

'THE SAGE'--FEBRUARY 2010

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

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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.

FEBRUARY STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday

8:00-6:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

February 2--Ground Hog Day

February 12-14--Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center. The Klein's booths will entice all senses with fresh herbs, colorful windowsill bloomers and spring annuals. We'll also be giving out tons of coupons for free annuals and in-store savings. In addition, Klein's will be sponsoring a very informative seminar titled "**Must Have Plants for 2010**" presented by **Kurt Vrsogea** from **Four Star Greenhouse**, at 9:00 on Saturday, February 13 in Mendota Room #3. **Four Star Greenhouse** is a major supplier of **Proven Winner™** plant material throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. Tickets for **Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo** are available at Klein's for a lesser price than at the door. More details are available at <http://www.wpt.org/gardenexpo/>. There, you'll find a complete list of exhibitors and a calendar of scheduled events.

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

February 14-- Chinese New Year

February 15--Presidents' Day

February 16--Mardi Gras

February 17--Ash Wednesday. Easter is Sunday, April, 4.

February 28--Full Moon

Throughout February--Ever thought about working at a greenhouse? Now is the time to stop in and ask for 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 Sue, Jen or Rick 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 how it's all done.

Throughout February--The summer bulbs continue to arrive for retail sale. Shop early for the best selection.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

With Valentine's Day this month, you're just a few clicks away from learning almost everything you need to know about Klein's floral department. From its inception over five years ago, Klein's website at www.kleinsfloral.com has proved to be a one stop source for information about one of Madison's oldest and most respected flower shops.

By clicking on "**Flower Arrangements**" on our home page, you'll be introduced to our talented design team of Kathy, Sue, Liz, Karel and Kelly. Together they create "locally produced designs with a personal touch". Get to know them by clicking on "**Our Staff**" on the left side of our website. There, you'll gain insight into the depth of their design experience and learn a little bit about them personally. For deliveries out of town or worldwide, click on the **Teleflora and FTD links** at the bottom of the page. There you'll be led through the easy steps of on-line ordering.

Continue on our website by meeting our very experienced delivery team consisting of Gordie, Jim, Marylee, Ken, Karen and Rick, most of whom who have been delivering with Klein's ten years or more! They provide quick and courteous service using modern GPS technology for efficient and timely deliveries. Then visit the "**Delivery Information**" section for details regarding our delivery area, costs and what to expect from our delivery team.

And if there's a wedding in yours or a friend's or family member's future, click on our informative and extensive "**Weddings**" section. Once there, you'll learn about budgets and planning, terminology and floral choices for the once in a lifetime event.

Again, the world of flowers is just a few clicks away at www.kleinsfloral.com!

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

Klein's "Blooming Plant or Fresh Flower Club"

Send or receive 3 month's, 6 month's or a whole year's worth 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 \$75, \$150 or \$300, respectively, we'll send 3 month's, 6 month's or 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 \$90, \$175 or \$350, respectively, 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. Enclosure cards will accompany each delivery if desired. 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.

Join our **Blooming Plant or Fresh Flower Club** 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 prices do not include sales tax.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that tomatoes, eggplant, petunias (and other members of the nightshade family) 'eat' insects!!!

This fun little 'fact' has been making its rounds through the internet among we 'plant geeks' over the past year and was recently brought to our attention by one of our employees. We thought it would be fun to share with our readers!

Tomatoes can 'eat' insects

By Richard Alleyne, Science Correspondent for Telegraph.co.uk

Garden vegetables such as tomatoes and potatoes have been found to be deadly killers on a par with Venus fly traps, according to research.

Botanists have discovered for the first time that the plants are carnivorous predators who kill insects in order to "self-fertilize" themselves.

New research shows that they capture and kill small insects with sticky hairs on their stems and then absorb nutrients through their roots when the animals decay and fall to the ground.

It is thought that the technique was developed in the wild in order to supplement the nutrients in poor quality soil – but even domestic varieties grown in your vegetable patch retain the ability.

The killer plants have been identified as among a host of species that are thought to have been overlooked by botanists and explorers searching the world's remotest regions for carnivorous species. The number of carnivorous plants is thought to have been underestimated by up to 50 per cent and many of them have until now been regarded as among the most benign of plants.

Among them are species of petunia, ornamental tobacco plants, some varieties of potatoes and tomatoes, and shepherd's purse, a relative of cabbages.

