

'THE SAGE'--JANUARY 2009

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights: Our "Mad Gardener" Is Ready for Your Questions!

About Heirloom Seeds from Baker Creek

Ever Thought About Working at a Greenhouse?

New: 12 Months of Fresh Flowers from Klein's

How to Re-Bloom Your Poinsettia Next Year

Notes from My Garden Journal-- from December '08

Homemade Pasta and Pizza Sauce Recipes

Plant of the Month: The Famous ZZ Plant

Eco-Friendly Snow and Ice Removal Ideas

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Plants Harmful to Kids and Pets

NEW STARTING IN JANUARY AT KLEIN'S: THE MAD GARDENER

"Mad Town's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"

Beginning this month, you can ask us your gardening questions by e-mailing us at madgardener@kleinsfloral.com. Klein's in-house **Mad Gardener** will e-mail you with an answer as promptly as he can. We'll be posting a link to this e-mail address on our home page and also in all subsequent newsletters. Your question might then appear in the "**You Asked**" feature of our monthly newsletter. If your question is

the one selected for our monthly newsletter, you'll receive a small gift from us at Klein's. The **Mad Gardener** hope to hear from you soon!

Sorry, we can only answer those questions regarding gardening in Southern Wisconsin and we reserve the right to leave correspondence unanswered at our discretion. Please allow 2-3 days for a response.

JANUARY STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday

8:00-6:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: Closed

Please note that we will be closed Sundays during January. Our first Sunday open will be February 8, 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 1--New Year's Day. HAPPY 2008!

January 10--Full Moon

January 10 & 11--The Wedding Planner and Guide Bridal Show at the Alliant Energy Center. (And don't forget to set up your wedding consultation now for any 2009 wedding. Our schedule fills up fairly quickly. Klein's talented team of designers can make your wedding day a perfect one. Call Kathy or Sue at 608/244-5661).

From start to finish, everything needed for that special day is at the show with over 200 vendors offering products and services catering to your needs. Make sure to get a seat for the daily fashion show at noon and 3 pm. Open on Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm, tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Visit www.wedplan.com for tickets and more information.

January 19--Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Mid January--Seeds begin arriving for retail sale from Northrup King, Livingston and Olds and a few new companies. Look for new lines of **organic and heirloom seeds**. Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about spring planting. If starting your own seeds at home, some like lisianthus, geraniums, pentas and bananas should be started now so they are ready for spring planting.

Late-January--The summer bulbs like begonias and elephant ears begin arriving for retail sale at garden centers. Shop early for the best selection.

Late-January--Ever thought about working at a greenhouse? Now is the time to stop in and ask if we'll be hiring for spring and pick up an application. We always need temporary, part-time counter help in the spring and greenhouse production swings into gear by mid-February. If you're interested, ask for Jennifer or Sue for the retail area or Jamie or Rick for the greenhouses. Benefits include a generous discount on all those plants you buy at Klein's anyway. Join our team and experience first hand how we make the magic happen.

February 13-15--Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center. Please join us. Tickets will

be available at Klein's for a lesser price than at the door.
Details available at www.wpt.org/gardenexpo.

February 14--Valentine's Day. Order early for guaranteed delivery. We deliver throughout Madison and most of Dane County.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

New from Klein's for you or for the flower lover in your life:

Klein's "12 Month Blooming Plant or Fresh Flower Club"

Send or receive a whole year of seasonal blooming plants or fresh flower arrangements and save!!

There's no easier way to give gorgeous blooming plants or fresh flower arrangements, month after month. Each month a seasonal blooming plant or fresh arrangement will arrive on yours or a loved one's doorstep. You choose the start date and we'll make your special delivery the very same day each month.

For just \$300, we'll send a year's worth of seasonal blooming plants--perhaps a bulb garden or azalea in the spring, one of our famous large geraniums or a tropical hibiscus in the summer, a chrysanthemum or Thanksgiving cactus in the fall or one of our homegrown poinsettias or cyclamen for the holidays and winter months. Selection of the blooming plant will be based on availability.

And for just \$350, receive one of Klein's lovely fresh floral arrangements. All arrangements will be seasonal and will contain only the freshest flowers. All arrangements are **Designer's Choice**, but are sure to satisfy the most discerning lover of fresh flowers.

Prices include delivery within our delivery area. For delivery details visit the "**Permanent Features**" section of our newsletter below. If your chosen delivery date happens to fall on a Sunday or holiday, we will deliver it on the next available delivery day. All regular delivery conditions apply.

Order your **12 Months of Flowers** by calling Klein's at **608/244-5661** or **888/244-5661** or by stopping in. We request that payment be made in full before the first delivery and the prices do not include sales tax.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that poinsettia plants make lovely and quick growing additions to the summer garden and patio. Though challenging, they can even rebloom year after year.

