Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I am Judy Simpson. Today on the program we are heading north to the city of Montreal. One of the cost see attractions for gardeners is the Montreal botanical gardens. Joining me is UVM extension horticulturalist Leonard Perry. He is going to highlight some of the garden and show us some beautiful scenes of an international festival. Welcome Leonard.

Leonard.: Great to be back.

Judy.: In the world of horticulture Montreal botanical gardens are among the most important.

Leonard.: They are and we are so fortunate to have them so close. One of the top botanical Gardens in the world some rank as second. It's a very user friendly garden over 100 acres dozens of types of gardens there so much to see there hopefully we can do a whole show on this. New plants new design ideas a lot of things change each year of course greenhouses just a lot to see.

Judy.: You brought a lot of photos we're going to start with a special festival.

Leonard.: Write one of the main gardens they have is the Chinese Gardens. Here you see one of the views of it typical of the main dynasty. This is during the daytime obviously showing some of the classical architecture like you see in this Chinese Garden. Over two acres it's the largest outside of China of this type of garden. Here in this courtyard is Chinese bonsai called Panjen. Some of the original banzai if you will more natural in affect then Japanese banzai which is a lot more controlled. By daytime then by night when you enter the main entrance you can see they have lights on all these different pagodas around gardens during this lantern festival. That's what we'll be looking at for
the next few slides this special festival which again is the top outside of China
that runs in September and October of each year. A lot of people when you
think lanterns and all these things hanging from posts. These are gorgeous are
all made of silk. A few years ago they switched to LED lighting so it's very
energy efficient and even brighter. All the walks are lined with several
hundred of these lanterns which is really pretty in itself. You enter the
gardens this year but this is more the type a lantern you see actually you figure
a lot of animals and peoples we'll see. Here it is by day and then by knight has
its very brilliant. SS all the colors come alive there's the same bird as you go
in. As you enter through the woods to this Chinese Garden. In the woods this
year they had a couple of these different beasts. They had a tiger on one side
and this dragon on the other. Again by day even by day you can see the bright
colors but then by night a really glows. Again this dragon lantern Chinese
Garden. Some of these they use from year to year but there's changes each
year so there's a lot a new ones too. Such as these here the soldiers as you
enter the entry courtyard you see special lighting and night. It's very
attractive. By day also in the same entry courtyard some birds probably Ibis
feeding some bamboo and then by night you can focus on the things that are lit
up here with the backlighting and blue really makes it stand out. Just
gorgeous these Chinese lanterns botanic garden. Also in this entry courtyard is
fierce looking dragon here with its mouth open by day and then of course by
night you can really see a glow and it's something you want to look at. Then
there's this beast mythical beast of course the Chinese Garden is filled with
mythology and a lot of symbolism. This is the quillin a mythical beast along
with the phoenix tortoise and the dragon the four main beasts of China and this
actually symbolizes piece and triumph of justice and the birth of children that
are destined to go on the great things. There's a lot a symbol is unjust and that
we're looking at the face and the expression the lighting is just pretty special.

Judy.: It's amazing have the same lantern during the day look so different and
night

Leonard.: Again I think it's good if you can see it both. Mention later a ticket or
up there each year usually during the daytime. During the day time you see
the background setting and you can see the vibrancy of the colors which is very
bright during the daytime but then at night of course all that phase out and
you just focus on the lanterns. Again a different affect with both. As I
mentioned the chair they have a theme and this year this team is the first
emperor of China which dates back to 200 BC. Qin Shi Won Di he was the first
of 400 emperors they've had in China. He ruled for 40 years and if you know a
bit about China and the Terra Cotta warriors that they excavated in 1980 that
was one of his legacies and we'll see an example of that. This theme this year
depicts him returning here or the drummers. Read again symbolizes prosperity and good luck of the drums and gong symbolizing him returning by day and then of course by night. You can almost hear the sound of the drum. his chariot the horses just looking at the expression on those is just wonderful and the detail. These are actually designed a year ahead made in China and there shipped over from China two the gardens where they are assembled in the summer and put up for the fall display which again runs September and October. Here is the emperor in its chariot returning his perception all around him we'll take a closer look at that. And berry is by night an archway he is just entered in the background lettering depicting his dynasty on it. Then we have some of the many soldiers. This year I thought you know each year that's been changes and this year there seems to be a lot more figure's with all the different soldiers either on foot or horseback. Here's a closeup again showing the expression which is so realistic on these people and the horses. Here again couple soldiers one of the pagoda is in the background again you can see the expressions as they return from Mongolia to the capital city. A close up here in the background some of the lighting actually depicts pieces of the Great Wall of China up and the hillside that they had there. Inside one of the goat as some more soldiers which you can study really close hand as opposed to being out in the pond like the others wear these are right there you can really go up to them. I mentioned earlier the Terra Cotta warriors. A lot of the soldiers when the estimated them as on the right the air exposed to the pain oxidized it and it faded out so they've developed new technology to actually restore and preserve those colors as you see on the left there. This I thought was pretty neat by day one of the peasants returning with a camel book by night it just glowed. Just the colors contrasting the blue and orange of the camel. Actually looking close up I think one of the special things to me was the expressions they got. Home only the people but on the animals. It almost looks like as camel is smiling having his picture taken. It's very brilliant and fun. They had an emperor's chariots as but they also had passenger chariots where the nobility and the high up people. This would be an example of that returning. Again by day the procession as with the stone bridge in the background. As you can kind of see the pond it almost looks like a glassy surface that these are on very still helps reflect colors of night as you see here the same view of the procession returning. The first emperor of China. A fisherman in a bed of sedum by day. He's holding a group of fish but you can really see it night it almost looks like the fish are still alive and jumping on his string. That's pretty amazing and then a family sitting with a baby there in some woods by day and then by night it really glows you can see the lighting it's just amazing how they design these and make them by hand in China and light these up. This one was over by the insectarium it's one of the other special buildings just a dedicated to insects. You can see them live you can see the mounted whatever so of course outside
they have a grasshopper lantern on this flower outside the insectarium. That's again a building well worth seeing at the botanic gardens.

