

'THE SAGE'--DECEMBER 2009

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights: [Klein's Holiday Open House: December 4-6, 2009](#)

[2010 Bucky Books Now Available at Klein's](#)

[The 2010 Wisconsin Garden Journal Now in Stock](#)

[The Perfect Gift: A Dane Buy Local Gift Card!](#)

[The 10 Biggest Myths About Christmas Trees](#)

[Add Magic to the Holidays with Christmas Flowers](#)

[Favorite Celeriac \(Root Celery\) Recipes \(Website Only\)](#)

[12 Months of Fresh Flowers from Klein's](#)

[How Poisonous Are Poinsettias? . . . No Really!](#)

[Woody Ornamentals from Star Valley Flowers, Inc.](#)

[Notes from Rick's Garden Journal-- from October 2009](#)

--Favorite "Fall" Shrubs

--The Truth About Grow Lights . . . Are They Needed?

--Rabbit Proofing Your Winter Garden

[Plant of the Month: Christmas Cactus](#)

[You Asked the Mad Gardener About Rose Protection](#)

[December in the Garden: A Planner](#)

[Gardening Events Around Town](#)

[Become a Fan of Klein's on Facebook](#)

[Delivery Information](#)

[The City of Madison Recycles Used Plastic Pots](#)

[Related Resources and Websites](#)

[Plants Harmful to Kids and Pets](#)

BUCKY BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT KLEIN'S

Klein's is again showing our proud support of UW athletics and academics with advertising and coupons in the 2010 edition of the **Bucky Book**. For the very first time, Klein's is selling the 2010 edition in-store. The Bucky Book makes the perfect holiday gift! Visit www.buckybook.com for more information.

DANE BUY LOCAL GIFT CARDS

Klein's is proud to continue in our support Dane Buy Local. We've joined hundreds of other area businesses and civic leaders who are encouraging you to **buy local**.

The Top 5 Reasons for Buying Local:

1. Keep Madison original. We ensure that unique, one-of-a-kind businesses survive.
2. Enrich the community economy. Each time money is spent at a locally-owned business, the tax stays in Dane County to support local resources such as schools, parks, police and fire...and much more.
3. Provide more jobs. All together, locally owned independent businesses are our largest employer.
4. Ensure a solid foundation for local nonprofit organizations who serve us. Locally owned businesses give more.
5. Create good places to work: We want work life to reflect home town friendliness and familiarity. Treating our employees well is part of our community commitment.

(from the Dane Buy Local web site at www.danebuylocal.com)

Buy Local Gift Cards Are Now Available.

- These gift cards can make great holiday gifts.
- Can be purchased for any denomination from \$25.00- \$250.00.
- Cards are available at any of the 5 branches of Home Savings Bank.
- Any merchant who accepts VISA can accept gift cards.

Please contact Home Savings Bank at 282-6000 with questions or for a location near you. There's one just next door to Klein's at 3762 E. Washington Ave.

Visit the Dane Buy Local web site for a complete list with links to all participating businesses and organizations. **And Please Buy Local!**

THE MAD GARDENER

"Madison's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"

Ask any of your gardening questions by e-mailing them to us at madgardener@kleinsfloral.com. Klein's in-house **Mad Gardener** will e-mail you with an answer as promptly as we can. We've also posted a link to this e-mail address on our home page for your

convenience. 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** hopes to hear from you soon!

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

Please note that our **Mad Gardener** is not only an expert gardener, but can answer all of your indoor plant questions as well.

DECEMBER STORE HOURS:

Holiday Hours

Monday thru Friday

8:00-7:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Holiday hours run through Wednesday, December 23

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24--Open 8:00-4:00

Starting December 26:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Please note that we will be closed Sundays during January. Our first Sunday open will be February 7, 2010

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31--Open 8:00-4:00

Closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day, January 1, 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

December 4 thru December 6--KLEIN'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE. Join us for one time savings on our famous homegrown poinsettias--for carry out or delivery anytime during the holiday season. Also save on Wisconsin grown pine boughs, evergreen roping and wreaths. Enter a winter wonderland filled with holiday plants and gift ideas. Let us inspire you with our extensive collection of ornaments for all your decorating needs. Free refreshments on hand.

And check out our famous painted poinsettias. Poinsettia Painting is THE hottest trend in holiday decorating. The past few Christmases we couldn't keep our eye-popping creations on the shelves. Ever wanted a blue poinsettia? Tie-dyed? Or how about something elegant, sprinkled in glitter? The possibilities are endless. Have one of our greenhouse associates design and paint a unique creation for your own home decor or to suit any taste.

Early December--Order your beautiful poinsettias, blooming plants, designer gift baskets or custom-made centerpieces now for holiday gift-giving and guaranteed delivery. Early ordering ensures you top quality product for your home decorating and holiday party needs.

December 2--Full Moon

December 12--Hanukkah Begins

December 18--Islamic New Year

December 20 thru December 24--Stop in and check-out our in-store specials for any last minute gift-giving ideas. We still have a fantastic selection of homegrown poinsettias, blooming plants, houseplants, decorations and more. Shop early for the best selection and we'll deliver anywhere in Madison or the surrounding communities thru noon on Dec. 24.

December 21--Winter Solstice

December 25--Christmas Day (Closed)

December 26--Kwanzaa Begins

December 26--The After Christmas 75% Off Sale begins at 8:00! Everything 'holiday' must go! This is a great time to plan for this week's New Years Eve party or to pick up some excellent bargains for next year's decorating. Poinsettias are perfect for adding instant color to your late season holiday party and are gorgeous in fresh arrangements.

December 26 thru December 31--Order your New Years Eve centerpieces and custom designed arrangements early!

December 31--Full Moon (Blue Moon)

January 1, 2010--New Year's Day (Closed)

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

Christmas Flowers

Christmas flowers are such a beautifully poignant way to add magic to the holidays. And one look at the many gorgeous Christmas flower arrangements we offer should assure you that no matter what style or price range you're looking for...you need look no further.