How to Re-Bloom Your Poinsettia

From the poinsettia experts at The Paul Ecke Ranch @ www.pauleckepoinsettias.com.

When the poinsettia's bracts age and lose their aesthetic appeal, there's no reason to throw it out. With proper care, dedication and a certain amount of luck, you too can re-bloom your poinsettia!

By late March or early April, cut your poinsettia back to about 8" in height. Continue a regular watering program, and fertilize your plant with a good, balanced all-purpose fertilizer. By the end of May, you should see vigorous new growth.

Place your plants outdoors, where they can bask in the warmth of spring and summer, after all chance of frost has passed and night temperatures average 55° F or above. Continue regular watering during the growth period, and fertilize every 2 to 3 weeks.

Pruning may be required during the summer to keep plants bushy and compact. Late June or early July is a good time for this step, but be sure not to prune your plant later than September 1. Keep the plants in indirect sun and water regularly.

Around June 1, you may transplant your poinsettia into a larger pot. Select a pot no more than 4 inches larger than the original pot. A soil mix with a considerable amount of organic matter, such as peat moss or leaf mold, is highly recommended. In milder climates, you may transplant the plant into a well-prepared garden bed. Be sure the planting bed is rich in organic material and has good drainage.

The poinsettia is a photoperiodic plant, meaning that it sets bud and produces flowers as the Autumn nights lengthen. Poinsettias will naturally come into bloom during November or December, depending on the flowering response time of the individual cultivar. Timing to produce blooms for the Christmas holiday can be difficult outside of the controlled environment of a greenhouse. Stray light of any kind, such as from a street light or household lamps, could delay or entirely halt the re-flowering process.

Starting October 1, the plants must be kept in complete darkness for 14 continuous hours each night. Accomplish this by moving the plants to a totally dark room, or by covering them overnight with a large box. During October, November and early December, poinsettias require 6 - 8 hours of bright sunlight daily, with night temperatures between 60 - 70° F. Temperatures outside of this range could also delay flowering.

Continue the normal watering and fertilizer program. Carefully following this regime for 8 to 10 weeks should result in a colorful display of blooms for the holiday season!

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

ENTRY: DECEMBER 11, 2008

My first paperwhite just opened today! From my own nonscientific poll at the greenhouse a few year's back, I learned that either you love paperwhites or you hate them. About 2/3 of the people I surveyed while working at the counter actually found the paperwhite's intense fragrance repulsive. The remaining 1/3 liked the smell to varying degrees. Few, if any, of the respondents were indifferent. I happen to be one of the few that loves the fragrance of paperwhites filling my home during the holidays. In fact, I usually plant up about a half dozen pots that I pull from my basement refrigerator in 2 week intervals. Paperwhites are in bloom at my house from early December through the end of January. Though paperwhites do not need to be chilled or forced like tulips, daffodils or hyacinths, I store them in the refrigerator so I can control and stagger their bloom time. My favorite paperwhite variety is one called "Ariel", a

more compact variety available through the bulb company McClure & Zimmerman. Bulbs usually arrive by mid-October. I plant my bulbs immediately upon arrival, five bulbs to a six or seven inch pot, using a standard potting mix. I plant my paperwhites with the pointed end just below the soil's surface. Paperwhites are often grown in a shallow bowl filled with plain gravel and water. But because they become so top heavy, I've had much more favorable results with bulbs planted in soil. After planting, I place my well-watered pots in the refrigerator. Doing so for at least 10 days prevents the bulbs from heaving out of the pot as the paperwhites root out into the soil. Pots can be placed in bright light and at room temperature anytime after that 10 day period has passed. Leaves appear quickly and blooming should start in about 3-4 weeks and last for 1-2 weeks. The cooler the temperatures, the longer the plants will bloom. Though paperwhites are a narcissus, the bulbs cannot be planted into the garden here in the north once they've bloomed.

ENTRY: DECEMBER 23, 2008

With all the snow we've had, and therefore cloudy weather, I've certainly noticed a drastic decrease in the time I spend watering my houseplants. Due to our very short days and lack of sun, my plants are requiring far less water than they did just a few weeks ago. New growth has virtually come to a halt as the plants go into this period of semi-dormancy. Overwatering during the dead of winter is probably the biggest reason for a houseplant's demise. Even if allowed to dry out, it's difficult for a plant to recuperate once it's been overwatered too many times. Once rot and fungi set in, the plant is more often doomed than not. Most plants should become rather dry between waterings during the winter months. Because plants are growing slowly during this period, they are unable to use water as quickly as other times of the year. As a rule, I water

most of my indoor plants only when the soil has become very dry to the touch. I then water them thoroughly, as always, making sure to drain all water that accumulates in the saucer. I water my cacti and succulents about every 3 weeks or 1 month, depending on how sunny it's been or how much the heat has been running. Because I'm not wanting to promote new growth during the winter, I stopped fertilizing entirely about two months ago. I'll start up again at a diluted rate in early February. Winter in Wisconsin is harsh.