Researchers at Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, which carried out the study, now believe there are hundreds more killer plants than previously realized. Professor Mark Chase, of Kew and Queen Mary, University of London, said: “The cultivated tomatoes and potatoes still have the hairs. Tomatoes in particular are covered with these sticky hairs. They do trap small insects on a regular basis. They do kill insects.

“We suspect in the domesticated varieties they are getting plenty of food through the roots from us so don’t get much benefit from trapping insects. In the wild they could be functioning in the way that could properly be considered carnivorous.”

The study said it is likely that the meat-eating qualities of many plants has gone unrecognized because they are missing some of the prime characteristics associated with carnivorous species.

The researchers, publishing their finding in the ‘Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society’, said: “We may be surrounded by many more murderous plants than we think. We are accustomed to think of plants as being immobile and harmless, and there is something deeply unnerving about the thought of carnivorous plants,” they added.

And here is a follow-up and more personal and observational piece from www.yougrowgirl.com.--a fantastic and laid back website devoted exclusively to gardening.

Taking a New Look at Carnivorous Plants

By Gayla Trail, December 4, 2009.

“I just read a fascinating piece via the Telegraph UK that is absolutely blowing my mind.”

“Researchers at the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew have conducted a study looking into plant behavior, specifically carnivorous plants, and are concluding that there are hundreds more carnivorous plants out there in the world than previously realized. Many of which are common to our own vegetables gardens.”

“The one that makes the most sense to me based on personal experience is **nicotiana**. I grow *Nicotiana alata* every year in pots up on my roof and have observed that the leaves are incredibly sticky and attract gazillions of insects throughout the growing season. In fact, I often position the plants in problem

areas as a way to attract and kill aphids and other small flying insects. And yet somehow, I never thought to identify this unique ability as carnivorous!”

“Another plant mentioned is the common, often banal and overrated **petunia**. I grew petunias this year by chance, something I said I’d never do, ever. But then some were sent to me and I actually sort of liked the variety and the next thing I knew they were potted up and growing alongside the chives and some **variegated marjoram**. Throughout the season I noticed that this particular petunia had incredibly gummy leaves and attracted legions of tiny, flying bugs all over the leaves, stems, and even the flowers, not at all unlike the nicotiana.”

“But did I ever think to identify this plant alongside the likes of a sundew or pitcher plant? I should know from studying so much postmodern theory in university, the power that “naming” has to subvert and even define the way we classify or contextualize things. This is a fantastic example of that power at work.”

“The third example that I find most fascinating are **tomatoes** and their little sticky hairs. Botanists are now saying that the plants can trap (most of us tomato gardeners know this) and kill insects with these hairs and as the insects die they fall into the soil and are absorbed as nutrients. That’s the real clincher here, because classifying a plant as carnivorous is often about identifying that the plant has adapted to killing insects for nutritional use. I got as far as observing that they could kill, but did not go as far as asking whether or not they were then absorbing the insects as supplemental nutrition. But even if the stickiness and trapping ability is only defensive, isn’t that enough given that the plants are still killing the insects?”

“This is fascinating stuff and has made me realize how much more conscious I would like to be in the observations I make as I tend my gardens. There is so much amazing stuff to learn and discover in the smallest, day-to-day muddling we do as gardeners, don’t you think? “

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

ENTRY: JANUARY 10, 2010 (The Significance of January 10)

Oh, happiness! The sun set at 4:41 today and it’s light until after 5:00. Since my childhood, today, January 10, has been a day that I take note of astronomically. The days have become noticeably longer than the very shortest days of mid-

December. Each year my grandmother made a special note in her farm journals on January 10. Apparently, the twenty added minutes of daylight each evening since the winter solstice were very important in uplifting her spirit. I sense personal rejuvenation in her annual journal entries of January 10. "Spring is just around the corner," she'd say. Even in the dead of January she'd point out to me the signals of warmer days ahead--squirrels becoming increasingly territorial as they seek mates and on "warm" days the male cardinals giving us their "spring song" as they wake us on these ever-brightening mornings. She'd point out to me the angle of the setting sun and how the light hit different pieces of furniture in the house today, January 10, than just a few short weeks ago. To this day I take note of how the morning sun streams into my own TV room differently today than it did just a week ago; the furniture legs acting as a sundial.

