



Media Alert
For Immediate Release

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Mum's The Word At Como

The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's Fall Flower Show Opens October 10

Saint Paul, MN (October 6, 2009) – As summer turn to autumn, so does the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory when it opens the annual Fall Flower Show Saturday, October 10th. From October 10th to November 1st the show will feature hundreds of chrysanthemums with colors of yellow, lavender, purple and pink highlighted with Purple Flash and Black Pearl ornamental peppers. After a quick show change November 2nd thru November 6th, the Sunken Garden reopens to a chrysanthemum floral display of maroon, gold and orange with Masquerade and Sangria ornamental peppers. The tradition of the annual Fall Flower Show began in 1915 when the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory first opened. Today, the Conservatory hosts five season annual flower shows.

The chrysanthemum flower has been known since before 5000 BC in a small yellow form. Ancient China and Japan both have tales explaining how the chrysanthemum originated. The Chinese who considered them the highest of flowers, named their royal throne after the flower. Chrysanthemum flowers have traditionally been boiled in China to make "chrysanthemum tea," used in folk medicine for influenza patients. In landscaping, chrysanthemums are valued for the fact that they bloom in fall. Chrysanthemum flowers are also a favorite of florists for arrangements, due to the longevity of their blooms.

The Fall Flower Show at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory is open October 10-November 29 from 10:00am-4:00pm. There will be a show change November 2 - 6 in which the Sunken Garden will be closed, but **all other rooms of the Conservatory will remain open to the public.**

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Background

For over 100 years, Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and Como Zoo in Saint Paul, Minnesota has charmed, educated and entertained millions of children and adults while fostering an appreciation of the natural world, helping to make Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America. The Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is open 365 days; 10am-6pm from April 1-October 1 and 10am-4pm from October 2-March 31. Admission to both the Como Zoo and Marjorie McNeely Conservatory is always free and a voluntary donation is appreciated.

For more information, visit www.comozooconservatory.org.

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