ENTRY: DECEMBER 30, 2008

The seed catalogs are coming fast and furious now that the holidays have passed. My first 2009 catalog (from Thompson & Morgan) arrived in October!! Much of my free time over the next few weeks will be spent thumbing through the many catalogs and highlighting anything that interests me--looking for new product, old favorites and comparing prices. For any given seed, there is a wide range of price difference between the various seed companies. I actually make myself a chart comparing the number of seeds per packet and the price per seed, keeping in mind that most seed packets will last for many years if properly stored in an airtight container (I use a Tupperware). I try to get my seed orders in by February 1. Many mail order companies offer deep discounts on early orders. In addition, my seed geraniums, pentas and lisianthus need to be started in just a few short weeks. These plants require a longer time between sowing and bloom. Using May 15 as my starting point, I count back the weeks on a calendar to arrive at the seed's sow date based on the information on the seed packets

Why purchase seed via mail order? Selection is FAR greater from mail order companies than is available at any garden

center and ordering can be done in the comfort of my own home.

Note: To receive every possible seed, plant or garden supply catalog imaginable, check out **Cyndi's Catalog of Garden Catalogs @ gardenlist.com**. Most catalogs are free and make for great winter reading!

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

Pasta and pizza are favorites of young and old alike. Tired of Prego or Ragu jarred sauces? Check out these from the Klein's family that are sure to please all.

BOLOGNESE SAUCE FOR PASTA--This easy sauce makes enough for two meals and freezes well. From the October 2005 issue of 'Everyday Food' magazine.

1 TBS. olive oil
2 cups finely chopped onion
3 shredded carrots (1 cup)
6 cloves minced garlic
1 lb. ground beef
1 lb. ground pork (use 2 lbs. ground beef if pork unavailable)
1/4 cup tomato paste
coarse salt and ground pepper
1 cup dry white wine
1 x 28 oz. can tomato puree
1 cup milk
Grated parmesan

Heat the oil in a Dutch oven over high heat. Add the onions, carrots and garlic and cook, stirring, until softened. Add the beef and the pork and cook, breaking up, until no longer pink. Stir in the tomato paste and cook 1 minute. Season generously with salt and pepper. Add the wine and tomato puree and bring to a simmer. Simmer, part covered, stirring occasionally, for 1 hour until thickened. Add the milk and simmer 15 minutes. Reseason as desired. Serve over hot pasta with parmesan.

GARLIC & OIL SAUCE FOR PASTA--Long a standard in the family of one of Klein's staff members. This easy recipe is from Quick and Easy Pasta Recipes by Coleen and Bob Simmons. For extra flavor, add onions, mushrooms or green beans, sautéed in butter.

16 oz. dry pasta
1/2 cup fruity olive oil
4-6 cloves chopped garlic
1 tsp. dried basil
salt and pepper to taste

While the pasta is cooking, warm the oil in a saucepan. When it is quite warm, remove the saucepan from the heat and add the remaining ingredients. The oil should not be so hot as to brown the garlic. Let the sauce steep while the pasta continues to cook. Toss the sauce with the hot, drained pasta. Serve immediately. Serves 8.

PARSLEY PASTA SAUCE--A rich and flavorful sauce that is similar to a creamy pesto. Another great recipe from From Asparagus to Zucchini: A Guide to Farm-Fresh Seasonal Produce.

1 lb cooked pasta
1 cup+ packed chopped parsley
1/4 cup olive oil
2 tsp. dried basil

1 1/2 tsp. dried marjoram
1 tsp. dried oregano
1/2 tsp. salt
2 cloves garlic
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 cup sour cream
1/4 cup grated parmesan
Sunflower seeds

While cooking the pasta, prep the sauce. In a processor, process the parsley, oil, basil, marjoram, oregano, salt, garlic and pepper until the parsley is finely chopped. Add the sour cream and the parmesan and puree. Place the mix in a saucepan and heat until it is almost, but not quite boiling. Serve over hot pasta and sprinkle with sunflower seeds.
Serves 8.

RICK'S MARINARA SAUCE--A sweet marinara sauce the kids will love. This simple recipe appeared in our very first newsletter from December 2006.