The plants on my windowsills are also showing hints that the shortest days are behind us. Signs of dormancy and deterioration have all but stopped, replaced by new growth and renewed vigor. It's so easy to forget that it was five below zero this morning!

ENTRY: JANUARY 16, 2010 (Scaling Down)

I turn 50 this spring and though I'm not quite ready to throw in the trowel, thoughts cross my mind about how I'll be gardening in 10, 20 or even 30 years. As my friends and family know, I'm planning on living to be 93, given unforeseen circumstances like falling off a greenhouse roof. (That really happened a few years back.) Yes, I hope to be gardening until the very end.

Each January, as I'm ordering my seeds and plants, I ponder the gardening season that lay ahead. Sometimes the thought of all the upcoming work--the planning, the clean up, the planting and the hauling--can be daunting. Each spring I plant hundreds of containers and place them throughout the yard. I have monstrous tubs of cannas, brugmansias and elephant's ears stored in the basement. That's a lot of soil to be lugging around--even for a healthy 50 year old. Will this madness all end some time soon?

Paging through the February/March issue of **Horticulture** magazine I came across the following poem by Virginia Bach Folger. It seems poignant as I look ahead.

Scaling Down

No longer fifty tulips,
But just twelve, a mere dozen.

No longer bags of daffodils
To plant and then divide each year.

This insistent heart craves armfuls
Of blooms to greet spring, but my hands
Grow cold in the autumn air, moving
Somehow slowly, now less certain.

In opposite measure, my days
Move faster, crowded and compressed.
So many used and behind me
Like candle stubs, blackened and dead.

There is so much still to breathe in,
And the vast world most untasted.
I want rainbows of flowers and
Long days lying on lush spring grass.

Will a dozen flowers suffice?
The sky above turns grey from blue.
The sunset burns to empty ash.
Place armfuls on the cold dark grass.

ENTRY: JANUARY 27, 2010 (Botanical Names Pronounced)

Though I've subscribed to **Fine Gardening** magazine for many years, it wasn't until this morning that I clicked on to one of their most interesting resources.

Select Seeds (one of my very favorite seed sources @ www.selectseeds.com) sent me an e-mail alerting me to some new and exclusive items in their extensive catalog. Included in the e-mail was an article titled '**What's in a Name- Botanical Nomenclature Secrets Revealed.**' Given the facts that I work at a garden center and that I'm a language major, botanical names and their proper pronunciation have always fascinated me (See our November 2008 Newsletter in our newsletter archive). Many a time I've heard both customers and coworkers make an attempt at a plant name. And many a time have I cringed at their attempts. I don't like to correct their mispronunciations. Rather, I repeat the word(s) in our conversation using the correct pronunciation. I try to teach without being intimidating or demeaning.

"Keep in mind that pronunciation of words in any language is not always a hard-and-fast matter. As the popular song goes: "You say to-may-to, I say to-mah-

to..." So enjoy broadening your Latin vocabulary and remember, if you can't remember the preferred pronunciation of a plant name, just say a chosen interpretation with conviction." (from the Fine Gardening website)

On the other hand, I'm also proud of my northeastern Wisconsin roots and sometimes hunker down and refuse to give in. Where I come from poinsettias are pronounced **poin -SET-ah** (not ee-ah), clematis are **kle-MAH-tis** (not kle-MA-tis like most Madisonians say or that other weird way the Brits pronounce it) and "herbs" have NO 'H'. There you have it Martha Stewart!! And, yes, water fountains are and will always be 'bubblers' to me.

The Pronunciation Guide for Plants at the Fine Gardening website at <http://www.finegardening.com/pguide/pronunciation-guide-to-botanical-latin.aspx> is an amazing resource for industry workers and gardeners alike.

And by the way, **Fine Gardening** agrees with the Brits on that 'clematis' thing!

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

Trend watchers have noted that 2010 is the year of the brussels sprouts! Dreaded among children, brussels sprouts are in the midst of a resurgence. These tasty small cabbages store rather well for reasonable periods, but are at their sweet best when eaten as soon after harvest as possible. And like many members of the cabbage family, sweetness and flavor is actually enhanced after a light frost. Brussels sprouts are delicious on their own, steamed and then tossed with butter and a little salt, but are especially scrumptious when roasted in the oven. Klein's is happy to share these family favorites with your family. Bon appetit!

