

THE SAGE --AUGUST 2008

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights: [Is It True? June Isn't Wedding Month!](#)

[New Feature: Notes from My Garden Journal](#)

[Favorite Sweet Corn Recipes](#)

[Local Cut Flower Production is at its Peak in August](#)

[Eliminating Weeds From the Garden Made Easy](#)

[About Klein's Famous Giant Cactus](#)

[Hot New Product: Rainbow Plant Stands from Quicor](#)

[Plant of the Month: The Milkweeds](#)

[August in the Garden](#)

[Gardening Events Around Town](#)

[Related Resources and Websites](#)

If you know of any community or neighborhood events or garden tours you would like posted on our web site in our monthly newsletters, please contact Rick at (608) 244-5661. Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Our readership is ever-growing so this is a great opportunity for free advertising. Events must be garden related and must take place in the immediate Madison vicinity.

AUGUST STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Open Labor Day, Monday, September 1: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Throughout August visit Klein's and check out our specials on annuals, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets, containers and perennials. Specials and selection changes weekly so give us a call for the most up-to-date information at (608) 244-5661 or toll free at 888-244-5661. We pride ourselves in having the best cared for plants in even the hottest weather and throughout the month we'll continue to offer a full selection of annuals and perennials.

August 16--Full Moon

August 30--First University of Wisconsin football game against Akron State at Camp Randall. Game time is 11:00.

September 1--Labor Day. **Special Store Hours: 10:00-4:00.**

THE FLOWER SHOPPE :

Contrary to popular belief, August rather than June is the most popular month for weddings! According to government statistics, 10.5% of all 2005 weddings in the United States, took place in the month of August, followed by July and then June with 10.2% each. Here is the complete rundown:

August (235,000 weddings), 10.5%

July (228,000), 10.2%

June (227,000), 10.2%

September (222,000), 10.0%

October (206,000), 9.2%

May (186,000), 8.3%

November (176,000), 7.9%

April (163,000), 7.3%

December (158,000), 7.1%

March (156,000), 7.0%

January (138,000), 6.2%

February (135,000), 6.1%

During August, local cut flower production continues. Each week, local vendors supply Klein's with a huge assortment of seasonal flowers fresh from the fields- rudbeckia, dahlias, zinnias, asters, solidago, grasses, bells of Ireland, Queen Anne's lace...you name it! Selection can change weekly as the summer progresses and new flowers go into bloom. And because they're grown locally, prices are very reasonable. \$35.00 to \$40.00 is the perfect amount for a stunning "wildflower" bouquet. Vased wildflower bouquets are always full and lush and can be suited to any occasion. Simply contact our design manager, Kathy Lehman, or any of our helpful staff at 608/244-5661 or toll-free at 888/244-5661 for current selection and prices. Delivery is extra, except to local hospitals and Madison funeral homes, which are always free. Check out our **Permanent Features** section of the newsletter for more delivery details.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that eliminating certain weeds from your garden FOREVER may be easier than you think! Like many of the beautiful annual flowers in your garden, annual weeds go through their entire life cycle in a single season. By eliminating them before they flower and set seed, you've won half the battle.

As with most annuals, annual weed seeds lie dormant during the winter months, ready to sprout with the onset of spring and summer (though there are a few that actually sprout in the fall). They spend the summer months growing and blooming, relying on pollinators or the wind to spread their pollen from plant to plant in order to set seed for the next season. The seeds usually drop nearby, are spread by the wind or by animals such as birds, rodents and even humans. Once dropped to the soil, they lie dormant until the following season. There are some weeds that go through multiple life cycles in a single growing season.

Unlike our perennial weeds, which often times spread via runners or below ground roots, recognizing the emerging growth of garden annual weeds isn't quite as urgent. As long as any particular plant is eradicated before it flowers or sets seed, the plant will be unable to reproduce itself for the following season. It may take a few seasons to eliminate a particular weed from your garden. Seeds can lie dormant for many years and may sprout once brought nearer the surface. New plants can also spread into your garden from neighboring gardens or farm fields. But with a few seasons of diligence, a few of your peskiest garden weeds can be gone forever. Learning about and recognizing these annual weeds will make the task far easier. Annual weeds that appear in nearly all Madison area gardens include:

- Bindweed
- Black Medic
- Chickweed
- Crabgrass
- Groundsel
- Knotweed
- Lamb's Quarters
- Nettle
- Pigweed
- Purslane
- Spotted Spurge
- Wood Sorrel (Yellow Oxalis)

Visit gardening.about.com/od/gardenproblems/qt/Weeds.htm for more information.