1 large onion, chopped
1 sweet bell pepper, chopped
1 cup chopped carrot
3 Tbs. olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 x 28 oz. can whole tomatoes with juice
1 x 6 oz. can tomato paste
2 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. dried oregano, crushed
2 tsp. dried basil, or 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
1/4 tsp. salt
a dash of black pepper
a dash of ground cayenne, or to taste
1/2 cup or more dry red wine (Port creates a sweeter sauce)

1 tsp. crushed fennel seed, optional

Cook onion, bell pepper, garlic and carrot in hot oil over medium heat till tender but not browned. Add tomatoes, paste, sugar and herbs and spices. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 35-45, adding the red wine for desired consistency and taste. (The alcohol boils off so OK for the kids) Add salt to taste. Makes enough sauce for 2 x 16 oz. packages of pasta.

EASY HOMEMADE PIZZA SAUCE--This recipe makes enough for two 12" pizzas. Double the recipe and freeze half for down the road. This recipe appeared in the September 2006 issue of 'Cooks Illustrated' magazine.

Oil

1/4 cup finely chopped onion

1 clove minced garlic

1/4 cup white wine

2 TBS. tomato paste

1 tsp. dried oregano

1/8 tsp. pepper

1 x 14.5 oz. can crushed tomatoes

1 tsp. dried basil

1/2 tsp. balsamic vinegar

Heat the oil in a saucepan and sauté the onion on medium-high heat until tender. Add the garlic and sauté 30 seconds. Stir in the wine and cook 30 seconds. Add the paste, oregano, pepper, tomatoes and basil. Reduce the heat and simmer 20 minutes or more until thick. Remove from the heat and stir in the vinegar. Makes 1 1/3 cups.

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:**

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds **'The Largest Heirloom Gardening Resource'**

Klein's is extremely happy to announce that we will be carrying seeds from **Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds** in the spring of 2009. With the slow economy, research has shown that people buy far more seeds--especially vegetable seeds. Consumers spend more time at home and in their gardens and have a tendency to grow more of their own food.

And why heirlooms? Heirlooms are the tried and true diehards that have withstood the test of time. Baker Creek has worked hard to preserve the world's gardening heritage. They carry seeds from over 70 countries and have probably the largest collection of unique seeds in the world. Connoisseurs of ethnic cuisine will be astounded by some of their offerings--long beans from East Asia, Thai eggplants, Chinese mustard greens, bitter melon, African jelly melon, Indian and Eastern European chilies, Tobasco peppers, Native American squashes--and these are just the tip of a very large iceberg.

Baker Creek's seeds are all non-hybrid, non-GMO (genetically modified organisms), non-treated and non-patented. They work only with small farmers, home gardeners and heritage seed collectors to find the seed that meets their requirements.

How did Klein's find out about Baker Creek? From Klein's own Sonya Kutz, who is currently studying in England, taking part in a unique program that explores underutilized and heirloom food crops from around the world. She told us that Baker Creek was among her favorite seed companies for truly organic and unique seed choices. Visit their website at www.rareseeds.com to order your free and truly astounding catalog. Then stop by Klein's this spring for your plunge into the world of heirloom gardening. Read on:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

by **KELLY LEAHY**

from www.greendaily.com

"My Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds catalog arrived in the mail recently. I say "catalog" but it is in actuality a beautifully designed, full color temptation. For a gardening novice like me, the book is nothing but dangerous as I want to order everything in sight.

Baker Creek offers over 1200 varieties of heritage fruits and vegetables. Choosing heritage seeds is a way to preserve varieties of years gone by. It is also a way to escape from any genetically modified produce that is commonly grown today. Many growers claim that the taste of the crops are infinitely better than what you will buy elsewhere.

In addition to more varieties of tomatoes than you could possibly grow in ten seasons, Baker Creek offers exotic seeds from all around the world. Why not try growing some Fortna White Pumpkins which are the size of pears or a Jelly Melon who's pulp resembles green jello? If you are already shopping for your garden, be sure to check out [Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds](#) for some inspiration.”

NATURAL NEWS--

Given all the snow and ice the Madison area has received this winter, snow and ice removal have been an almost constant concern. To their credit, local and state authorities have been experimenting with more natural alternatives to traditional road salt and harmful de-icers. Chemical free and environmentally sensitive options are available to the homeowner with a bit of research. Many new products on the market are supposedly ecofriendly and new ones are appearing daily. Taking that with “a grain of salt”, read on. The following is from Entercom’s ‘1 Thing Milwaukee’ green website @ milwaukee.1thingus.com/at-home/eco-friendly-snow-removal

Eco-Friendly Snow Removal

Article by Mike Larson, Executive Assistant at the Urban Ecology Center

As nature enthusiasts we have a love-hate relationship with snow. We enjoy taking hikes in the freshly fallen snow, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, ice skating and sledding- and love the snow for the fun that it brings. When it comes to removing the stuff from our driveways and sidewalks, however, we hate it!