CAMELIZED BRUSSELS SPROUTS--Reviews say "Amazing. Super-easy and super-flavorful. The leftovers are even better." From Better Homes & Gardens magazine from December of 2003.

5 cups brussels sprouts, prepped and halved as needed

1/4 cup sugar

1/8 cup butter

1/4 cup red wine vinegar

3/8 cup water

1/4(+) tsp. salt

In a large skillet, heat the sugar over medium-high heat until it starts to melt, shaking the pan to heat evenly. Once it starts to melt, reduce the heat and cook until the sugar begins to brown. Add the butter and stir until melted. Add the vinegar and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Add the water and salt. Bring to a boil and add the sprouts. Return to a boil, reduce the heat, cover and simmer for 6 minutes. Uncover and cook 15 minutes until most of the liquid is gone and the sprouts are golden, stirring occasionally. Serves 8. (Be patient. Reduction of the liquid will happen quickly toward the end of the cooking time.)

CREAMY BRUSSELS SPROUTS--Another Better Homes & Gardens recipe.

This one from November of 2006.

1 medium onion, quartered and thin sliced
3 cloves garlic, minced
3 TBS. butter
2 lbs. brussels sprouts, halved
1/4 tsp. dried thyme
3/4 cup chicken broth
3/4 cup whipping cream
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/2 cup shredded parmesan
1/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper

Preheat the oven to 350°. Spray or grease a 1 1/2 qt. baking dish. In a large skillet, cook the onion and garlic in the melted butter until tender. Stir in the sprouts and the thyme. Continue cooking until the onions begin to brown. Add the broth and bring to a boil. Cook, stirring, until the broth has nearly evaporated. Add the cream and the nutmeg and cook 4 minutes longer or until it begins to thicken. Transfer to the prepared baking dish and stir in 1/4 cup of the parmesan and the salt and pepper. Sprinkle with the rest of the parmesan. Bake, uncovered, 20-25 minutes or until tender. Serves 8.

MARSALA OR SHERRY GLAZED WINTER VEGETABLES--

Nicely sweet. Adjust the temperature and baking time to prepare with meatloaf or roasted meats. Other root vegetables can be substituted if desired. From the December 2003 edition of Cooking Light magazine.

3 cups rutabaga cut into 1/2" cubes
1 1/3 cups parsnips cut into 1/2" thick slices
1 1/4 cups onions cut coarsely into wedges

1 cup carrots cut into 1/2" thick slices
1 1/2 cups halved brussels sprouts
1 TBS. butter
1 TBS. olive oil
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/2 cup marsala wine or sherry

Preheat the oven to 450°. Bring 2 qts. water to a boil in a Dutch oven. Add the rutabaga, the parsnips, the onion and the carrot and cook 4 minutes. Add the sprouts and cook 1 minute more. Drain the veggies and place them in a roasting pan that has been coated with cooking spray. Add the butter, oil, thyme, salt, pepper and nutmeg and stir until the butter has melted. Pour the wine over all and cover with foil. Bake 30 minutes. Uncover, stir and bake 15 minutes more until all is tender, stirring after 8 minutes. Serves 6.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS WITH LEMON & WALNUTS--A simple and tried and true recipe from the pages of Martha Stewart Living, from sometime in 2005.

2 lbs. brussels sprouts, stems ends scored with an 'X'
3 TBS. butter
1 clove minced garlic
coarse salt and pepper
2 tsp. lemon juice
1/2 cup chopped walnuts, toasted

Steam the brussels sprouts until tender--generally 8 or more minutes depending on the size of the sprouts. Transfer cooked sprouts to a bowl. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and cook 2 minutes. Stir in the sprouts and heat through, about 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir in the walnuts and the juice. Serves 8.

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: Soil Mixes from Fafard

“The best plants start in the best soils”

For the first time in 2010, Klein's will be carrying a complete line of Fafard soil mixes for retail sale. We've used Fafard products for many, many years in our greenhouse production and would now like to share their excellent products with the home gardener. We'll be carrying everything from outdoor potting mixes and container mixes to mixes designed specifically for the indoor gardener such as cactus mix, African violet mix and orchid mix as well as perlite and vermiculite.