NOTES FROM MY GARDEN JOURNAL--Tips and Observations from My Own Garden **by Rick Halbach.**

ENTRY: JULY 7, 2008

With construction going on at my house this summer, I've had to put many of my container plantings in the unlikeliest of locations throughout the yard and garden. Some of the results have been surprises and some have been absolutely breathtaking. The construction has forced me to step outside the box a bit. Usually, many of my containers line the foundation of the house along the driveway, around the corner to the patio and then line the house wall up on the deck. This year I've had to keep the areas around the house clear for ladders, siding work and the workmen. I've placed my large potted tropicals throughout my perennial beds. The cannas have been particularly stunning placed throughout the yard. The height and texture has

stimulated a lot of interest. A real surprise has been the potted geraniums nestled amongst the plants in my daylily bed. They have proven to be a colorful work horse this entire season. The effect is two tiered, with the daylily blooms towering over the ever blooming geraniums below.

ENTRY: JULY 20, 2008

One of my favorite things about journaling is keeping track of all the new annuals I try out in my garden each year. It not only helps me in planning for next season, but I often suggest my new discoveries to our grower at Klein's for retail potential. Many of the annuals we sell at Klein's have been due to my own experimentation over the years. I'm known for trying new plants. Luckily I have an entire room devoted to seed starting in the basement. Plant choices available from seed far exceed those available as starter plants at any garden center. Sure there have been failures, but the successes far outnumber them. I thrive on exposing our customers to exciting and oftentimes new plants. Current bestsellers due in part to my own experimentation in the past include; annual milkweed, Tango' impatiens, cardoon, malabar spinach, dinosaur kale, species marigolds, pentas, annual rudbeckias, many of our tropicals, assorted salvias and our famous lisianthus. New favorites in my garden this year include; Shock Wave' petunias, Brazilian button plant (Centratherum), 'Prairie Glow' branched coneflower (rudbeckia triloba), Northern Lights' pentas, 'Brazilian Fireworks' Porphyrocoma, African foxgloves (Ceratotheca), Shu' variegated peppers, 'Exquisite' tall zinnias and Cempoalxochitl heirloom marigolds. Maybe some of these will become available at Klein's in the coming years.

ENTRY: JULY 27, 2008

This has been a banner year for the Japanese beetles in my garden. I don't like to use chemicals in my garden. After all, anything I use for the beetles will surely affect the bees and butterflies I'm wanting to attract to my garden. I could pick them off by hand and drown them as some suggest, but I have better things to do with my time. I could purchase the traps available at Klein's, but we all know that only brings in the beetles from all the neighbors' yards. Attracting even more beetles is not one of my goals. Rather, I've learned to live with these recent invaders. Yes, they've decimated my roses, morning glories, cannas, Himalayan balsam, hollyhocks and much more, but the cosmetic damage is only temporary. The adult beetles are currently breeding like crazy, meaning they'll be around for just a few weeks more-plenty of time for my plants to recuperate and many more weeks of late season blooms. I've noticed that many plants rebound with enhanced vigor after the attack. It's as though I've pinched back the plants with none of the work. Besides, I find the beetles kind of pretty and fun to watch. Kids are particularly fascinated by their antics.

KLEIN S RECIPES OF THE MONTH--These are a selection of relatively simple recipes chosen by our staff. New recipes appear monthly. Enjoy!!

Reports have it that with all the rain early in the season, the sweet corn crop is rather hit and miss in 2008. The crop is a few weeks behind due to late planting and much of the crop succumbed to the deluge. On the up side, the local corn now available is of very good quality-apparently quite juicy and exceptionally sweet. Here are a few of our favorite recipes:

SOUR CREAM CORN BREAD--Good cornbread recipes that actually use fresh sweet corn can be hard to find. This recipe appeared in Burpee's American Harvest Cookbook-The Early Summer Garden by Perla Meyers.