Invited to an elegant dinner party? Get glowing a few days before the event by sending one of our many striking centerpieces, complete with candles. There's no better host or hostess gift than a Christmas flower delivery to add grace and beauty, naturally. Another great option for parties is to order up some sparkle. We have several sparkling selections that will add their share of shine to the holidays.

Do you want to send some standout gifts? Browse through our Christmas flower bouquets we create in amazing keepsake containers that will make your gift will last long after the flowers and the holidays are over. Or perhaps you'd rather send a fabulous wreath, miniature Christmas tree or the always appreciated live Poinsettia plant...whatever you settle upon you can be sure your Christmas flower delivery will be super special.

All of our arrangements are hand-arranged by a professional florist then hand-delivered, as well. And during the holidays it's especially nice to send a gift with a difference you can rely on. Christmas flowers really make the holiday more beautiful.

Source: Teleflora's website @ www.teleflora.com.

Now on Sale at Klein's Floral & Greenhouses:

Wooden Signs by Danielson Designs ("The Art of Remembering") are now 25% off while supplies last!!

Founded in 1992, in the heart of Colorado, Danielson Designs is America's premier manufacturer of hand painted wooden picture frames and signs for the home. Each product produced by Danielson Designs is carefully handcrafted using generations-old lithographic techniques. Each Danielson Designs frame and sign is masterfully distressed by hand, giving a truly unique and aesthetically designed product that would make a beautiful addition to any home. The beauty of these wooden signs and frames has earned recognition from many decorating magazines, including Country Living, Victoria, Country Home, and Romantic Home.

The unique style and creative vision of founder Annie Danielson is apparent in each product of the Danielson Designs collection. From the beautiful colors used on the signs to the profound words that adorn many of the pieces, you are sure to find something perfect for your home. And with thoughtful and sometimes hilarious words for every occasion, a Danielson Designs frame or sign is always a heartwarming gift.

Please visit www.elizabethsembellishments.com

Klein's offers a wide selection from the Danielson Design collection. They make perfect gifts for all occasions. Many are themed for the garden enthusiast and are a wonderful addition to any home decor.

Willow Tree Collectibles by Susan Lordi are also 25% off!

Klein's is happy to offer many pieces from inspirational Willow Tree line of intimate and personal, hand carved sculptures. Beginning as a nativity scene in 2000, Willow Tree now encompasses sculptural figurines depicting the sentiments we often want to express to loved ones, friends and associates. Sculptures suggest and elicit emotion using the simplicity of gesture and body posture. Willow Tree Collectibles make for a truly special holiday gift.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . that poinsettias are not poisonous like you've been told?

Poinsettia Toxicity Myth

The poinsettia is the most widely tested consumer plant on the market today, proving the myth about the popular holiday plant to be false:

•Scientific research from The Ohio State University has proved the poinsettia to be nontoxic to both humans and pets. All parts of the plant were tested, including the leaves and sap. "They probably taste awful, and aren't easily digested, but poinsettias aren't poisonous," said Claudio Pasian, assistant professor of horticulture and crop science at Ohio State.

http://www.osu.edu/news/releases/98-12-15_Poinsettias_Are_Not_Toxic.html

•According to POISINDEX, the national information center for poison control centers, a child would have to ingest 500-600 leaves in order to exceed the experimental doses that found no toxicity.

•A study by Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University found that out of 22,793 reported poinsettia exposures there was essentially no toxicity significance of any kind. The study used national data collected by the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

•The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reports that keeping this plant out of the reach of pets to avoid stomach upset is a good idea, however pet owners need not fear the poinsettia and banish it from their homes for fear of a fatal exposure. The American Veterinary Medicine Association of America (AVMA), agrees.

<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/poinsettia.html>

As with any nonfood product, however, the poinsettia is not meant to be eaten and can cause varying degrees of discomfort; therefore, the plant should be kept out of the reach of young children and curious pets.

Poinsettia and Latex Allergies

According to the American Latex Allergy Association, only about 1 percent to 6 percent of the general population is allergic to latex, and "... one would have to have significant contact with the poinsettia plant's latex directly to have an allergic reaction ... only a small drop of latex that can be immediately wiped off of the skin is unlikely to cause an allergic reaction."

The Purdue Plant & Pest Diagnostic Laboratory advises pet owners: "Wash sap off the animal to prevent further ingestion. Call a veterinarian if the eyes are affected, or if signs do not resolve in a few minutes."

<http://www.latexallergyresources.org/topics/AskExpertDetail.cfm?ExpertID=4>

For more about **Festive Medical Myths**, visit: http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/dec17_2/a2769

Source: The Society of American Florists' website @ <http://www.aboutflowers.com>

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

ENTRY: NOVEMBER 3, 2009 (Favorite "Fall" Shrubs)

Over the past few seasons and as Klein's has delved deeper into the selling of deciduous shrubs, I've been adding more and more to my perennial borders and beds. Now that autumn is at its peak, some of my favorite shrub additions are showing off the attributes that attracted me to them in the first place.

Adding interesting shrubs to my yard has become my newest obsession. After vegetables in the 80's, perennials in the 90's and annuals in the 00's, what obsession could be left for me? I'm not a fan of sprawling lawns, so tearing up all of my beds and exploring the newest thing in turf grasses is really not an option. My yard is too small for trees, so I'm not going that direction! Besides, I had spent the better part of the 80's and 90's removing all of the trees in the yard so I could grow those beloved vegetables, perennials and annuals.

My very first dabbling in the world of shrubs came when I tore up the front yard for perennials. For a little privacy and vertical appeal, I incorporated a staghorn sumac (one of my very favorite plants lining the fence rows on the family farm) and a rugged rugosa rose called 'Buffalo Gal'. Due to the fact that a previous owner of my house had worked at a garden center, I already had a nice collection of spring blooming quince, lilacs, elderberry, viburnum, mock orange and tree peonies. But it's the year round or seasonal appeal of the red-twigged dogwood, the burning bush and that sumac that I was longing for.