Judy.: Those are incredible works of art what did you say they're made out of?

Leonard.: Fabrics silk basically. Again they save a lot of these they're a cycle some not the main scene but if there's a dragon or animals that family might see a couple years down the road.

Judy.: You take a group on a date or each year to the gardens. You took them up in September. Or some of the highlights?

Leonard.: We go up sometimes in the summertime which is very special too but the nice thing about early September you can see both the lanterns by day and you can still see there's a lot to see out in the gardens and this year it was pretty neat well each year is the there so many design but I brought a few examples of the combinations I think is one of the real strengths for me and the gardens seeing some of these design, nations that they put together out in the gardens. A couple things here this is the entrance where you buy your tickets. You can see the green houses in the back they have 11 of these they're currently renovating the begonia one. Some really well known collections one is orchids one is begonias and they have some others but outside in these main raised beds you can see there's cabbage and kale inter planted there a long with a fountain grass but rising out of the center is in our work. This is special this year it's from the Taiwanese artists Jou Ming who was a leading figure in contemporary Asian art. His exhibits have been around the world his sculptures these particular 12 bronze sculptures which are now at the botanic gardens mainly out an arboretum that this is an example of one of them. Each year you can see some of these very special exhibits such as one of Jou Ming up a Taiwanese artist. Now out in the front they have massed displays which are just striking to see thousands literally of annuals. This is a new purple leaf fountain grass which I haven't seen before. I'm always learning new plants and those are New Guinea impatiens. You'll think I can do that at home will you can on a small scale. You can play one plant or three of four plants around it to get the same color affect even though you don't have the mass affect. That's one example with the fountains right in front of the main building the main entrance to the botanic gardens that out front it must be 1/4 half an acre of plantings like this. Several things they've used a lot in mass and this year. The ornamentals sweet potato which is a golden plant then the bluish looks like waves coming up on the shore. A lot of great effects created by massing. That is salvia and ageratum inter planted. In the back a couple things they've used papyrus which is a grass like plant that more of a water plant but it grows well
and beds. You can buy that in stores as you can those big plants called elephant ears. Now they had several different types. Those have been very popular for that tropical look. Of course they're very tender so you can't have them over winter like any of these they're all in annuals here. Just a great effect a mass but again you can do it on a smaller scale. One of the things I liked was surprised this year in front of the insectarium we mentioned a whole area this is not grass but it's white clover. No mowing in that area if you want a green affect and you don't want to mow think about white clover, it enriches the soil that's all this is ?it's great for the bee's too with a white flowers so appropriate for the insectarium. An example of one of the fall plantings just wonderful with all the different ornamental grasses. It seemed like the ornamental Grasses was a big part of the gardens throughout the year this year and of course no better time than fall to see their affects. The many types and these are not that you mow. These are the club forming ones you don't spread. These are really great for affect several different seasons along with some taller white flowering tobacco and again looks like more salvia. Just a whole host of plants with a little path disappearing in there just a wonderful affect. An example of the types of gardens. This is an idea I brought home I'm going to try next year. This is a faux window. I need a focal point out my garden and I'm thinking okay the window frame in as an excuse for a window box. It just needs to be near the hose so I can keep it watered but I thought this was a really neat affect to add something different to the garden with a piece of structure as opposed to sculpture that someone could do at home along with Canis in the foreground.

Judy.: That's a great idea. Did you get any other ideas for new plants and combinations?

Leonard.: Always again some other not only new plants but combinations. They're very creative how they come up with those so I brought a few examples ones that struck me and some of the ones on our tour. This is one I saw its cardoon and artichoke along with amaranth. Again you could use a solosya. The bright red the silver is a real striking bowl textures if you want that and that's right near a walk. Again a very big contrast the golden spider wart astriduscancia which for me doesn't really spread tends to revert a little bit. Combined with the coral-bells. Here we can use them as annuals to get a real good effect. One of the things they did combine not only inter planting which I've done at our waterfront gardens this year so I was glad to see I was right on the design focus. But also using indoor plants such as this foxtail asparagus fern which is a green up a right in the bed thread along with medallions. Ironweed the vernonia is a great plan for fall affect in the gardens you can see the butterfly. Here is a giant one. Ornamental kale a great fall affect with
purple leaf again interplanting the silver of the licorice plant and the purple leaf peppers. Another pepper very dated pepper along with orange as zinnias. And then a hanging basket that looks like a jellyfish. New Guinea impatiens with the dicondrea silver falls coming down like jellyfish tentacles.

Judy.: That's great. So this is just a small sample of what is up and the gardens is that correct.

Leonard.: That's true on my website I have pictures from previous years and all also put up I'm having tours next year so if anyone's interested they can check that out next spring and see what the perry's perennial pages web site Perry's perennials.info is where you can find that.

Judy.: Once again if people are interested in visiting the gardens. The best time to go do you think?

Leonard.: Its open year round of course September October is the time to see the Chinese lanterns but the gardens are open year round. Spring for the bulbs and summer I like July if you really want to see a lot of flowers in bloom.

Judy.: Leonard thanks so much. That's our program for today I'm Judy Simpson we will see you again next time on Across the Fence.

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