As nature enthusiasts we also want to do everything we can to save the environment, but it seems that all of the best methods for helping us clear away snow and ice can turn a winter wonderland into an ecological nightmare! Rock salt contaminates our water and ruins vegetation and soil. Snow blowers are effective, but their two stroke engines spew carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide into our air and leech gasoline that will eventually trickle into our waterways. What's an environmentally conscious Wisconsinite to do? The following is a list of ecofriendly solutions that will leave you snow and worry free this winter:

- Nothing beats a good strong back and a shovel! This winter, consider removing snow the old-fashioned way (or paying the neighbor kid to do it). Shovels produce no greenhouse gases, will not poison our lakes and rivers, and are completely reusable. In addition, a vigorous morning shoveling will burn almost 500 calories an hour, making it healthy for you and our planet!
- Looking for a way to avoid slipping on icy surfaces? Consider using an environmentally friendly abrasive material such as sand or wood ash instead of chemical salts on your sidewalks. If you must melt the ice, try using **Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)** instead of rock salt. CMA is less harmful to vegetation, fish, aquatic life and soil. It is also advertised as being less corrosive than distilled water. If you're having a hard time finding it, ask your local hardware or garden supply what they recommend for ecofriendly deicing.
- If you must use a snow blower, consider buying an electric and replace that old gas guzzler. They are great for patios, sidewalks and short driveways. Looking for something heavy

duty? Honda makes a hybrid snow blower with emissions 30% lower than EPA Phase 2 standards. It has the best of both worlds: the power of a standard gasoline snow blower with a significantly lower environmental impact.

- Having trouble getting your car out of the alley? Leave it in the garage! Strap on a pair of cross country skis or grab your bus tickets and do yourself and the environment a favor!

Note about **Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)** from www.greenthinkers.org:

“Calcium magnesium acetate is a non-corrosive, biodegradable de-icer that’s generally petroleum-derived but can be made from corn, whey or wheat. Unlike plain salt, calcium and magnesium actually improve soil quality, and acetate is biodegradable. However, it doesn’t really melt the ice, it just breaks it down a bit - you still have to shovel it away. But isn’t that the idea anyway - just use it to loosen the ice before you try shoveling it away?”

JANUARY’S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

“ZZ PLANT” (Zamioculcas zamiifolia)

There are few houseplants available tougher than the ZZ plant. This plant appeared on the market just a few short years ago and has already invaded offices and shopping centers around the country--a testimony to their tough-as-nails reputation. They tolerate low light, dry air and infrequent watering and are completely resistant to common insect pests. In addition, the

ZZ plant is very attractive and very long lived. Klein's currently has an excellent selection of ZZ plants in all sizes.

The following in depth description is from the Denver Plants website @ www.denverplants.com.

Common name: "Fat Boy" "ZZ Plant" or "Eternity Plant"

Latin name: *Zamioculcas zamiifolia*

Native to: East Africa, Zanzibar

Growth habit: A low growing plant that may extend beyond the container 6" to 8".

Flowers: Yes, occasionally

Temps: Normal indoor temps

Humidity: Not critical.

Pests: We have yet to see a ZZ plant with insect pests.

Lighting: Low light through bright light--not fussy!

Houseplant Cultural information: If your in the market for a really neat plant that is hardy, requires very little care and truly easy to grow, pickup a ZZ plant the next time you visit the local greenhouse (**aka Klein's!**). ZZ is also called the Eternity Plant because it lasts an eternity.

What makes the ZZ plant so easy to grow is that it thrives in nearly any lighting condition except total darkness. It doesn't get bugs. The ZZ plant requires a minimum of care in terms of watering and fertilizing.

Zamioculcas zamiifolia was houseplant of the year for 2002.

ZZ plants will adapt to nearly any lighting condition except total darkness. In my opinion I feel the ZZ plant should be placed in bright filtered light for best long-term plant health.

The reason the ZZ plant requires very little is because the plant grows from a large tuber similar to a potato that stores water every time the plant is watered. This tuber acts like a little reservoir giving up its water as the plant needs it. With this in mind, let the soil dry down completely between waterings. Then water thoroughly all the way around the plant allowing plenty of water to run from the drain holes into the drip tray. If the ZZ plant has not taken up the excess water in the drip tray within a couple of hours it should be removed to help prevent root rot.

Zamioculcas zamiifolia is not a heavy feeder and will get by just fine if fed about 4 times per year.

ZZ plants are easy to propagate. Simply remove the plant from the pot and break the tubers away from each other. Replant the tubers in any good well drained houseplant potting soil. Water in the transplants and set them in bright indirect light. That's it!

ZZ plants are a little more expensive than other houseplants... but they are well worth the small investment.

YOU ASKED. . .

I really enjoy feeding the birds, but it's become a very expensive undertaking. Generally I buy the mixed bags of seed from either Woodman's or Target, but the squirrels and sparrows seem to be eating most of it. Is there something I could be doing to make the seed go a little further?