Since that realization, I've added a few more of these "fall" jewels here and there throughout the garden and with great effect. My newest favorite is witchhazel; blooming only after the leaves have fallen from most trees--including its own. The yellow, ribbon-like blooms are a delightful curiosity on its bare branches. Fothergilla is another spectacular addition. The colorful fall foliage explodes in the landscape in shades of yellow, orange and red--all on one plant! Barberry, though invasive in some parts of the country, is an excellent addition to the mixed perennial border or bed here in the far north. This small-leafed shrub glows in the fall and winter landscape with brilliant foliage, interesting bark and the brightest of red berries. The 'Helmond Pillar' barberry variety I've planted has all of these attributes plus an interesting vertical structure.

And then, of course, there's my treasured staghorn sumac. Over the years the branches have become wonderfully contorted and twisted--each topped by a cluster of maroon fruits. Nothing looks prettier to me in the winter landscape . . .well maybe the dogwood . . .or the . . .

ENTRY: NOVEMBER 5, 2009 (The Truth About Grow Lights)

Another customer came into Klein's today asking about grow lights. I asked them what their intent was in using them. Of course, they can grow whatever they want!! I'm no prude!! Rather, I was asking whether they were planning on using artificial light for the short

term or actually planning on raising plants under them for the long haul (like African violets). Nope, as suspected they were just wanting to overwinter a few treasured annuals in their basement.

Grow lights are available at most garden centers and all home improvement stores. They benefit plants by giving them the full spectrum of light needed to thrive--not just the blue and violet waves for photosynthesis and growth, but also the red and yellow waves for best flower production and, therefore, reproduction.

But unless a plant's entire life is to be spent under artificial lights, a grow light is entirely unnecessary. Plain fluorescent lights are completely adequate for most gardeners' needs, i.e. overwintering plants or cuttings and seed starting. Plain fluorescent lights not only supply the parts of the light spectrum needed for survival, but do so less expensively. One two foot grow light can cost up to four times more than the same sized plain fluorescent light. The key to success is to keep your plants as close to the light source as possible.

In my own basement I currently have 30 four foot fluorescent tubes giving light to my hundreds of overwintered cuttings and other assorted plants. Later in winter, I'll move some of these plants upstairs to sunlight as my seed starting begins and the basement space is needed. These same 30 tubes are then used to nurture my hundreds of annual and vegetable seedlings for the garden. Imagine my savings by using simple fluorescent tubes over the unnecessary grow lights and with no discernible detriment to the plants' health. My light fixtures are connected to timers that give the plants 13 hours of light each day. For some of my plants, this is their only source of light for the entire winter (October-May).

ENTRY: NOVEMBER 14, 2009 (Rabbit Proofing Your Winter Garden)

Wow, what great weather we've been experiencing in recent weeks. After a lousy October, we've had one of the nicest Novembers in recent memory. The bulbs are all planted and the garden has pretty much been put to rest for the winter. One of my last fall gardening tasks today was to put the rabbit protection around some of my valuable garden plants. Experience has taught me the importance of this autumnal garden task.

A few springs back, I planted three lovely Japanese maples and one of the newest ornamental elderberries. They thrived in the garden all summer long and had put on substantial trunks by the onset of winter. Because of their size and health, I wasn't concerned that they'd make it through the winter. Ultimately, it wasn't the weather that caused their demise, rather the three or four rabbits that took up winter residence under the front porch. That winter was a very snowy one and the rabbits were clearly hungry. In addition, there was more than one rabbit fighting for the few food sources in my small yard. By springtime, not only had my prized maples and elderberries been nibbled completely to the ground, but also a young crabapple, all of my barberries, a summersweet, a few rose bushes, and, believe it or not, a yucca that had remained green and exposed on and off through the winter. The destruction was devastating. I was resolved to make sure this would never happen again in the future.

Many of the plants have come back on their own and I've replaced the few that haven't. But anyone who has grown Japanese maples knows that replacing them is an expensive undertaking.

So now each fall, after all garden chores have been completed, I place a chicken wire fence around all potential rabbit victims. Since doing so, not a single garden specimen has succumbed to their wrath--even after the last two exceptionally snowy winters. It's important to note that as the snow depth rises, so too must the height of the rabbit fencing!! In the record year of 2007/08, the damn critters ate all of the lower branches off my apple trees--5 feet off the ground!. Luckily, the trees are mature and the rabbits were unable to damage the trunks.

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

Celeriac (root celery) is a fantastic old world root vegetable that is (after generations of being neglected) reappearing on Madison area dinner tables. A Klein's staff member recalls a not-so-long-ago visit to Woodman's where he surprisingly found celeriac in the produce section. Later in the check out aisle, not a single employee knew what it was. This odd looking, knobby vegetable hadn't even been programmed into the system! The cashiers had to take his word on the price per pound, lest they hold up the long line for a price check. Since that time a number of years ago, now even Woodman's carries celeriac almost year round.

Klein's is probably the only local garden center to carry root celery as starter plants in the springtime. That's probably due to the German heritage of the Klein family. Root celery, rather than stalk celery, is grown throughout most of northern and eastern Europe where stalk celery is virtually unheard of. In fact, root celery was very common in local gardens in the 19th century, but fell out of favor as bonds to ethnic roots weakened and supermarkets, rather than gardens, became the source for the family vegetable supply. Root celery requires a long growing season (120+ days) and is, therefore, best planted as starters in Madison gardens.

Root celery has a mild, almost sweet, celery flavor and can be used as a substitute in nearly all dishes requiring celery. Celeriac is especially delicious in soups and stews or oven roasted, cut into chunks, with other root vegetables. Though most often cooked, it is equally delicious shredded raw in salads. Under proper conditions, root celery can be stored for up to 8 months.

CELERIC & WILD RICE CHOWDER--You'd swear this recipe came directly from L'Etoile's own kitchen, when in fact it was picked up from the Willy St. Co-op newsletter (October 2006).