1 1/4 cups, coarse yellow cornmeal
3/4 cup flour
3 TBS. sugar
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
3 large eggs
1/2 cup sour cream
3/4 cup whole milk
6 TBS. butter
1 cup fresh corn kernels, lightly minced

Sift together the cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a large mixing bowl and set aside. In another large mixing bowl, combine the eggs, sour cream and milk. Whisk till well blended. Generously butter a 9" square cake pan. Place in the center of an oven and preheat to 400°. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a small saucepan. Add the corn and cook on medium-low until tender, 5-7 minutes. Whisk the corn into the egg mixture. Add the dry ingredients and stir until just incorporated. Do not over mix. Pour the batter

into the hot pan and return to the oven. Bake 20-25 minutes till golden. Test center with a toothpick that should come out clean when done. Let cool slightly. Serve warm.

CORN SALAD--This excellent and very refreshing recipe comes from the Wisconsin Herb Cookbook by Suzanne Breckinridge and Marjorie Snyder from Prairie Oak Press (1996). It's super easy and colorful.

3 1/2 cups fresh corn kernels (or frozen, thawed)

1 TBS. butter

1/8 tsp. cayenne

salt & pepper

1/2 cup chopped green pepper

1/2 cup chopped red pepper

1 jalapeno seeded and minced

3/4 cup chopped celery

1/4 cup chopped red onion

1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

5 TBS. veggie oil

2 TBS. white vinegar

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

1 tsp. sugar

1 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. ground cumin

1/8 tsp. dried thyme

Sauté the corn in the butter until hot. Add the cayenne and season to taste with salt and pepper. Set aside to cool. In a bowl, mix together the corn, sweet peppers, jalapeno, celery, onion and parsley. In another bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar, mustard, sugar, salt, cumin and thyme. Toss together with the salad ingredients. Allow to chill. Serves 6.

SHRIMP, CORN AND POTATO SOUP--This simple recipe appeared in a 2004 issue of CookingLight magazine. The reviews simply say "WOW". This makes for one FAST meal!!

1 3/4 cups chopped red onion

1 cup chopped green pepper

1/2 cup chopped celery

1 clove minced garlic

2 cups chopped baking potato

2 x 14.5 oz. cans chicken broth

16 oz. corn kernels, fresh or frozen, thawed

1 x 14.75 oz. can cream style corn

1 x 10 oz. can diced tomatoes with green chilies, undrained

1 x 6 oz. can tomato paste

1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

1 1/2 lbs. peeled and deveined shrimp

1/4 cup sliced green onion (optional)

Sauté the onion, green pepper, celery and garlic in a little oil over medium-high heat in a large Dutch oven until tender, about 5 minutes. Add the potato, broth, corn, cream style corn, tomatoes and paste. Bring to a boil and cook 5 minutes. Stir in the salt, pepper and the shrimp. Bring back to a boil then lower to a simmer and cook 10 minutes. Sprinkle with the green onions and serve. Serves 8.

CORN ON THE COB WITH A TWIST--The basic recipe appeared in our June 08 newsletter. The "twist" appeared years ago in Martha Stewart Living. Keeping the husks on, imparts a delightful smoky flavor and prevents wasting foil. When dining outside, simply keep a pail or waste can handy for the husks and toss them into the compost heap.

Basic version: Snip the silks from the desired number of cobs with a pair of scissors. Break off any really long stems from the base if desired. Keeping the husk on the cobs, soak the ears in a large bowl, pail or in the kitchen sink for at least 30 minutes. This soaking slows the husks from scorching too quickly once placed on the grill. The added moisture also adds in steaming the corn for even cooking. Some people add either salt or sugar to the water for added flavor. Bake the soaked cobs, covered, indirectly over hot charcoal or on the upper level of a medium hot gas grill for 25-30 minutes, rotating and flipping twice during cooking for even browning. The husks should become quite scorched. Times may vary based on your grill so experiment.