Fafard potting soils give your garden the proper balance of water, air, and pH. Using only weed- and disease-free materials, their soils undergo testing before and after production to ensure a consistent formulation and texture. It's what has made them the choice of professional growers, including Klein's, since 1926.

Fafard is committed to sustainable peat harvesting and bog restoration. An active member in good standing with the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA), Fafard has been recognized for our efforts in returning harvested bogs to wetlands to preserve an area's ecological balance.

About Fafard:

Conrad Fafard, Inc.'s roots germinated in Canada. It was 1921 when Canadian, Conrad Fafard, moved to Springfield, Mass., and began selling imported hay to local livestock owners. He expanded his services in the early 1930s to include peat moss — first selling imported peat moss from Germany, then in 1939 opening the first Fafard bog in Quebec. The demand for Fafard peat moss grew quickly, and two years later, a second bog started in New Brunswick, closely followed by a peat-processing plant and mix facility also in New Brunswick. The company incorporated as Conrad Fafard, Inc. in 1945.

Over the next 60 years, Conrad Fafard, Inc. expanded its assets and sales, attracting the attention of Swiss-based Syngenta, a leading global agribusiness. Since joining Syngenta in July 2006, Fafard and its Canadian subsidiary have opened a plant in Texas, acquired leases on three peatlands in Manitoba, and announced the building of a second Canadian production facility in Manitoba to open November 2008.

Headquartered in Agawam, Mass., Fafard is a leading manufacturer of packaged growing media for professional ornamental growers and retail outlets. It currently owns and operates production facilities in Anderson, S.C.; Apopka, Fla.; Marshall, Texas; Floodwood, Minn.; and New Brunswick, Canada, as well as peat bogs in the New Brunswick and Manitoba provinces.

For more information, please visit Fafard's very consumer-friendly website @:
<http://www.fafard.com/index.php?p=6>

NATURAL NEWS--

Over the years there's been a bit of press concerning asbestos in vermiculite and the concern seems justifiable based on the research and evidence offered on-line at a number of sites we've explored--including those that represent the vermiculite industry. But like all stories, there are apparently two sides to this one. Yes, historically there has been an issue with vermiculite containing asbestos, and much of that has changed as the years have passed. But studies continue to find low levels of asbestos in retail horticultural vermiculite; at what the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) calls a "safe level".

Vermiculite is a mica-like mineral that puffs up like popcorn when heated. It is used primarily as home insulation and in horticulture where, when combined in soil mixes, it aids in drainage yet retains moisture. The greatest concern comes from vermiculite used as insulation and especially vermiculite produced before 1990 when about 80% of all vermiculite came from an asbestos tainted mine near Libby, Montana. From the data available and from the EPA, extreme care should be taken when handling loose fill vermiculite insulation from before 1990. Since nearly all vermiculite produced prior to 1990 is contaminated, there's no need to have it tested. Take all proper precautions: limit trips to the contaminated areas, i.e. attics; wear a respirator when entering the space; don't use the contaminated area for storage; do not stir up the insulation; seal areas where insulation can enter the living space and have a professional remove it during remodeling or renovation. Some states even require that home sellers disclose to potential buyers that a hazardous material is present when selling a home containing vermiculite insulation.

"Today, most vermiculite is safe. However, that is not to say it cannot contain asbestos. Vermiculite which is accompanied by a great deal of dust likely has residual asbestos in its contents and should be used with caution. Current EPA regulations ban products which contain 1% or more asbestos. Unfortunately even

products containing less than 1% asbestos are still extremely hazardous, particularly when in loose dust form as vermiculite often is manufactured (www.eartheasy.com).

And from the Seattle Post's Carol Smith regarding horticultural vermiculite:

Home gardeners face little risk of getting cancer or other asbestos-related diseases from occasional use of products containing vermiculite, the Environmental Protection Agency said in a report.

But consumer groups criticized the agency's action, saying even a potential risk should be avoided, and the products should be labeled.

"Asbestos has no place at all in gardening products," said Alison Wise, an advocate for the Washington State Public Interest Research Group, a nonprofit consumer advocacy group. "The EPA's responsibility is to protect consumers from toxins, not rationalize why they should remain."

The EPA report found trace amounts of asbestos in 17 of 38 gardening products tested, including measurable amounts in five of those products. But the report also said the health risk to consumers was low.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission said it had "nothing to add to what the EPA has said. We concur that the potential exposure to consumers seems too low to be a hazard," said CPSC spokesman Russ Rader. "It appears that the primary danger EPA found was the risk to workers using vermiculite and OSHA will be addressing that."

