

Chrysanthemum 'Hillside Sheffield Pink' (Hardy Garden Mum)

YEW DELL BOTANICAL GARDENS



"EVERY LEAF SPEAKS BLISS TO ME, FLUTTERING FROM THE AUTUMN TREE." -EMILY BRONTË

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Fore!

In the game of golf there's long been a saying coined to encourage golfers to focus their attention on the things that count the most — "You drive for show but putt for dough." Sure those 300-yard drives impress everyone on the tee. But those 3-foot missed putts... they cost you a whole lot more.

Gardens aren't all that different.

Spring in the garden is so much about show. Everything's new. Everything's in bloom. We've been cooped up inside so long that we're amazed by the daintiest of blooms or most mundane of colors. And sure, you can do all sorts of positive and productive things in the spring garden, but the fall season is when you can make the biggest and most lasting impacts.

But as with anything in the garden, there are just so many options and so many opinions... and it seems that recommendations change as often as the whole butter vs. margarine thing. Sure, you know fall is for planting. But exactly when is fall... to the plants? Newsflash—they don't read the calendars or the Farmer's Almanac. Do I rake my leaves, mulch them, or let them sit on the lawn all winter long. It's almost as bad as paper vs. plastic at the grocery store!

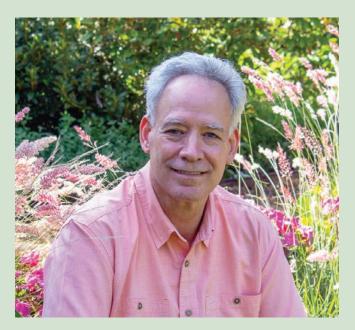
In this Fall issue, we spend some time helping you make the most of your fall, whether it's what to look for when you come for a visit, where to focus your energy in garden clean-up efforts, or how to get the most out of fall planting. Our garden pros share experiences and lay out some wellbaked food for thought so you can make your own informed plan.

And when you need a break from that fall garden work, we'll look forward to seeing you at one of our fall classes or workshops, events, or at Martha Lee's Kitchen for lunch amidst the splendor of the fall garden.

Happy Gardening!

Pan Exappille





Scan the QR code to register & for more info. **Register right away**—classes will fill quickly and early enrollment is suggested! *All listed programs are scheduled to be in-person unless otherwise noted.*



"THE WELL-GARDENED MIND" READING AND LECTURE WITH SUE STUART-SMITH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 • 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Included with Admission

Join us for a conversation with Dr. Sue Stuart-Smith, author of "The Well Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature," as she discusses her 2021 book on the power of gardening. Drawing on her grandfather's return from World War I, Sigmund Freud's obsession with flowers, and interviews with people from various gardening projects, Sue will discuss how gardening can answer deep existential needs and present findings from recent research showing that connecting to nature alleviates symptoms of anxiety, stress, and depression.

Come for the lecture and stay for lunch at Martha Lee's Kitchen!



PUMPKIN GLOW MASK WORKSHOP Wednesday, October 16 • 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Members \$35 / Non-Members \$45

Boo! 'Tis the season for scary masks, but this workshop will leave you with a happy smile. Join Tonya Tate, creator of Nature's Bath Soap, for a chance to use "pumpkin guts" to create a facial mask that will make your skin glow! Learn with Tonya about the incredible nutrients in pumpkins while making your own face polish for hydrated, smooth, and radiant skin.



BLUEBIRD BOX BUILDING Sunday, October 20 · 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Members \$15 per Pair / Non-Members \$25 per Pair

Philip Tamplin, from the Kentucky Bluebird Society, leads participants through the steps of building a bluebird box while sharing the importance of supporting and protecting bluebirds. You'll learn about their nesting seasons, and how our actions help their survival. Afterwards, plan to take a walk around Yew Dell to help Philip "clean out" the bird boxes he has previously placed in our gardens to prepare them for the next season. You will take the bird box you made home with you.

Workshop is geared to adult/child pairs, and space is limited to eight pairs.