Mixed bags of seeds (those containing sunflower, both whole and shelled, millet, corn, safflower, etc.) attract the largest

variety of birds. But as you've noticed they also attract the widest assortment of undesirables. Squirrels are especially attracted to the sunflower seed, but so are the cardinals, nuthatches, chickadees, house finches and many other favorites. Here are a few tips to make your bird feeding dollars stretch a bit further:

--Rather than buying small bags of seed as you need them, buy larger quantities in bulk at the beginning of the season.

Mounds Pet Food Warehouse or **Wildbirds Unlimited** are excellent local sources for seed (and birdfeeding supplies) and carry the full spectrum of choices. Instead of buying prepared mixes, buy the individual seeds and feed them on their own or create your own mixes for the birds you're wanting to attract. To save a bit more money, don't buy seed that has already been shelled or seed chips. Birds are fully capable of doing their own shelling. Store your bulk seeds in metal containers or metal garbage cans in a cool and dry location. Rodents (mice, rats, chipmunks, squirrels) will chew through plastic containers to get to the seed so make sure they are metal.

--Be selective in the type of seed you choose and the birds you want attract. The prepared seed mixes often times contain a lot of filler seed like millet, corn and flax. Safflower, on the other hand, served alone, is a favorite of cardinals, chickadees, house finches and mourning doves. Though they'll eat safflower if hungry, squirrels and sparrows would rather eat other seeds if made available. Squirrels find safflower seed to be rather bitter. Niger (thistle) seed is expensive. But a little goes a long way and attracts primarily goldfinches, juncos and mourning doves. Squirrels will usually leave finch feeders alone. Shelled peanuts in squirrel proof feeders are a favorite of nuthatches, chickadees, cardinals, blue jays and all

woodpeckers. Protecting a single feeder with more expensive seed, rather than all of them, is a far easier endeavor.

--Feed the squirrels and sparrows!! This may sound like odd advice, but it can save some money in the long haul. Offer them the “filler seeds” on their own and away from your feeding stations. Whole corn cobs secured on spikes or millet and cracked corn spread on the ground will, to some degree, keep your squirrels content and away from your feeders. Both millet and corn are relatively inexpensive, available in bulk and will also attract many of the ground feeders like juncos and mourning doves. But on the other hand . . .

--Continue battling the squirrels for your birdfeeding dollars. Squirrels can eat a tremendous amount of seed and can cause a ton of damage to feeders and even structures in their attempts to get to feeders. It's wise to invest in squirrel proof feeders and baffles. Squirrels will chew through both wood and plastic feeders and baffles to reach their goal. The extra money spent up front on squirrel proof feeders will pay off over time. Keep feeders you want protected AT LEAST 20 ft. from any overhanging structures or limbs. Squirrels are unbelievably persistent in their attempts to reach a feeder. Once they've reached it once, they've already learned they'll be able to do it again and won't stop in their attempts until they do so or are ultimately outwitted by you. On the other hand, it can be very entertaining to watch squirrels trying to get to feeders and kind of fun trying to outfox them. There are also plenty of “squirrel feeders” on the market that are specifically designed to entertain us--ones that spin as the squirrel eats or others that require them to do antics before they receive their reward (usually an ear of corn).

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) 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.

Dane County Winter Farmer's Market

Saturdays, November 15 thru December 20, 7:30-noon
Monona Terrace

Saturdays, January 3 thru April 11, 8:00-noon
Madison Senior Center
330 W. Mifflin

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Olbrich's Garden's

Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Yesterday's Plants, Today's Energy

September 3 through March 22, 2009
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00
In the Bolz Conservatory

Come learn about the prehistoric plants that formed the coal we use for today's energy. Coal-forming ferns and mosses have lived on Earth for the past 290 million years - since before the dinosaurs! Learn what it took to make these plants into coal, and discover why we need alternative energy sources since

today's ferns and mosses won't provide coal energy for tomorrow. Admission is \$1 for the general public. Admission is always free for Olbrich Botanical Society members and children 5 and under, and is free for the general public on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon.

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

Native Seed Collection--Storage and Propagation Basics
Saturday, January 17, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

From collecting to storing and propagating, learn about current research and techniques regarding native seeds. If you are planning a prairie or woodland, find out how to grow your favorite grass or forb species. Some hands-on experience may be included.

University of Wisconsin Arboretum
1207 Seminole Highway
Madison, WI 53711
608/263-7888 or www.uwarboretum.org for details

22nd Annual Orchid Quest 2009
Saturday, January 31, 10:00-5:00
Sunday, February 1, 10:00-4:00

Vendors and education seminars from orchid experts have everything you need including literature, growing media, fertilizer and orchid pots. \$6 admission for one day and \$9

admission for two-days. Visit www.orchidguild.org for more information.

