grow into the desired form. After a wilting period to allow the stems to become more malleable, the blooms are meticulously arranged in a dome shape, with the goal of achieving as many uniform blooms as possible.

Is this the largest Thousand Bloom in the United States? YES! This year, Longwood will feature the largest Thousand Bloom in the United States, with 718 blooms. The largest Thousand Bloom ever was grown in Japan and had over 2,220 blooms.

How long has Longwood been growing the Thousand Bloom?

Longwood has been growing chrysanthemums for exhibition since 1921, but held its first month-long Chrysanthemum Festival in 1981. The Thousand Bloom chrysanthemum style was incorporated into the display around 1994. Today, Longwood's Chrysanthemum Festival features 20,000 blooming chrysanthemums grown in extraordinary ways throughout Longwood's 4-acre conservatory.

What other training styles does Longwood use to grow its dazzling Chrysanthemums?

Other training styles include: Cascades (potted mums trained to grow over a frame to create a cascading effect or specific shape), Obelisks (mums trained up a tower), two and three ball standards (mums trained into a tree form with two or three spheres of foliage and flowers), and Single Stems (where one single-stem plant is trained to grow as tall as six feet, with one bloom on top).