PUMPKIN COMPOSTING WITH OLDHAM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER I • 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Once the spooky holiday is over, bring your pumpkin to Yew Dell for composting! We're partnering with our friends at Oldham County Conservation District to keep pumpkins out of landfills. We'll add your pumpkin to our nurtured compost pile, where they'll eventually decompose and provide enrichment to our plants. *As a thank you, each dropped-off pumpkin earns a guest pass to visit Yew Dell during our regular hours.*



Boo Dell!

BOO DELL AT YEW DELL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 • 12:00 – 4:00 PM INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

NDAY, OCTOBER 27 • 12:00 - 4:00 PM SLUDED WITH ADMISSION 9 look forward to seeing you for Boo Dell 2024 for a 2 sused fun! Our famous Trail of Treats will once and Foundation

Presented by: LCEF and KU

We look forward to seeing you for Boo Dell 2024 for another year of familyfocused fun! Our famous Trail of Treats will once again delight guests, plus we have activities with our Horticulture Team, live music, and other surprises for the whole family in a non-scary environment. Boo Dell is included with admission; tickets can be purchased at arrival.

Please note that this is a blackout date for Hounds on the Grounds due to expected crowds.



ENJOY A NEW TAKE ON OUR TRADITIONAL WREATH WORKSHOPS!



BEYOND BALSAM: TIPS & TRICKS TO GROWING YOUR OWN WREATH AT HOME

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 • 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Members \$25 / Non-Members \$35

Join Jacob Stidham and Storm Fraley from our horticulture team on this walk around the grounds as they point out unique evergreens used for wreath making plus other flowers, fruit, stems, and leaves you can use to add that extra zip to your winter wreath. Participants will receive a wreath frame to take home so they may put to use all the information they learned during the workshop to complete a wreath from their home gardens.



DRIED FLOWER ORNAMENT WORKSHOP SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 • 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM MEMBERS \$45 / NON-MEMBERS \$55

Learn from Yew Dell's Yuletide design experts on how to make your own Dried Flower Ornament! Sayde Heckman, our Garden and Arboretum Manager, and Jill Tinius, our cut flower guru, will lead participants through the steps of making their own unique glass ornament to take home. This dynamic duo was responsible for the botanical ornaments highlighted at last year's Yuletide that blew people away, so you'll be learning from the very best! Ticket fee includes all supplies plus refreshments.

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING: WASSAIL AND WINE EDITION!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 • 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

MEMBERS \$110 / NON-MEMBERS \$120

Why not start a new tradition with this festive twist on an already favorite holiday workshop. Like all our wreath workshops, we'll provide the greens, the frame, and all the decor and instruction you need to make your own holiday wreath. But this session will add festive holiday refreshments to enjoy during the class and then time to enjoy the Yuletide lights on the grounds during this child-free evening. *Wassail = non-alcoholic cider drink with option to add brandy, rum, bourbon, or whiskey.*



HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM AND 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM AND 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM AND 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM MEMBERS \$75 / NON-MEMBERS \$85

Sign up now because these fill up fast!

Our Yew Dell family classic returns for another holiday season, with a third weekend added to try to meet demand. Our expert staff will lead you through the process of making your own special holiday wreath from materials collected right here on the grounds. From greens to unique berries, cones, and other botanical treasures, we'll have everything you need to make your wreath stand out from the crowd!

Don't miss your chance to get tickets for a workshop. Sign up for our monthly **Garden eNews**!



WREATH MAKING: DATE NIGHT EDITION Thursday, december 12 • 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

MEMBERS \$135 PER COUPLE / NON-MEMBERS \$145 PER COUPLE

Wreath Making takes on a whole new energy when you work together with your spouse/partner/main squeeze on a seasonal design that you'll take home to enjoy. For this edition, we'll provide the greenery, form, decor items, and instructions – plus festive holiday refreshments to enjoy during the class and then time to enjoy the Yuletide lights on the grounds during this child-free evening.