- 1 cup wild rice
- 2 lbs. (2 lg.) peeled, diced celeriac (root celery)
- 4 lg. leeks, chopped

4 Tbs. butter
2 stalks celery, diced
2 cups thinly sliced potato
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
2 bay leaves
1 tsp. crushed dried thyme
salt and pepper
4 cups chicken or veggie broth
4 cups half & half and/or milk combo (the more half & half used, the richer)

Cook the wild rice per package instructions in 10 cups of water. Drain the rice through cheese cloth or a clean kitchen towel, reserving the cooking water. Set aside. Melt the butter in a large soup pot. Add the prepped veggies, parsley, bay leaves, thyme and 1 Tbs. salt. Cook the veggies to "sweat" them over medium heat, covered, stirring them occasionally. Add the broth, increase the heat and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, 30 minutes. Add the half and half/milk and bring to a simmer. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Puree a few cups of the soup in a blender and return to the pot or if you have a hand blender, blend lightly, leaving the soup a little chunky. Stir in reserved rice. Thin with the rice cooking water to desired consistency. Garnish with additional chopped parsley. Makes 10-12 servings.

NOTE: The remaining rice cooking water freezes well and is a fantastic broth to use in future soups and stews. Freeze in 1 or 2 cup increments to make measuring easy.

PARSNIPS AND CELERIAC WITH NUTMEG--This recipe originally appeared in Bon Appetit magazine in November of 2002.

4 TBS. butter
1 cup chopped onion
2 lbs. parsnips, peeled and cut into 1/2" cubes
1 1/4 lbs. celeriac, peeled and cut into 1/2" pcs. (2 cups)
1 1/4 cups chicken broth
1/2 cup whipping cream
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/2 cup celery leaves, minced (optional)

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion and sauté until almost tender. Add the parsnips and celeriac and toss to coat. Add the broth, cream and nutmeg and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium, cover and simmer until tender and the liquid is almost absorbed, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes. Add water by the tablespoons if it starts to get too dry. Season to taste with salt and pepper, stir in the celery leaves and serve. Serves 8.

GLAZED CELERIAC WITH ONIONS, GRAPES & PISTACHIOS (or Almonds)--This as-of-yet untested recipe from the January 2005 pages of Cook's Illustrated sounds amazing. Let us know what you think!

4 TBS. chopped, roasted, unsalted pistachios or almonds
1 1/2 TBS. butter
1 medium red onion cut into 1/4" wedges
2 medium celeriac, trimmed, peeled and cut into 3/4" cubes (or about 4 cups)
1 cup chicken or vegetable broth
3 TBS. sugar
4 tsp. red wine vinegar
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 cups seedless red grapes, halved

Toast the nuts over medium heat in a large skillet until lightly browned. Set aside. Heat the butter in the same skillet on medium high. Once the foaming subsides, swirl to coat the pan. Add the onion, then the celeriac, in even layers and cook without stirring until browned. Stir and continue cooking until browned on all sides, stirring occasionally. Add the broth, sugar, vinegar, salt and pepper. Cover the pan and reduce the heat to medium low and simmer until tender, about 10 minutes. Uncover and increase the heat to high. Add the grapes and cook, stirring often, until the liquid is reduced to a glaze--just a few minutes. Serve, sprinkled with the reserved nuts. Serves 8.

MASHED POTATOES AND ROOT VEGETABLES--Another recipe from Cook's Illustrated; this one from November 2007.

1 stick (8 TBS.) butter
1 lb. root veggies of choice, cut into 1/4" rounds or 1/2" dice. (choose from celeriac, parsnips, carrots, turnips, etc.)
3 lbs. potatoes (peeled if desired), cut into 1/4" dice.
2/3 cup chicken broth
salt
1 1/2 cups half & half
1/4 cup fresh chives (if available)
pepper to taste

Melt the butter in a large Dutch oven. Cook the root veggies over medium to medium high heat, stirring often, until the butter is browned and the veggies are dark brown and caramelized, about 12-15 minutes. Add the potatoes, broth and 1 1/2 tsp. salt. Stir. Cook, covered over low-ish heat, stirring occasionally, until very tender and the liquid has been absorbed, about 40 minutes. Remove from the heat and gently mash with a potato masher. Gently fold in the cream and the chives. Reseason with salt and pepper and serve. Serves 8.

Note: If chives are unavailable, try this! Toast paprika (regular or smoked) in a pan for 30 seconds and fold into the cooked, mashed veggies with 1/4 cup chopped parsley.

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 spotlight features Seasonal Woody Ornamentals from Star Valley Flowers, Inc.

Klein's is very happy to announce our new association with Star Valley Farms of Soldier's Grove, Wisconsin, a local grower and supplier of the most amazing seasonal flowers, branches and natural material for holiday decor. Star Valley began supplying us with our autumn ornamentals just a few months ago. Their quality is so outstanding, that we decided to use them as our sole supplier for dogwood, willow and winterberry this holiday season. In fact, in the generations that we've been selling bittersweet, nothing has compared to the bittersweet we received from Star Valley this past autumn. The branches, loaded with berries, were picked and shipped supple and fresh and were then allowed to ripen naturally in our warm and sunny greenhouses. Within days, each berry popped open, revealing its bright orange innards.

Just a few years ago, Klein's assistant manager, Jen Simon, had happened upon Star Valley Flowers while watching an episode of **The Wisconsin Gardener** with Shelley Ryan. Immediately she knew that Star Valley Flowers and Klein's made for the perfect fit! Tap into Jen's amazing creativity this holiday season when preparing your outdoor winter containers. Jen uses fresh pine, in combination with branches, berries, fabrics and other holiday baubles, mixed in with a little bit of cheer and holiday good will. Choose from one of Klein's premade holiday creations or have Jen and our talented crew design yours with your tastes and decor in mind.