THE TWIST: After soaking the ears, pull back the husks, remove the silks entirely. Wrap one slice of bacon around each ear. Pull the husks back over the ears, tying the end with a removed husk leaf or kitchen twine to seal the open end. Cook as above.

NEW PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT--Each month we will spotlight some new product that we already carry or one that we've taken note of and plan to carry in the near future. Likewise, if you would like to see Klein's to carry a product that we don't currently, please let us know. Our goal is to be responsive to the marketplace and to our loyal clientele. If a product fits into our profile, we will make every effort to get it into our store. In addition, we may be able to special order an item for you, whether plant or hard good, given enough time. This month's new product is:

Plant Stands from Quicor When Looks Matter

"When looks matter - Quicor has what you want."

When we saw the Quicor plant stands at one of our supplier's product shows last fall, we knew we had an immediate winner. Often times, plant stands available at most retail outlets tend to be flimsily made and somewhat top heavy. There are usually three thin legs that become annoyingly stuck between deck boards, sink into soft garden soils, blow over in the wind or are easily knocked over by the kids. In addition, they seldom hold larger pots or baskets.

The Quicor "floor hoops" are completely different from your average plantstand and addresses all of the above issues. First off, they are made from the same 1/2" metal rod as most shepherd hooks. Their simple design is not only attractive, but ultra sturdy and durable. The simplicity and compact size of these plant holders makes them a must-have for decks, patios, balconies, driveways or even indoors. They easily fit into a corner or other small space. Above all, they are nearly topple-proof and can accommodate larger than average containers. And on top of all that, they are available in designer colors-orange, green, yellow, copper and black with a baked on powder coat finish. Klein's has them available in both a 21" and a 27" size.

For a picture and more information, visit www.quicorinc.com or call us here at Klein's at 608/244-5661.

NATURAL NEWS--

In researching possible topics for this column, we came across a mail order company called Arbico Organics at www.arbico-organics.com (88/827-2847). Although around for 30 years, this was our first introduction to this company. Of particular interest is their **Pest & Insect Problem Solver Guide**. Although the intent is to sell their own product, the guide is very informative with accurate photographs and concise information about the pest's life cycle and means to deal with the pest organically. The products suggested on their website are available at most garden centers including Klein's. Below is a sample of the type of information you'll find on their site:

Japanese Beetle

These common pests feed on over 275 plant species. This includes all deciduous tree fruits, many small fruits, vegetables, grasses, and weeds. Adults are 3/8 1/2 inch (8-10 mm) long, metallic green to greenish bronze with coppery red wings and small white tufts on the sides and tip of the abdomen.

Larvae are "C"-shaped, cream-colored white grubs with brown heads that reach 3/4- 1 inch (20-25 mm) long when mature. Grubs overwinter 8-10 inches (20-25 cm) deep in the soil. As spring temperatures increase, the grubs move up in the soil to feed on grass and other small roots. They pupate in late May to June and adults start emerging in late June to mid-July. Adults live from 30 to 45 days, feed through late summer or early fall. They feed on decaying matter but soon feed on roots as they move deep to an overwintering site.

Many gardeners and homeowners consider the Japanese Beetle (actually first introduced from Korea) to be one of the most serious pests they face. These little buggers cause serious root damage (particularly to lawns) in their grub phase, where they also serve as a sort of blazing neon sign to marauding critters reading "Dig Up This Beautiful Lawn and EAT ME Please!" The adults are also overwhelmingly naughty in their ability to defoliate faster than you can say *Popillia japonica*. Or even faster. But with a comprehensive plan of attack you can get the better of these beasts. Here's how:

1. Treat with a combination of Milky Spore and NemaSeek beneficial nematodes in either the spring or the fall. The nematodes help to distribute the Milky Spore. This combination of organisms also works synergistically to most effectively control the grubs. Milky Spore only has to be applied once.

2. If your larval infestation is severe, apply **Grub Beater** as well. The active ingredient (neem) is not harmful to either beneficial nematodes or the bacteria in Milky Spore.

3. Treat again with **NemaSeek beneficial nematodes** six months after your first application to further distribute the Milky Spore and to eliminate newly developing grubs.