YULETIDE 2024

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS • NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 21 Two time shifts per Night: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm and 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Members: Adults \$9 / Seniors & Children \$5 /Children 5 and under free but still require a ticket General Admission: Adults \$12 / Seniors & Children \$7 / Children 5 and under free but still require a ticket

Yuletide 2024 returns for another season of family fun! Look forward to a new display of holiday lights and horticulturally-inspired decor, plus fan favorites like our delightful train village, Holiday Trees, a craft for the kids, food and beverages for purchase, and Santa! Thanks to music sponsor, Wilson & Muir Bank and Trust Company, for supporting this holiday tradition.

Advance tickets recommended with limited walk-up availability each night.





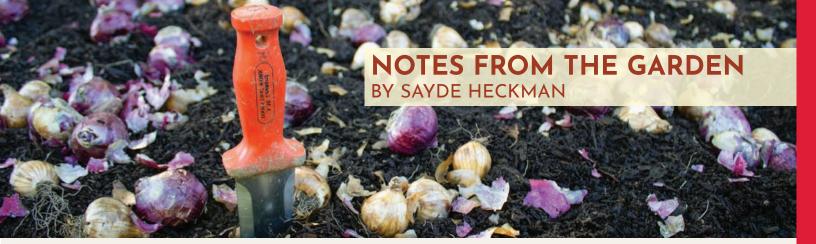
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Why does springtime get to have all the fun? Now that it's fall, the temperatures are starting to cool off, the days are getting shorter, and the gardens are entering dormancy. It's the perfect time to put on our gardening gloves and give a cool plant a new home!

Here are just a few reasons why we love fall planting:

- 1. Cooler fall temperatures mean the plants are less stressed than they are during the heat of summer;
- 2. Fall is a time that plants focus energy on root development rather than top growth;
- 3. Fall plantings get a head start on establishment in their new home and can emerge in spring better prepared for the summer months.

Our horticulture crew has a couple of fun planting projects planned this season to take advantage of all the great plant-establishment weather the season has to offer.

Big Bloom 2025

The Big Bloom – Yew Dell's annual spring flower bulb extravaganza – is EXPANDING! This year's record planting will consist of more than **27,675** hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, and perennial bulbs to build upon our existing collection. One of the new bulb plantings will be in the main parking lot (pictured) to make sure that it takes your breath away before you even park the car!





Portion of Serpentine Garden containing selection of shade perennials.

Arisaema consanguineum

(Himalayan Cobra Lily)



Hosta 'Elvis Lives' (Hosta)



New canvas for our garden team to add plants!



Chelone lyonii 'Armitpp02' (Tiny Tortuga™ Turtlehead)

Serpentine Garden Expansion

The Serpentine Garden is named after the original Klein family *Taxus x media* (Yew) hedge, that was replaced a number of years ago with Spirea 'Ogon' (Spirea). The east part of that planting has been home to a large canopy of mature evergreen trees and awesome shade perennials. The understory includes a treasure trove of gems from our good friend and noted plantsman, Gene Bush, of Munchkin Nursery. In this planting you'll find everything from Arisaema consanguineum (Himalayan Cobra Lily) to an array of Hosta and Epimedium species. NEW plantings will expand this garden to encompass more of the existing evergreen tree collection and will be home to more shade perennials collected from near and far.

Castle Gardens Updates

From growing plants to building new walls, the project is gaining momentum. If you've not joined the effort, now's the time. With about \$300,000 left to hit our goal, this is a great time to help us get over the finish line. Scan the QR code or contact us at **development@yewdellgardens.org** or **502.241.4788**.





Yew Dell Nursery Staff Growing Plants for the Castle Gardens Project

Yew Dell's brilliant nursery staff have been busy growing new plants for the new Castle Gardens project. More than 4,000 herbaceous perennials representing scores of varieties will spend the winter in the nursery before they are planted in the new gardens early next spring. More than 95% of the plants for the new gardens will be grown in Yew Dell's nursery.