Our 2009 selection includes:

Flame Willow--"think harvest color dogwood"

Curly Willow (Red & Green)--because of our colder winters, branches are more dramatically colored than those raised elsewhere.

Red Bud Willow--Beautiful variety of pussy willow with some open catkins.

Fantail Willow--has "Dr. Seuss looking" contorted branches.

Dogwood (Red, Yellow & Cardinal)--A native known for its brilliant bark. Cardinal is a "screaming cherry red" variety.

Winterberry--Wisconsin's very own native holly (Ilex).

The Star Valley Story

"Two hours southwest of Madison, Wis., tucked away in a town called Soldiers Grove, is a cut flower operation that grows anything but the ordinary. We have found our niche by producing specialty cut flowers, especially woody ornamentals and perennials".

"Today, 165 acres are in production, and products are shipped as far west as Honolulu and as far east as Boston. We are the largest field-grown cut flower producer in the Midwest. Eighty percent of product is shipped to wholesale florists. The remaining twenty percent is sent to bouquet makers, wholesale brokers and high-end retailers".

Visit their lovely website with tons of pictures @ <http://www.starvalleyflowers.com/>

NATURAL NEWS--

10 Biggest Myths about Christmas Trees from the National Christmas Tree Associations website @ <http://www.christmastree.org>

Myths, urban legends, misperceptions and sometimes outright lies. We know there are some crazy things that people have been told about Real Christmas Trees over the years. And this has led to a large number of confused consumers. While many of these myths can be traced back to the fake tree industry, many are like urban legends ... they just sort of exist and nobody really knows how they started.

MYTH #1: Real Christmas Trees are cut down from forests.

BUSTED: Seriously, do people still believe this? To be completely accurate, in a few locations around North America, the Forest Service sells permits for people to harvest wild trees. They do this in places to create fire breaks. But it's a very tiny percentage of all trees used. Most trees come from a farm where someone plants them. And each year, growers plant one to three seedlings for each tree harvested.

MYTH #2: You save a tree by using a fake tree.

BUSTED: This is obviously tied to Myth #1, and also directly attributable to the fake tree industry. We've got copies of ads for fake trees that say exactly that: "Save a tree." Of course, this is false, because trees are a crop. They are planted by farmers to be used specifically as Christmas Trees. Close to half a billion trees are currently growing on tree farms in the U.S. alone. The really ironic part of the ad for the fake tree is one of the selling points is that it comes in a sturdy cardboard box. Ummm, how exactly is that saving a tree?

MYTH #3: Real Christmas Trees aggravate allergies.

BUSTED: Often, we get e-mails and inquiries from news media asking if there is a type of Christmas Tree that won't bother a person's allergies. We've collected sources of information both about trees and allergies and share these with people. Sources include the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS) and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI). So it's not just "the Christmas Tree people" saying that the farm-grown tree itself is not the culprit.

A quick summary of the sources we have found are that while it's possible that a person may be allergic to tree pollen or even tree sap, it's not as widespread as many believe. We have read that in rare cases, people can have an allergy to certain species of tree sap.

As for pollens, which certainly can be an allergen to people, a Real Tree itself is unlikely to produce pollen during December, and even if it did, pollens from pines are not a known allergen. According to the NIEHS of the 50,000 different kinds of trees, less than 100 have been shown to cause allergies. Most allergies are specific to one type of tree.

But being outdoors for years in the field, a Christmas Tree can collect pollens, dust, mold or other allergens. Of course, so can the artificial tree stored in the attic or basement. Whether you use a fresh Christmas Tree from a farm, or an artificial tree stored in a box, if you have sensitive allergies to dust, molds, etc., AAAAI recommends you spray the tree down in the yard with a hose before putting up. Let it dry completely before bringing indoors.

MYTH #4: It's better to use a fake tree because you can reuse it each year.

BUSTED: That's a very shortsighted perspective. According to research, most fake trees are only used 6 to 9 years before they're disposed. Even if you would use one for 20 years or more, it will eventually be thrown away and end up in a landfill. And unlike Real Trees, which are biodegradable and recyclable, fake trees are always a burden to the environment.

MYTH #5: Christmas Trees are a fire safety hazard and frequently catch on fire.

BUSTED: You'd certainly think so by watching the local "Action News" team on TV. Each year, many of them show a dramatic image of a tree bursting into flames, intending to scare people into watching the news. And the anchor/reporter will say, "If you get a Christmas Tree, this could happen to you ..." The reality is, a tree being accidentally ignited is EXTREMELY rare. As in 0.0004%. And those images of trees burning? They're often aided by gasoline or lighter fluid.

MYTH #6: Real Trees cost too much.

BUSTED: Like anything else, you can find a wide range of prices, and spend what you want to spend. It all depends on what you're looking for in a tree. Prices vary by many variables including: location of retail lot, where the tree was harvested, species, size, grade, who's selling it and even sometimes day of the week. The bottom line is, you can spend \$15 to over \$200 on a tree in many places.

My favorite part is when fake tree people try to use this as a selling point. "You can get your investment in a fake tree back in as little as 3 years...blah, blah." That's called "funny math" where I'm from. If I spend \$20 on a Christmas tree from a farm each year and you spend \$300 on a fake tree, you'd have to use it for 15 years (way past the average) before I will have spent the same amount as you.

MYTH #7: Fake trees are fireproof.

BUSTED: Um, no, they're not. They catch on fire every year. According to a report from the National Fire Protection Association, 28% of home fires involving a Christmas Tree were a fake one.

MYTH #8: Real Christmas Trees have pesticides and chemicals on them.

BUSTED: Myths such as this often get a foothold due to the disconnect that most people have with agricultural practices. Christmas Tree farmers do not use chemicals in a "harmful" manner. Chemicals are used only when needed and only according to the specified instructions and regulations of the EPA, the USDA and the FDA. Christmas Tree farmers live on their land and raise their families there. They would not engage in an activity that would put their families, employees or the people they sell their product to in harms way. To suggest otherwise is at best uninformed, and at worst, offensive.