4. Enjoy being Beetle Free! (Some people continue to apply nematodes every other year or so as a preventative measure).

Visit their Pest & Insect Problem Solver Guide @ www.arbico-organics.com/japanese-beetle.html

AUGUST'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

MILKWEED

Any gardener wanting monarch butterflies to not only visit but also breed and live much of their life cycle their garden should grow at least one, if not many of the gorgeous milkweeds available from seed sources, garden centers or even road side. Milkweeds are the sole food source for monarch caterpillars. In early summer, adult females that have migrated all the way from Mexico search out milkweed on which to lay her eggs before she dies. A single cream-colored egg is laid on the underside of milkweed leaves. The more plants available to her, the more likely she is to lay her eggs in your yard. After hatching, the striped and hairless caterpillars grow quickly, feeding exclusively on the plant (or nearby plants) on which they hatched. To find a caterpillar, look for chewed leaves as a telltale sign and then look to the leaf undersides to find the caterpillar. Monarch caterpillars have few predators. Apparently the milkweed sap they ingest gives them a bitter and unpleasant taste. In no time, the caterpillars spin their chrysalis in which they morph into the familiar orange and black tiger-striped adults. Adult monarchs feed not only on milkweed nectar, but many garden plants including zinnias, tithonia, Mexican flame vine, coneflowers, verbena bonariensis and many others. The late season adults need to build their strength for the long trip back to Mexico where they winter in only a few mountainous areas. Few people are aware that there are multiple generations of monarchs in a single summer. The early migrants and next generations simply reproduce and die. Only the last generation of the season makes the trip to Mexico and then back before it dies.

Favorite milkweeds include:

Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca)-This is a very common roadside native perennial with huge umbels of fragrant, purplish pink flowers in midsummer. This is the monarch's local favorite.

Butterfly Milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa)-Another fairly common roadside native with typically bright orange flowers. Plants are compact and clump-forming with a long taproot. It will grow in the harshest of conditions in full sun.

Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)-A tall perennial for wet locations, though it will grow in most average garden soils that don't stay overly dry. Flowers are usually a lovely bright pink or white and in clusters.

Annual Milkweed (Asclepias curassavica)-This perennial native of the subtropics has only in recent years become commonplace in Madison gardens. Plants are tall like swamp milkweed with flowers similar in color and appearance to our native butterfly weed in shades of orange, red or yellow. This monarch favorite is available in cell packs as starter plants at Kleins in the spring or can easily be started by seed in late winter indoors. It can even be grown as a houseplant!

Excellent sources for a wide assortment of milkweed seed and/or plants include:

Burpee @ burpee.com or 800/888-1447

Johnny's Select Seeds @ johnnyseeds.com or 207/861-3901

Jung's Seeds @ jungseed.com or 800/247-5864

Park's Seeds @ parkseed.com or 800/845-3369

Seeds of Change @ seedsofchange.com or 888/762-7333

Select Seeds @ selectseeds.com or 800/684-0395

Territorial Seeds @ territorialseed.com or 888/657-3131
Thompson & Morgan @ thompson-morgan.com or 800/274-7333

or locally at The Flower Factory , 4062 Cty. Rd. A, between Stoughton and Oregon (608/873329 or @ www.theflowerfactorynursery.com

For even more information, visit www.monarchwatch.org/milkweed/guide/index.htm

YOU ASKED. . .

I was recently at Klein's and noticed that the giant cactus that has graced your entrance for generations is glaringly missing. What happened to it?

The cactus you're referring to had simply gotten too big for its britches and was taking up valuable retail space at the front of our main showroom. In early 2007 we took cuttings from our monster and moved it to the back of our main showroom where it seems very happy in its new home. We sell the rooted cuttings when they are ready to be made available. Reportedly the cactus had been at our front entrance for decades, if not longer! Older Klein's shoppers remember it being there when they were children. You're right, generations of children have been awed by its sheer size. We haven't had the cactus identified, but believe it was brought back on a trip from the southwestern U.S. shortly after Klein's opened in 1913. It flowers twice a year, but only during the night. By midmorning, the giant white blooms are completely wilted. We don't know much more than that so if anyone out there can tell us more, please do! By the way, it's almost time to take a fresh round of cuttings. The cactus has reached to the roof again. Cuttings take about 6 months to root and retail for \$30-50, depending on size and branching. The slow-growing plants will almost certainly outlive any potential owner.

