



## **The 2011 FoWP Belgian Mum Project**

FoWP (Friends of Westgate Park) is partnering with Gro-Link ( Oxnard, CA; <http://www.grolink.com> ), the exclusive distributor of Belgian garden mums in the US, for displaying Belgian mums at [Westgate Park](#), Columbus, Ohio. Belgian garden mums are distinguished by their tremendous bloom count, flexible stems (the stems don't break easily), ball-shaped plant habit, and these mums are relatively easy to grow in garden environments (no pinching necessary since Belgian garden mums are self-branching). The addition of Belgian garden mums to Westgate Park will advance the park beautification goals of FoWP by providing needed color to the park landscape during the late Summer/Fall season.

Gro-Link will provide FoWP with 50 varieties of Belgian garden mums free of charge (including eight new varieties for 2011) in ten color classes with decorative (many petals), daisy, and button flower forms. The Belgian mum varieties selected by Gro-Link include "very early" season varieties (begin blooming in early September), "early season" varieties (begin blooming in mid-September), and mid-season varieties (begin blooming in late September). Gro-Link will ship to FoWP Board member Tom Prince hundreds of un-rooted Belgian mum cuttings in late May, 2011. Tom will root over 600 mum cuttings for FoWP in plug trays, and will later transplant the small mum "plugs" into flats, and grow the transplants into small plants for plantings at Westgate Park. FoWP will designate an early/mid July "Belgian Mum Planting Day" for FoWP members to participate in the mum plantings at the park. Several bed areas around the newly renovated Westgate shelterhouse are currently being planned for the Belgian garden mums, and Belgian mum plants will be offered for park plantings to all FoWP members that sponsor or adopt the 15 floral beds at Westgate Park. The 600 Belgian mum plants translates into 600 to 900 sq.ft. of Belgian garden mum display area at Westgate Park.

During the peak garden mum blooming period (late September), FoWP plans on having an ice cream social & fund raiser, "Belgian Mum Day at Westgate Park" (tentative date: Sunday, Sep. 25th, 2011; 3 - 6 pm). During this "Mums the Word" fund-raising event, FoWP members will interest attendees & park visitors with the events & activities of FoWP, and specifically, with the new Belgian mum displays at Westgate Park. After the Fall bloom season, FoWP will report to Gro-Link the 2011-2012 winter survival status of the 50 Belgian mum varieties planted at Westgate Park (Tom Prince will coordinate the Belgian Mum Hardiness Trial).