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Madison, WI 53713
608/267-3976 or www.alliantenergycenter.com

16th Annual Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo

Friday, February 13, 4:00-9:00
Saturday, February 14, 8:00-6:00
Sunday, February 15, 10:00-4:00

Walk through the custom garden display, attend demonstrations and seminars, register for workshops and view over 400 different exhibitors. One and two day tickets are available at the door or in advance from Klein's. Visit www.wpt.org/gardenexpo for more information. Meet Shelley Ryan, master gardener and producer/host of The Wisconsin Gardener series, UW-Extension experts, and Master Gardeners. All show proceeds, including admission fee, support Wisconsin Public Television programming. Garden Expo also meets WPT's educational and community outreach mission.

Tickets cost \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Two-day passes are available for \$10 both in advance and at the door. Advance tickets are available at Klein's.

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Madison, WI 53713

608/267-3976 or www.alliantenergycenter.com

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

___ Pick up a copy of the 2009 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores.

___ Place your used Christmas tree in the garden for added wildlife protection.

___ Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.

___ Check for and treat for pests on plants brought in from the garden.

___ Begin forcing stored elephant's ears at the end of January.

___ Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.

___ Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering new ones.

___ Order your seeds. By ordering early, there are usually freebies & discounts.

___ Start certain slow-growers like lisianthus, geraniums, pentas and bananas.

___ Shop for summer bulbs like begonias, caladium, calla and elephant's ears.

___ Use the winter days to plan next summer's garden.

___ Check your garden for any plant damage from weather or rodents.

___ Have trees trimmed--it's often times cheaper and easier to schedule.

___ Visit Klein's---it's green, it's warm, it's colorful---it's always spring.

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 JANUARY:

---This is the quietest month at the greenhouse. All 10 greenhouses in our back range have been shut down to save on energy and prep them for all the spring plants that start arriving in February.

---We take advantage of the warm and sunny rooms in our front range (the retail area) to do any touch up painting or construction to ready ourselves for the spring season.

---Thousands of geranium cuttings arrive for our 4 1/2" pots and we begin planting up our geranium hanging baskets and flower pouches.

---We begin stepping our tropicals into larger pots for spring sale. This early jump gives you larger and more vigorous plants than many of our competitors.

---We spend much of our time ordering product for next summer, from plants to pottery to garden ornaments and sundries.

---We begin to access our needs for spring staffing and try to have the new people in place and trained by March 1. March and April are the busiest months behind the scenes in the greenhouse and we rely on a dedicated, hardworking team to have everything ready for the customer come May 1 and the spring onslaught.

---Hundreds of herbs for windowsill culture are thriving in the sunny, warm greenhouses . We have chosen only the best

assortment for indoor growing and winter harvest. Choose from rosemary, lavender, parsley, thyme and more.

---We continue to plan and prepare for Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center in February by sprucing up display pieces and potting up thousands of violas, primrose, cineraria, etc. for sale at the show. This is Klein's biggest annual event and our most important advertising.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--KEN CLEVELAND

Though with Klein's for a relatively short time, Ken Cleveland has already proven himself to be an invaluable addition to the Klein's team. Persistence, maturity, a strong work ethic and a very uplifting and realistic life philosophy has brought Ken to where he is today. And like many of us at Klein's, Ken had a little bit of luck on his side.

Though now a horticulture major, Ken says he had very little experience with gardening or plants while growing up in the La Crosse, WI area. He says his family had a few plants around the house, but would by no means be considered a family of green thumbs. What Ken says he did inherit from his mother and father, is their belief that one needs to work hard to get what one wants out of life. He believes that hard work, both mentally and physically, are necessary to achieve one's goals. He also says he inherited his mother's need for punctuality, which is a very important part of his own day to day life both at work and at school.

After graduating from Onalaska High School in 2003, Ken found himself in a variety of restaurant and retail jobs while trying to "figure things out." As he tells it, it was while out in the woods

enjoying the day with some friends that his deep seeded passion for nature came to the surface. He says it was a sort of revelation. He says that he became fascinated by the plants that surrounded him in that woodland setting. Being surrounded by nature suddenly made him feel very good inside. It was on that single day that his path to the present began.

Essentially, Ken was ready for a drastic change in his life; from a period of wandering rather aimlessly to becoming goal driven with a far clearer picture of where life might take him. Ken enrolled in the local technical college and tried to find a job at one of the local nurseries. With greenhouse jobs, timing is everything and luck was not on his side. Then, somewhat impulsively, he and a friend decided it was time for a big change. They packed their bags and headed to Madison. It was now or never, he says. Once in Madison, Ken immediately enrolled at the Madison Area Technical College, hoping to start his path toward an ultimate horticulture degree. As fate would have it and while biking near the MATC campus, Ken saw the "Now Hiring" sign at Klein's. It was the spring of 2008 that Ken was hired as a seasonal temporary whose main responsibility was customer service and retail sales. With his foot in the door, Ken now had the job he had always wanted and one that would send him down the correct career path.