AROUND TOWN:

NOTE: If you of know of any community or neighborhood events or garden tours you would like posted on our web site in our monthly newsletters, please contact Rick at (608) 2445661. Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Our readership is ever-growing so this is a great opportunity for free advertising. Events must be garden related and must take place in the immediate Madison vicinity.

Dane County Farmer's Market

Saturdays, April 19 thru November 3, 6:00-2:00
On the Capitol Square

Wednesdays, April 23 thru November 5, 8:30-2:00

In the 200 block of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Iris Sale

Saturday, August 2, 8:00-5:00

Sunday, August 3, 8:00-5:00

Sponsored by the Madison Iris Society

For info call 608/825-7423

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details

Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies

July 16-August 10

Daily from 10:00-4:00

In the Bolz Conservatory

Experience the wonder of strolling through a tropical forest on a search for fleeting butterflies. Live butterflies emerge from chrysalises daily in the Bolz Conservatory. Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies is a great adventure

for people of all ages. Children can visit stamping stations in the outdoor gardens with their Butterfly Passport while learning fun facts. Tour the outdoor gardens and visit the Growing Gifts shop. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 12 and under, and free for children under 2. Olbrich Botanical Society members are admitted free. Parking is free. Bus tours are welcome. The Bolz Conservatory will be closed Monday, July 14 and Tuesday, July 15 in preparation for Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison
608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details

Urban Horticultural Field Day

Saturday, August 16, 10:00-3:00
West Madison Agricultural Research Station
8502 Mineral Point Road
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-2257

Free admission - Free parking
Roasted Peppers and Salsa to taste
Taste-test Roasted garlic, Asian vegetables and peppers, cabbage, beets, chard, and tomatoes
Extension Specialists available to consult on insects, wildlife, and diseases
Taste the new selections of Edamame- Edible Soybeans
Check out the Extensive Ornamental Grass Collection
Visit with experts on the Asian Vegetable Trial and sample some of the produce
Garden Supply and Plant Information Booths
Soda, Water and fresh popped Popcorn will be available for purchase
Cut flowers will be available for a small donation- make a beautiful bouquet to take home
Children's Activities - Scavenger Hunt, Stepping Stones, Face Painting and Garden Planter Painting

Visit their web site @ www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/ for details.

Daylily Sale

Saturday, August 16, 10:00-4:00
Sunday, August 17, 11:00-3:00
Sponsored by the Wisconsin Daylily Society
For info call 608/837-2317 or visit www.wisdaylilysoc.org

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison
608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN--A checklist of things to do this month.

- Give the garden at least 1" of moisture per week.
- Mow as little as possible and with mower raised to at least 2"
- Mulch beds to conserve moisture and keep down weeds.
- Deadheading spent blooms as needed.
- Collect seeds for next year's garden.
- Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- Take pictures of your garden for record keeping.
- Stake and support tall plants as needed.
- Divide daylilies as they finish blooming.
- Transplant and divide iris and peonies.
- Plant late crops of lettuce, spinach, radishes, etc.
- Order spring bulbs for fall planting: daffodils, tulips, hyacinth, etc.
- Plant fall blooming crocus bulbs.
- Fertilize potted plants at least every 2 weeks. Follow directions.
- Stop fertilizing all trees and shrubs.
- Keep and eye on the weather. Water as needed.
- Watch for pests and control as needed or desired.

- ___ Shop for early mum selection and fall pansies.
- ___ Begin checking out the garden centers for spring bulb selection.
- ___ Stop watering held over amaryllis for 8 weeks for holiday blooms.
- ___ Begin taking cuttings of geraniums, coleus and other plants to winter over.
- ___ Visit Klein's---Watch for end of season savings on annuals and perennials.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT KLEIN S--This is a sneak peek of what is going on each month behind the scenes in our greenhouses. Many people are unaware that our facility operates year round or that we have 10 more greenhouses on the property in addition to the 6 open for retail. At any given moment we already have a jump on the upcoming season--be it poinsettias in July, geraniums in December or fall mums in May.