There has never been a scientific research article suggesting that harmful levels of chemical residue exists on Christmas Trees, and in fact there have been studies looking for it. On the flip side, there have been studies showing a potential health danger of lead dust coming from plastic trees. The state of California requires a warning label on fake trees and wreaths.

MYTH #9: Real Christmas Trees end up in landfills.

BUSTED: Christmas Tree recycling programs are available nationwide, and many are quite creative. A farm-grown Christmas tree is 100% biodegradable, so it can be used for all kinds of things in nature, from mulch to erosion control. Fake trees?...see Myth #4 above. People often lament the sight of Christmas trees at the curb after Christmas...but they don't realize that many communities have

curbside pick up as part of their recycling program. They're not "being thrown in the trash" or ending up in landfills. They're waiting to be put into the recycling program.

MYTH #10: Real Christmas Trees are a hassle and a mess.

BUSTED: It's all relative. The first thing to ask someone if they say "I don't want a Real Tree because I might have to vacuum up needles" is this: Does that mean you don't vacuum normally? I mean, vacuuming should be a regular household chore all year long. So what if the tree drops some needles - you're going to vacuum anyway right?....RIGHT?

Second, who says it has to be a hassle? (Hint: the fake tree people.) There are many places to buy a tree and all offer something a little different. If you want to spend a lot of time with family or friends getting your tree and have some entertainment, go to a Choose & Cut farm. If you want a huge variety of trees, both species and sizes, go to a specialty lot. If you want to support your community organizations in the process, buy one from a nonprofit selling them as a fundraiser. If you just want a tree quick and easy, then go to a lot designed for that. If you want to just point and click and have your tree delivered to your front door, then buy one online. Bottom line, don't let someone tell you it's a hassle, because you can decide how much time to spend getting a tree.

Third, the hard goods used with a farm-grown tree have come a long way. There are many different styles and types of tree stands...pick one that's easy for you, as long as it holds enough water. There are funnels, cleverly designed to blend into the tree, that make adding water easier. I have a round mat with a waterproof backing to put under my stand so any water drops don't stain my floor ...it cost me like four bucks or something.

You may often hear it's a hassle to water a farm-grown tree every day. Really? That takes, what...an extra 25 seconds per day? Sheesh, get real, no pun intended. I spend more time than that making my picks in the weekly office football pool.

It's all relative. The time invested in buying and maintaining a farm-grown Christmas tree is nothing compared to what you get out of it. A good feeling. Memories. A home that "smells" like Christmas. Knowledge that you made a good environmental choice. That's not a hassle, that's a blessing.

DECEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Next to the poinsettia, the Christmas cactus is probably the most popular of the holiday plant choices. The following extremely informative article comes to us from B. Rosie Lerner and the Purdue University Extension website @ <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/cactusFAQs.html>

Christmas cacti are not only popular holiday gift plants, but they are also the subject of frequent debate among gardeners. There appears to be much confusion about these unique tropical cacti regarding care, maintenance and, especially, on how to get them to rebloom. The following tips address the most frequently asked questions.

We typically think of cacti as being heat tolerant, but Christmas cacti will keep their blossoms longer in cooler temperatures. Keep the plant in a well-lit location away from drafts from heat vents, fireplaces or other sources of hot air. Drafts and temperature extremes can cause the flower buds to drop from the plant before they have a chance to open.

Christmas cactus is a tropical type plant, not quite as drought tolerant as its desert relatives and, in fact, may drop flower buds if the soil gets too dry. The plants will wilt when under drought stress. Water thoroughly when the top inch or so of soil feels dry to the touch. The length of time between waterings will vary with the air temperature, amount of light, rate of growth and relative humidity.

The plant does not particularly need to be fertilized while in bloom, but most gardeners enjoy the challenge of keeping the plant after the holidays for rebloom the next year. While plants are actively growing, use a blooming houseplant-type fertilizer and follow the label directions for how much and how often to feed.

While the Christmas cactus can adapt to low light, more abundant blooms are produced on plants that have been exposed to more light intensity. Keep your plants in a sunny location indoors. Plants can be moved outdoors in summer, but keep them in a shady or semi-shady location. Leaves may start to turn a bit red if exposed to excessive light. Too much direct sunlight can actually burn the leaves or may cause them to become limp. When it's time to bring the plants back inside in the fall, slowly adjust the plants to life indoors by gradually increasing the number of hours they spend indoors each day.

If your plant tends to dry out and/or wilt frequently, it may be time to repot the plant into a slightly larger container. Well-drained soil is a must for Christmas cactus. Use a commercially packaged potting mix for succulent plants or mix your own by combining two parts plain potting soil with one part clean sand or vermiculite.

Pruning your Christmas cactus after blooming will encourage the plant to branch out. Remove a few sections of each stem by pinching them off with your fingers or cutting with a sharp knife. These sections can be rooted in moist vermiculite to propagate new plants.

Christmas cactus will bloom if given long uninterrupted dark periods, about 12 hours each night. Begin the dark treatments in about mid-October to have plants in full bloom by the holidays. You can place the plants in a dark closet from about 8 P.M. - 8 A.M. each night for 6-8 weeks or until you see buds forming. Christmas cacti will also bloom if they are subjected to cool temperatures of about 50 to 55 degrees F, eliminating the need for the dark treatments. Plants should be blooming for the holidays if cool treatments are started by early November.

Other species of holiday cactus bloom at different times of the year and have slightly different growth habits. Christmas cacti have scalloped stem segments and bloom at the stem tips. Thanksgiving cacti have 2-4 pointy teeth along the edges of the sections and will bloom earlier than Christmas cactus if left to natural day-length. Easter cacti have rounded teeth along the segments and bloom primarily in the spring but may also periodically rebloom at other times of year.

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER. . .