First Concrete Footers Poured for the Castle Overlook Wall

Like so many parts of any complex project, there are many essential details that end up invisible when the work is done. These newly poured concrete footers will provide the needed support for the new retaining walls, ramps and stairs. And while those footers are essential to making the whole plan work, this is about the only time you'll have a chance to lay eyes on them. They will remain below ground, quietly doing the hard work.



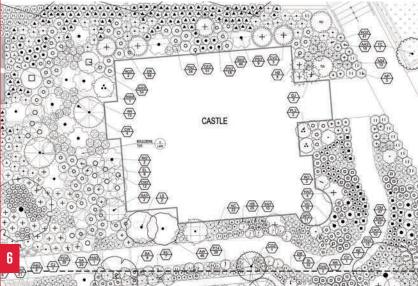


Measure Twice – Cut Once

Well, not as much measuring but more like making sure... Before pouring any of the final concrete (especially the concrete that will remain visible in the finished garden), general contractor E-Z Construction poured several sample wall segments to make sure that everyone agrees on the fit and finish. The sample wall will be broken up once everyone signs off – and will be used as fill somewhere on the project.

So You Wanna Plant a Garden?

Just one small snippet of the miles and miles of detailed plans provides some measure of the complexity of the planting plan. And in addition to detailed planting plans, there are irrigation plans, utility plans, demolition, grading, paving, lighting, and a long list of other detailed plans. Close coordination among the designers from Land Morphology, general contractor E-Z Construction, and Yew Dell staff members has been an ongoing process with weekly meetings scheduled to keep everything moving in the right direction.



DISCOVER FALL AT YEW DELL



Pavilion Garden Symphyotrichum oblongifolium 'October Skies' (Aster) Arboretum - South Diospyros virginiana (Persimmon)

Arboretum - North Sassafras albidum (Sassafras) Woodland Hiking Trail *Carya ovata* (Shagbark Hickory)



Arboretum - North Hamamelis virginiana (Witch Hazel) Sunken Garden Muhlenbergia capillaris (Muhly Grass) Entrance Garden Ginkgo biloba (Ginkgo)

Arboretum - South Tsuga sieboldii (Southern Japanese Hemlock)

December



Millstone Garden Helleborus niger (Christmas Rose) Throughout The Grounds *llex opaca* (American Holly) Arboretum - North Fagus sylvatica 'Contorta' (Contorted Beech) Arboretum - North Acer griseum (Paperbark Maple)



Gardening has always been a question of balance. Lean too much to one side of any issue and you can do more harm than good. And with so many information sources screaming at you these days, it's difficult to know what to do.

Fall garden clean-up is one of those subjects. It's become a minefield! Back when we were supposed to eat margarine instead of butter, the rule was that you rake the lawn and the beds until your knuckles bleed. On the lawn, accumulated thatch was sitting there all sinister and smug, waiting to infect your spring growth with all kinds of nasties. And leaves... a single fallen leaf left in your perennial bed through the winter would signal the Wicked Witch of the West's flying monkeys to swoop in, disrupt your social standing, and cart your young children off to Dr. Frankenstein's castle.

Now we're supposed to leave everything in place to feed the bugs and the plants... naturally... What gives?!

The truth is, it's all about balance. And despite what some over-produced social media videos might make you think, there is no one-size-fits-all answer.

Thatch, that occasional buildup of old, dead grass blades that hangs out at ground level, can be a source of overwintering disease organisms. But as it breaks down, it can also provide valuable nutrients and organic matter for the roots and soil below. If you don't have much disease pressure on your lawn during the growing season, chances are it won't be that much of a problem in the thatch layer.



To mulch or not to mulch – the lawn, that is. Mulching mowers are all the rage these days. A rechargeable, mulching mower gets you even more points and maybe even a free bumper sticker. Chopping up those lawn clippings into tiny pieces that can quickly break down and release nutrients to the lawn's roots is a nice boost to the plants. But there's a tradeoff. Many homeowner-scale rechargeable mowers are not able to cut up the grass into sufficiently small pieces. The grass clippings don't break down fast enough so end up exacerbating the thatch problem.