IN AUGUST:

- The poinsettias continue grow and thrive in our back greenhouses. They're so big already, we've had to give them adequate spacing.
- Summer maintenance projects are under way. This year's plans include a bit of painting and minor repair work to the main showrooms and replacing some old roofs on a couple of the greenhouses out back.
- We continue to space and pamper the fall mums that are now just beginning to bloom.
- We're prepping our main showrooms for the semi-load of houseplants arriving from Florida later in the month. We time this shipment with the arrival of the college students. Select from all shapes and sizes; from tropicals to succulents. The showrooms become a veritable jungle.
- We begin ordering plants for the 2009 season.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--JENNIFER SIMON, aka Greenhouse Jen

It's rare as an employer that out of the blue the right person at the right time crosses our path and we know immediately that this is the one we've been looking for. The perspective employee standing in front of us has the right personality, the right amount of experience, the right schedule and, above all, the perfect attitude for the given job. This scene almost didn't happen when Jen Simon applied for a position at Klein's in late winter of 2008. Jen had applied for an open retail position unaware that we were also seeking greenhouse and sales floor help. Jen had made it clear she wasn't thrilled about the prospect of having to work at the registers. By chance, the retail manager mentioned to the greenhouse staff that a most delightful applicant had come in for an interview, but wasn't looking for retail work. And by chance, we had just decided that we needed some extra help in the greenhouse for transplanting and the upcoming spring season. The rest is history. Klein's hired Jen pretty much on the spot!

Jen's love of gardening began when she and her husband, Gary, owned a home with an existing garden in Colorado. She says she started purchasing gardening books to learn about her already established garden. She discovered that it's OK for a garden to change and evolve and for every failure in the garden, there are even more successes. She learned that gardening comes to her naturally. As time passed, Jen watched as her love of gardening slowly evolved into passion.

Until she was hired by Klein's, Jen had spent much of the past decade as a stay-at-home mom for her children, Olivia and Will. As the children got older she was hoping to combine her blooming passion with career, but where to begin? She says she felt like a "lost soul" while job hunting. The job opening at Klein's left her optimistic until she found out it was a retail position. She went home devastated until the greenhouse call came just a few days later.

Jen grew up working closely with the public. She grew up with her parents owning a bed and breakfast in Green Lake, Wisconsin, just a few hours north of Madison. Hospitality and customer satisfaction have always been an important part of Jen's being. In fact, after graduating from high school she attended UW-Stout where she majored in hotel and restaurant management. It was shortly after graduation in 1990 that she and Gary moved to Colorado where they spent 5 years. She says that it was there that she learned a lot about "xeriscaping", or gardening with drought tolerant plants that need little or no supplemental irrigation. After Colorado, the Simons spent a few years in Malaysia before purchasing their current home in DeForest. There, Jen's extensive gardens are a work in progress. She says though, that her flower beds are in dire need of work. She regrets that she didn't spend the time amending the soil in her beds before planting. On the other hand, Jen is in love with the many colorful containers that dress her deck. She enjoys viewing her artwork at arm's reach. In addition, to her own masterpieces, Jen plants and maintains one of the raised beds at the entrance to the City County Building downtown. Knowing Jen's personality and artistic ability, it's easy to pick her work from the crowd. Jen is also an accomplished Master Gardener.

Away from work, Jen says her other interests include reading, exercise, kayaking and nature as a whole". She thrives on teaching children about nature and the outdoors. At Klein's Jen says she loves the fact that we're a small family owned business. She says she already feels like part of our family and loves the teamwork. She enjoys working on the sales floor with the customers and teaching them about her passion. Jen says she relishes talking with beginning gardeners and "brown thumbs". But most of all, Jen has learned that she loves conversing with and being around "gardening people". Jen is learning what we at Klein's already know--that "gardening people" are the coolest people around!

PERMANENT FEATURES--

KLEIN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Have our monthly newsletter e-mailed to you automatically by signing up on the right side of our home page. We'll offer monthly tips, greenhouse news and tidbits, specials and recipes. ...everything you need to know from your favorite Madison greenhouse. And tell your friends. It's easy to do.

SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

We offer a 10% Off Senior Citizen Discount every Tuesday to those 62 and above. This discount is not in addition to other discounts or sales. Please mention that you are a senior before we ring up your purchases. Does not apply to wire out orders or services, i.e. delivery, potting, etc.

BUCKY BOOK COUPON

Klein's is again showing our proud support of UW Athletics with advertising and coupons in the 2008 edition of the Bucky Book.

DELIVERY INFO

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses delivers daily, except Sundays, throughout all of Madison and much of Dane County including: Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Middleton, Monona, Oregon, Shorewood Hills, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee and Windsor. Current delivery rate on 1-4 items is \$6.95 for Madison, Maple Bluff, Monona and Shorewood Hills, slightly more to the surrounding communities and for more than 4 items. We not only deliver our fabulous fresh flowers, but also houseplants, bedding plants and sundries. We offer free delivery to all Madison hospitals and funeral homes.

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if requested: 53703, 53704, 53713, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Monona, Sun Prairie, Waunakee and Windsor. We begin our delivery day at 8:00 a.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. Except during holidays, the following westside zip codes and communities can be delivered only during the afternoon: 53705, 53706, 53711, 53717, 53719, 53726, Middleton, Oregon, Shorewood Hills and Verona. During holidays (Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc.) we are able to make morning deliveries to all of the above areas. We are not able to take closely timed deliveries on any holiday due to the sheer volume of such requests. It's best to give us a range of time and we'll try our absolute hardest. Orders for same day delivery must be placed by 12:30 p.m. or by 2:30 p.m. for Madison zip codes 53704 and 53714.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Please refer all questions, concerns or feedback in the following departments to their appropriate supervisor.

Phone: 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661

Floral Department Manager Kathy Lehman

kathy@kleinsfloral.com

Head Grower & Horticulturist Jamie VandenWymelenberg

jamie@kleinsfloral.com

Assistant Grower

Craig Johnson

craig@kleinsfloral.com

Retail Manager

Jennifer Wadyka

jennifer@kleinsfloral.com

House Accounts & Billing Barbara Foulk

Delivery Supervisor

Rick Halbach

Owner Sue (Klein) Johnson

sue@kleinsfloral.com

RELATED RESOURCES AND WEB SITES

University of Wisconsin Extension
1 Fen Oak Ct. #138
Madison, WI 53718
608/224-3700

www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/
www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic
Dept. of Plant Pathology
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

www.plantpath.wisc.edu/

Insect Diagnostic Lab
240 Russell Labs
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

www.entomology.wisc.edu/

State Soil Testing Lab
5711 Mineral Point Rd.
Madison, WI 53705
608/262-4364

www.soils.wisc.edu

American Horticultural Society

www.ahs.org

Garden Catalogs (an extensive list with links)

www.gardenlist.com

also **www.mailordergardening.com**

Invasive Species

www.invasive.org

Friends of Troy Gardens
Rm. 171, Bldg. 14
3601 Memorial Dr.
Madison, WI 53704
608/240-0409

www.troygardens.org

Community Gardens Division (Madison area)

Community Action Coalition

1717 N. Stoughton Rd.

Madison, WI 53704

608/246-4730

www.cacscw.org/gardens/

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)

www.madison.com/communities/mamga/

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Program

Department of Horticulture

1575 Linden Drive

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Madison, WI 53706

608/265-4504

www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/

The Wisconsin Gardener
www.wpt.org/garden/
Has a list of garden clubs and societies

Allen Centennial Gardens
620 Babcock Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
608/262-8406
www.horticulture.wisc.edu/allencentennialgardens/

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
608/246-4550
www.olbrich.org

Rotary Gardens
1455 Palmer Dr.
Janesville, WI 53545
608/752-3885
www.rotarygardens.org

University of WI Arboretum
1207 Seminole Hwy.
Madison, WI 53711
608/263-7888
www.uwarboretum.org

University of Wisconsin-West Madison
Agricultural Research Center
8502 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-2257
www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/