The most useful employees in a small family business are those that can do it all --the jack of all trades. Not only can Ken work in the retail area, but he's a quick and efficient delivery driver, a handyman, and most of all a dedicated greenhouse worker whose goal is to learn everything there is to know about the industry. He says he feels lucky to work under someone as talented as our grower (Jamie Vanden Wymelenberg). Ken says that he's particularly

fascinated in plant pathology and hopes to pursue that area once he transfers to the University of Wisconsin down the road. Ken says he's also very interested in all types of plants, of course, but is extremely interested in fungi. Though Ken doesn't know where life's journey will take him, he sees Klein's as a big part of that adventure. He sees his experience at Klein's as invaluable. In fact, if dealt the cards, Ken can see himself at Klein's for many years to come. He says he enjoys every day at work and finds peace in being around the sunshine, the plants and the people at Klein's-- both customers and coworkers alike.

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 community UW athletics and academics with advertising and coupons in the

2009 edition of the Bucky Book. Visit www.buckybook.com for more information and to order your copy.

DELIVERY INFO

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses delivers daily, except Sundays, throughout all of Madison and much of Dane County including: Cottage Grove, DeForest, Fitchburg, Maple Bluff, Marshall, 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. A minimum order of \$25.00 is required for delivery. Delivery to the Madison hospitals is \$4.95. Deliveries to the four Madison hospitals are made during the early afternoon. There is no delivery charge to funeral homes in the city of Madison, although regular rates apply for morning funeral deliveries to Madison's west side. Regular rates also apply for funeral deliveries in the surrounding communities.

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if requested: 53703, 53704, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, Marshall, 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 west-side zip codes and communities can be delivered only during the afternoon: 53705, 53706, 53711, 53713, 53717, 53719, 53726, Fitchburg, 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. We do not deliver to Cambridge, Columbus, Deerfield or Stoughton.

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/Index.html

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/

PLANTS POISONOUS TO CHILDREN:

Children may find the bright colors and different textures of plants irresistible, but some plants can be poisonous if touched or eaten. If you're in doubt about whether or not a plant is poisonous, don't keep it in your home. The risk is not worth it. The following list is not comprehensive, so be sure to seek out safety information on the plants in your home to be safe.

- Bird of paradise
- Bull nettle
- Castor bean
- Chinaberry tree

- Crocus
- Daffodil
- Deadly nightshade
- Dieffenbachia (dumb cane)
- Foxglove
- Glory lily
- Hemlock
- Holly berry
- Indian tobacco
- Iris
- Jimsonweed
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Lily of the valley
- Marijuana
- Mescal bean
- Mexicanes
- Mistletoe
- Morning glory
- Mountain laurel
- Night-blooming jasmine
- Nutmeg
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Poison ivy
- Poison sumac
- Pokeweed
- Poppy
- Potato
- Privet
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Water hemlock
- Wisteria

PLANTS POISONOUS TO PETS:

Below is a list of some of the common plants which may produce a toxic reaction in animals. This list is intended only as a guide to plants which are generally identified as having the capability for producing a toxic reaction. Source: The National Humane Society website @ www.hsus.org/

- Aconite
- Apple
- Arrowgrasses
- Autumn Crocus
- Azaleas
- Baneberry
- Bird-of-Paradise
- Black locust
- Bloodroot
- Box
- Buckeye
- Buttercup
- Caladium
- Carolina jessamine
- Castor bean
- Chinaberry tree
- Chockcherries
- Christmas berry
- Christmas Rose
- Common privet
- Corn cockle
- Cowbane
- Cow cockle
- Cowsliprb
- Daffodil
- Daphne
- Day lily

- Delphinium (Larkspur)
- Dumbcane
- Dutchman's breeches
- Easter lily
- Elderberry
- Elephant's ear
- English Ivy
- European Bittersweet
- Field peppergrass
- Foxglove
- Holly
- Horsechestnut
- Horse nettle
- Hyacinth
- Iris
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Jimsonweed
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Laurels
- Lily of the valley
- Lupines
- Mayapple
- Milk vetch
- Mistletoe
- Monkshood
- Morning glory
- Mustards
- Narcissus
- Nicotiana
- Nightshade
- Oaks
- Oleander

- Philodendrons
- Pokeweed
- Poinsettia
- Poison hemlock
- Potato
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Rosary pea
- Sago palm
- Skunk cabbage
- Smartweeds
- Snow-on-the-mountain
- Sorghum
- Star of Bethlehem
- Wild black cherry
- Wild radish
- Wisteria
- Yellow jessamine
- Yew