I am new to gardening and have rose bushes. I have not cut them back yet for the winter. Some have said to cut them back (approx. 1 ft. from the graft) and then cone them. Others have said not to cut them back if I haven't already, cover the graft with a rose collar and then cut them back in the spring. What should I do? Teresa

Hi Teresa,

We get more rose questions than almost any other this time of the year and you're right, there are a lot of conflicting opinions flying around with varying degrees of success for each of them, depending on where the rose is planted, the type of rose and how bad the winter is. Current consensus is as follows:

For hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas and all other grafted roses, mound soil up over the graft after the ground freezes. In a typical year, this happens in early December. Using a rose collar makes this task easier by keeping the soil in place around the graft (though a rose collar is not necessary as long as the graft is protected). Less hardy rose types are grafted onto hardier stock so that roses can survive in colder climates. You should have planted your rose(s) with the graft just above the soil line. By protecting the graft, you're protecting the type of rose you planted. Even if the entire top of the rose bush dies back during a harsh winter, the rose type you planted should survive if the graft is properly protected. Shoots that come from the roots below the graft, on the other hand, are the same rose type as the root stock, not the top of the plant.

In most winters, the simple mounding is adequate protection here in Madison. Some winter dieback is inevitable. For added protection, the bush should be wrapped in fabric. Burlap is the traditional fabric of choice. It's inexpensive, breathes well and the color blends into the landscape. Any fabric will do, however. There are some fabrics available at some garden centers or on-line designed specifically for protecting roses. Some advice says that the fabric should be packed with hay or straw for even more protection. While this is true, it also invites nesting rodents that will nibble on the bark and ultimately kill the plant.

Another reason for wrapping your roses (especially young roses) in fabric is to protect them from hungry rabbits and deer. Rabbits readily destroy rose bushes when food sources are at a minimum. The bark and tender shoots are a favorite winter food. We advise circling susceptible plants with a chicken wire fence for the winter months. Make sure to go high enough so that as the snow piles up, the tender tips remain out of reach.

We advise against using rose cones for a number of reasons. First off, they act as an oven, especially in the springtime when the sun is high and the days are long, but the temperatures are still too cold to remove the cone. Sometimes the roses begin to sprout way before they should, but removing the cone exposes the tender new growth to still cold temperatures.

Secondly, rose cones not only keep the roses snug, but also keep the pests that prey on them quite snug. These include not just insects, but also the many fungi that attack roses.

Lastly, in order to use a rose cone, you'd have to prune the rose back now just to make it fit inside the cone. We suggest waiting until spring to prune all roses. One of our goals as rose growers here in the north is to keep as much foliage alive on our roses as possible. After you remove your fabric wrap in the spring, simply prune out any branches that have obviously blackened. On branches where the tips have blackened, prune the branch to just above the green parts. Avoid going into the healthy green stems when pruning. The open wound is an invitation for unwanted disease.

A last note: If you grow hardy shrub or rugosa types, you need not protect your roses from the cold (just the rabbits & deer). These roses have been bred to withstand our cold winters and are grown on their own rootstock (no graft). Simply prune as desired or needed in the springtime.

I hope I was able to answer your question and let us know how your roses fared next spring. And by the way, it's important to remove the mounded soil from the base of your rose bushes next spring.

Thanks for the question,
The Mad Gardener

AROUND TOWN:

For neighborhood events or garden tours that you would like posted in our monthly newsletter, please contact Rick at (608) 244-5661 or Sue at sue@kleinsfloral.com. Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Events must be garden related and must take place in the Madison vicinity and we must receive your information by the first of the

month in which the event takes place for it to appear in that month's newsletter. This is a great opportunity for free advertising.

Dane County Winter Farmer's Market

Saturdays, November 14 thru December 19, 7:30-noon
Monona Terrace

Saturdays, January 2 thru April 10, 8:00-noon
Madison Senior Center
330 W. Mifflin

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Olbrich's Garden's Bolz Conservatory Exhibit - Beasts in the Conservatory: Carnivorous Plants

September 2 through January 3, 2010
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00
In the Bolz Conservatory

See the carnivorous plants living in the Bolz Conservatory up close! Learn how carnivorous plants attract and eat live insects. This walkthrough exhibit will explain how each plant has its own tricks to attract prey. Some carnivorous plants are brightly colored or sweetly scented, while others have parts that are sticky, making it difficult for prey to escape. The Bolz Conservatory is home to more than 650 species of tropical plants. Enjoy a stroll through exotic plants, bright flowers, a rushing waterfall, fragrant orchids, and free-flying birds.

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

Olbrich Garden's Holiday Express: Flower & Model Train Show

December 5 through December 31

Twinkling lights, festive poinsettias, tiny landscapes, and large-scale model trains: all aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Using large-scale model trains, Olbrich's horticulture staff will showcase miniature landscapes among hundreds of colorful poinsettias. Members of the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society come from all over the state to show off their large-scale model trains during Olbrich's Holiday Express. You'll see different trains, depending on the day. This year, trains wind through an enchanted land of fanciful gingerbread houses created by Madison area bakers. Admire gingerbread buildings complete with candy cane porch pillars, shaved almond roofs, and walkways made of cookies.

Olbrich's Holiday Express is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Olbrich will close at 2 p.m. on December 24, and will be closed all day on December 25 and January 1.

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

Rotary Botanical Gardens' Holiday Light Show

December 11-13, December 18-23, December 26-31 & January 2-3

Illuminated garden pathways guide visitors on an evening stroll through various themed light displays throughout the botanical gardens. Step inside to enjoy a warm beverage as you watch The Wisconsin Garden Railway Society's model trains. Surround yourself with quilted masterpieces from the members of the Rock Valley Quilter's Guild.

Tickets available at the door. Enjoy nightly entertainment or come visit Santa!

For 2009, the show features a walking route in the gardens, \$1.00 raffle tickets to win a quilt donated by members of the Rock Valley Quilters Guild (drawing on Dec. 31), more nightly entertainment, new light displays, and family-friendly ticket pricing.

