

## *This Month at Reiman Gardens: Spooks, Mums, Quilts, and More!*

Fall is in the air--and in the Conservatory, the Gift Shop, the flower beds, and more!

### Plant Particulars: Fall Annuals



Chrysanthemums, pansy, ornamental kale and others provide beautiful color this time of year. They thrive in cool temperatures and are perfect for perking up containers now filled with tired annuals.

Here are some of our favorite choices for fall flowers. You'll see them in containers in Events Plaza, South Patio, and Town & Country Garden.

**Mums** (*Chrysanthemum*) - With dozens of flower forms, shapes and colors, mums are quintessential fall. Remember, most mums sold this time of year will not last through the winter. And those mums that are winter-hardy will not have enough time to establish before winter. So just treat them like annuals.

**Pansies** (*Viola*) - These cold-tolerant annuals come in dozens of colors and are the perfect addition to fall containers. There is even a mix that contains dark purple and orange flowers--very Halloween!

**Sweet Alyssum** (*Lobularia maritima*) - This low-growing, slightly spreading annual produces tiny fragrant white, pink or lavender blooms and spills out nicely over a container.

**Snapdragons** (*Antirrhinum majus*) - Distinctive flowers are produced on sturdy flower spikes and are deer-resistant.

**Ornamental Kale and Cabbage** (*Brassica oleracea*) - Ornamental versions of edible plants and are often found in beautiful greens, white, purples, and pinks.

**Beets and Swiss Chard** (*Beta vulgaris*) - Both ornamental and edible! Beets and their close relatives, Swiss chard, both have colorful stems that are great in fall containers.

### Spirits in the Gardens

Scare is in the air as our popular Spirits in the Gardens event returns on Saturday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Oct. 20 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Free to 18 and under.

Enjoy craft and activity stations, trick or treating, a black cat scavenger hunt, pumpkin broomball, storytelling, and more! See real live raptors and owls from the Iowa State University Wildlife Care Clinic. Costumes encouraged!



[Click here for more details.](#)

## Savings in the Gift Shop So Huge They're Scary!



Join us for a special Halloween celebration in our Gift Shop on Thursday, October 24, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The theme is "Night of Sleepy Hollow." You'll find huge savings on Halloween décor as well as delicious samples of "witches brew" and wickedly delicious brownies to refresh you.

Admission to the shop is always free; members get 10 percent off.

[Click here to learn more about the Gift Shop.](#)

## Caterpillar Club

If you like our Kids' Story Time, you'll flip for Caterpillar Club! Get out of the house with the little ones and enjoy winter storytelling twice per month, from October to March.

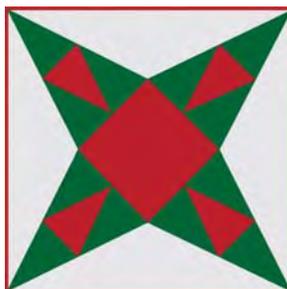
Each gathering features a theme as we read aloud two or three books, and wrap up with related cooperative activities and crafts great for groups and individuals alike. Let's hang out together!

Thursday, October 31 at 10:00 a.m., the theme is "Animal Antics".

Thursday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m., it's "Naughty or Nice?"

[Click here to see the full calendar of education programs.](#)

## Quilts and Barns for the Holidays



Come see Reiman Gardens' beautiful Conservatory decorated for the holidays! Classic decorations will include a barn decked out for the holidays. You'll also see quilts featuring Iowa's official quilt block, called the "Iowa Star".

This special show opens Friday, November 22 and runs through Friday, January 10. If you have out-of-town visitors or just need a quiet spot to enjoy holiday cheer, this is the place!

[Find out more here.](#)

## Nathan's Note

In the Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing, we're doing an interesting experiment. As you may have noticed in past visits, we put out fruit in a dish for certain butterflies. Recently, we started positioning the fruit in the air instead of just laying it in a dish to see if the butterflies reacted to it differently.

So when you visit the Butterfly Wing this month, you'll see pineapple skewered on a stick. So far, we have observed that some species of butterflies that wouldn't typically feed on the fruit in the dish do feed on the pineapple!



Situated on a 14-acre site, the year-round attraction features distinct gardens both indoors and outdoors on a 17-acre campus, a Conservatory with seasonal displays, a 2,500-square-foot Butterfly Wing with emergence cases, a Gift Shop, and beauty for all to enjoy and share.

Reiman Gardens  
1407 University Blvd.  
Ames, IA 50011

Email: [reimangardens@iastate.edu](mailto:reimangardens@iastate.edu)  
Phone: 515.294.2710



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