As for your leaves in the fall, the same thing applies. If you combine a sufficiently powerful mower with not too heavy a load of fallen leaves, mulching makes sense. But I know with the little toy mower I have for my tiny lawn, combined with being surrounded by gigantic shade trees, it's a losing battle.

Cutting back perennials in the fall used to be the standard. Clean it all up in the fall and you'll have fewer bugs and fewer diseases come spring. But as we've learned more about the birds and the bees, we've learned the value of providing overwintering structures in the winter garden. Accumulated leaf litter, hollow plant stems, seed heads full of seeds... There are so many reasons to leave all that material in place. But as much as I understand it, I have a hard time leaving my entire garden looking like an abandoned drive-in movie theater all winter and early spring. My solution... in the highly visible areas, I cut back perennials in the fall. And as much as possible, I pile the clippings somewhere else to allow them to do their habitat work. In less visible areas, I let things do their own thing.



As with most things, there is no absolute answer to gardening. And similar to the "Shoot! I forgot the reusable totes!" when shopping, you accept that you can only do what you can in hopes of helping our environment. We're happy to help you along the way by answering any questions about sustainable gardening the next time you visit Yew Dell.

NOTES FROM THE NURSERY BY JEFF MARGREITER

Seed saving is an incredibly rewarding experience for any gardener, whether you are collecting seeds from your garden for next year's crop or collecting the seed of wildflowers and other ornamental plants to expand collections in your garden. Aside from the obvious money you'd save, it is an outdoor activity that can be as casual or thorough as you see fit. Fall is a wonderful time to collect seeds due to the abundance of Summer- and Autumn-blooming plants that have attracted their pollinators, dazzled us with their floral display, and now wait for either wind, animals, or an eager gardener to disperse their progeny. Though bloom time and the period of viable seed-set can vary, an internet search to create a calendar can aid your endeavor.



I have consistently used mesh bags with a drawstring to collect seeds from plants but here are a few things to keep in mind:

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- The fruit of many plants including Columbine, Hibiscus, and Peas split open when mature to disperse their seeds. Some burst open upon the slightest disturbance, scattering seeds all over the place!
- Seeds from Blazing Star, Goldenrod, and Milkweed are dispersed by the wind. If you see these plants losing their flower petals and starting to engorge with fruit/seed, place a seed collection bag over the fruit and tie it in place.
- Dry fruit that clings on for easy collecting such as Coneflowers won't require seed bags. Snag a good amount and leave the rest for birds to feed on before the harsh winter.
- Seeds from fleshy fruits like Persimmon and Paw Paw should be removed from the pulp and washed before storing.

Tips on seed storage:

- Be sure to wait until your seeds have matured from green to a much darker brown color.
- Wash your seeds to remove any soil, fungi, or pests then dry 1-2 days.
- Place seeds in a labeled paper envelope or back into the seed bag they were collected in- it's important for the container to be breathable!
- I prefer not to use plastic bags as excess moisture coming from the seeds can build up and cause rotting or premature germination.
- Storing Seeds I generally like to store most small seeds cool and dry. A refrigerator works well but many will do
 just fine in an area that is dark, dry, and cool. Large, fleshy seeds like acorns and buckeyes generally don't store well
 and like to be sown as soon as they are mature.
- Stratifying Seeds Many temperate zone plants need about a 90-day cool and moist treatment before they will germinate. A little moist sphagnum moss and a plastic bag or container in the refrigerator works great.
- Seed Germination On the other side, warmth, moisture, and light are needed for germination, so you need the exact opposite conditions to save seeds for sowing next Spring!



Note: If you're a fan of pollinator seed mixes, why not collect a whole host of species' seeds and create a mix of your own to share with your friends!