Doors open 5pm. Last ticket sold 8pm
Admission- Early bird*
\$4 adults (12 and up)
\$2 youth (2 to 11)

Admission- at the door
\$5 adults (12 and up)
\$3 youth (2 to 11)

*Early bird discounts available in the gift shop beginning
in November and each day during regular business hours at the Gardens.

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

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

- Pick up a copy of the 2010 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores.
- Mulch perennials to protect from the cold and prevent heaving.
- Purchase marsh hay and rose protection. Wait till the ground freezes.
- Mulch roses by mounding soil and wrapping, rather than using rose cones.
- Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.
- Make water available to the birds. Begin using a deicer as needed.
- Plant bulbs for forcing and put in a cool location for 10-12 weeks.
- Plant bulbs until the ground freezes.
- Prep lawnmower for winter storage and snowblower for weather to come.
- Mark driveways and sidewalks with stakes.
- Finish garden cleanup to make spring easier and prevent pests.
- Do any last minute raking to prevent smothering delicate plants or beds.
- Spread fireplace ashes over beds to amend the soil.
- Make sure clay pots are stored inside and dry to prevent cracking.
- Place your used Christmas tree in the garden for added wildlife protection.
- Have trees trimmed--it's often times cheaper and easier to schedule.
- Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.
- Stop feeding houseplants and cut back on watering.
- Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering new ones.
- Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- Wrap trunks of susceptible trees to protect from rodents.
- 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 DECEMBER:

---We're prepping the hundreds of poinsettias and holiday plants that go out for orders each day. After choosing the most gorgeous plants, we need to foil, bow and sleeve each order before loading into our vans for delivery to Madison's homes, businesses and churches.

---Tropicals for next summer sale continue to arrive. Our tropicals (such as bananas, colocasias, alocasias, xanthosomas, etc.) arrive now so we are able to get the best selection and are able to offer you substantial sized plants next summer.

---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--JIM NEEFE

In pegging him "loquacious" a recent article in Isthmus magazine described delivery driver, Jim Neefe, to a tee. If you're not sure, "loquacious" politely means "fond of talking", one of Jim's most outstanding and obvious attributes. A list of other adjectives describing Jim might include fun-loving, gregarious, efficient, competitive and knowledgeable--all qualities which make for an exceptional member of Klein's flower delivery team.

Jim joined Klein's in April of 2006 after a 36 year career as a Madison middle school geography and history teacher at Whitehorse Middle school here on Madison's east side. In fact, two of his current coworkers at Klein's were previous students of his at Whitehorse.

Because of his passion for geography, maps and gardening, Jim knew immediately that floral delivery as a retirement job and working at a greenhouse were a match made in heaven. At his interview, Jim said upfront that he was THE person for the job and Klein's would lose out big time were he not hired. He was right. His expertise and outgoing demeanor have been a perfect match for us, too.

Jim says that his passion for gardening stems from his grandfather and that he started gardening with grandpa at age four! He says that his grandfather was both a fruit and vegetable gardener as well as a flower gardener. He especially loved wildflowers, a particular interest that has been passed on to Jim. Jim says that his grandfather taught him about wildflowers in their natural settings and not just in the home garden. Jim says that to this day he can find the rarest of Wisconsin wildflowers because of the things his grandfather taught him. He also says that his own garden reflects his passion for wildflowers. He says his weed-free beds give one the impression of being natural, when, in fact, they are quite thought out and manicured. Jim says he especially loves collecting daylilies and has a nice collection of perennial asters. Favorite annuals include zinnias, gladiolas and moss roses--one of his grandfather's favorites.

Jim's other passions include canoeing, travel and internet trivia, of which he's an apparent master. Jim has been a past president of Mad City Paddlers (www.madcitypaddlers.org). Mad City Paddlers is a group of canoe and kayak enthusiasts with over 240 members and organizes 60+ rowing trips each year from April through November and throughout the north-central Midwest. Their most well-known trip is the unique January 1 paddle on Lake Columbia in Portage. The 60+ degree water is kept ice-free by the huge power plant located there.

Jim's many travels have taken him to some of the world's most exotic locations, most recently to Australia and New Zealand, where he visited every botanical garden within reach. In all his travels, he says the best climate to grow roses is on the island of Tasmania off the southern coast of Australia. Other travel destinations have included: Peru and the Amazon, West Africa (i.e. Liberia, Senegal and the Sahara) and much of the Caribbean and Central America.

In his work at Klein's, Jim prides himself in being challenged. He says that he enjoys figuring out incomplete and inaccurate addresses in planning his daily routes. He has also brought Klein's into the 21st century with GPS technology and by utilizing some of the map web sites in making our daily deliveries. Jim says he's planning on delivering for Klein's for many years to come so anticipate many more change to Klein's floral delivery service.

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.

THE MAD GARDENER--"Madison's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"

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 we can. The link is posted on our home page and in all newsletters.

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

FACEBOOK

Klein's has joined the Facebook frenzy. Become a fan of Klein's by visiting us at www.facebook.com. We continuously post company updates and new pictures

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 2010 edition of the Bucky Book. We are also selling the 2010 edition in-store--the perfect gift Visit www.buckybook.com for more information and to order your copy.

RECYCLING POTS & TRAYS

The City of Madison will recycle rinsed out hard plastic pots and trays when brought to their drop-off locations at 4602 Sycamore Ave. and 1501 West Badger Rd. They do not accept light plastic or multi-celled packs. White plastic #5's are also not accepted in city recycling bins or at the drop-off sites. For more information call 267-2626 or visit www.cityofmadison.com/streets/RigidPlasticRecyclingDropOff.cfm

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
Grower, General Manager Jamie VandenWymelenberg
jamie@kleinsfloral.com
Assistant Manager
Jennifer Simon
jsimon@kleinsfloral.com
House Accounts & Billing Barbara Foulk
barb@kleinsfloral.com
Delivery Supervisor
Rick Halbach
Owner & Manager
Sue Klein
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
- Mexicantes
- 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