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YEW DELL'S CUT FLOWER PRODUCTION GARDEN



It has been an exciting season in the Cut Flower Garden at Yew Dell. This year, we provided flowers for sale at the gift shop, events, bi-weekly subscriptions, the cafe's patio, and even one of our own weddings! The stunning allure of fresh flowers can't help but grab guests' attention. We are so thrilled to provide environmentally-friendly and beautiful home decor. We plan to continue to incorporate flowers from the garden into every season at Yew Dell. Keep an eye out at Yuletide for holiday decor from the gardens and sign up for a workshop to learn how to do it yourself!

Give a gift of the gardens with a gift membership

A membership to Yew Dell Botanical Gardens is the perfect gift this holiday season.

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens gift memberships support the hard work of all our staff: horticulture, event, Visitors Center, and administrative and support, as well as our amazing team of volunteers. A gift membership also offers the recipient the opportunity to visit one of their favorite local botanical gardens throughout the year and lasts for one year from date of purchase. They will also receive discounts in the Garden Gift Shop and early access to workshops and events like Bourbon & Botanicals!

Scan the QR code to learn more.

Gift memberships will be mailed to the recipient at the address you provided.





VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

This summer, we had a record-breaking number of groups come to volunteer in the gardens! **We had 19 groups volunteer over the span of nine weeks**. The highlight was the final week of June, when we had seven groups, involving 129 people (or about 25% of our TOTAL headcount from 2023), in four days! This included our hosting of the inaugural Reciprocal Volunteer Program in partnership with Waterfront Botanical Gardens and Bernheim Forest & Arboretum. We are so grateful to our community of volunteers and everything they help us accomplish!



Scan to learn more about volunteering at Yew Dell!

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Sayde Heckman, our Garden & Arboretum Manager, was recently elected onto the board of directors for the Perennial Plant Association (PPA), a national professional organization for those who produce, market, design, tend to, and love perennial plants. Sayde will be representing Yew Dell Botanical Gardens as the Southern Region Director of the PPA and cannot wait to get more people excited about horticulture across the country!





Amanda Allred, our Volunteer & Website Coordinator, was elected President of the Kentuckiana Association for Volunteer Administration (KAVA) earlier this year. KAVA exists to promote the field of volunteer administration by offering education, training, and networking opportunities to local volunteer administrators.

Thank You For Supporting Twilight in the Garden



We want to extend a large and gracious thank you to all the corporate and community sponsors, the time and talents of our dedicated Board of Directors, our donors, our amazing volunteers, and of course-our dedicated staff for their efforts in Twilight in the Garden 2024. Without their generous contributions and time, we would not be what we are today! Thank you! All of you have helped to make this year's Twilight in the Garden even brighter. A special shout out to our Presenting Sponsors for Twilight in the Garden 2024: Mercedes-Benz of Louisville.

Meet our new staff!



Kaylea Passafiume Event Staff



Havden Nicholson Garden Assistant



Patrick Gallagher

Event Staff

Help us welcome the newest additions to the Yew Dell family.

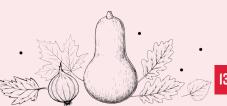
Martha Lee's Kitchen

Come out to Martha Lee's Kitchen and enjoy the best of the fall season. Our delicious seasonal soups, salads, and sandwiches are awaiting your arrival. Or take your meal to the gardens with our picnic basket rental and bask in the fall color of the arboretum for your next date or family outing.

When you're missing the taste of Martha Lee's Kitchen after our season comes to close, try this recipe at home:

Butternut squash soup

- 1 medium Butternut squash, peeled and diced
- 1 large onion, peeled and diced
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and diced
- 2 celery stalks diced
- 3 large garlic cloves diced
- Chicken or vegetable stock
- Heavy cream (optional)
- salt to taste
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp allspice
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp ground clove
- 1/2 cup white wine
- In a large stock pot, sauté carrot, onion and celery until the onion is translucent.
- Add butternut squash and garlic; continue to sauté until vegetables are caramelized.
- Deglaze the pot with white wine. Add salt, pepper, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves.
- Cover vegetables with stock and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer.
- Puree with blender until smooth.
- Finish with heavy cream to achieve desired texture.





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