But that didn't satisfy some consumer advocates.

"The government needs to stop passing the buck on this," said Jon Stier, attorney with the National Environmental Law Center in Seattle. "Both the EPA and the CPSC appear to have jurisdiction on these issues. They need to get together and start protecting the public."

Other advocates said consumers have a right to know what's in the products they buy.

"At a minimum they should be labeled so consumers can make a choice," said Rachel Weintraub, staff attorney for WashPIRG's national lobbying office in

Washington, D.C. The EPA report stressed that consumers were unlikely to get enough exposure to pose a health risk.

"These levels were very low and do not pose significant health risks," Susan Wayland, acting assistant administrator of the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic substances for the EPA, said in a statement. "However, we feel it is important for consumers to be armed with this information when making their decisions."

At the same time, however, the EPA recommended that consumers use premixed potting soils, which are moist and less likely to generate dust, instead of mixing their own using straight vermiculite.

In addition, the EPA suggested consumers could use alternatives, including peat, sawdust, perlite or bark instead of vermiculite as a soil supplement. Vermiculite is used to add lightness to soil and retain moisture. Gardeners using straight vermiculite should keep it damp, use it in a well-ventilated area and avoid getting the dust on their clothing, the report said.

The report also concluded that consumers have no way of knowing which vermiculite products are contaminated with asbestos. Even those products that test negative in one sample may contain asbestos because the asbestos may be distributed unevenly throughout the product, investigators said.

At least one garden-products company said it was reevaluating its products based on the EPA's report.

"Based on the information we've had up until this report and on our own independent testing, we had nothing to be concerned about," said Robert Weaver, public relations director for the Schultz Co. in St. Louis.

The national portion of the EPA report found asbestos at a level that could pose a potential for exposure in five products, including Schultz's Horticultural Vermiculite. The other products with measurable asbestos were Earthgro's Best Vermiculite, Hoffman's Vermiculite and two samples of Ace Horticultural Grade Vermiculite. In addition, 17 others contained trace levels of asbestos.

"We will be reevaluating and looking at this report and looking at our vermiculite product again," Weaver said. "If the report indicates some situation other than what we've been aware of in the past, then we'll retest."

The Scotts Co., which is the largest supplier of consumer lawn and garden products in the country, said that its products are safe.

"We test for asbestos, and it's not there," said Kerry Bierman , vice president corporate communications for the Scotts Co., headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. The company gets its vermiculite from Virginia Vermiculite and W.R. Grace Co.'s South Carolina mine.

"We're very confident that our products are safe," Bierman said.

A spokesman for W.R. Grace & Co., which supplies vermiculite to a number of garden products companies, said, "Fundamentally, Grace is pleased the EPA concluded there is no significant problem with the horticultural products."

So, even though “natural” we learn here that vermiculite is not necessarily the safest choice. And though Klein’s is steering away from in-house mixes containing raw vermiculite in favor of rice hulls and other safer mixes, vermiculite continues to be a major component in many of the most popular potting mixes and in seed starting mixes.

FEBRUARY’S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Late January and early February are the perfect time to purchase and plant the tuberous begonia bulbs found at most garden centers, including Klein’s. Why plant the bulbs now rather than purchase ready plants in the spring? Selection, cost per plant and plant vigor are all considerations, in addition to the sheer joy of starting your own plants at home on a windowsill or under lights.

Tuberous begonia “bulbs” are, as the name implies, really tubers. Tubers, unlike bulbs, are food -storing, modified stems. The shoots and roots sprout from “eyes”. The most familiar example of a tuber is the potato. Unlike most tuberous plants, where the tubers shrivel as the plant grows, the tubers of begonias actually grow in size as the plant ages. Potted tuberous begonias can live many, many years when allowed to go through a dormant period each winter.

Tuberous begonias are native to the Andes. They are one of the few brightly colored plants that thrive in fairly dense shade. Colors range from white and pastels through the brightest of reds, oranges and yellows--colors hard to find for the shady garden. The plants themselves are very succulent. In Wisconsin, they

grow best in containers where the watering is more easily controlled. Though rather easy to grow, prolonged wet and humid periods can be detrimental to tuberous begonias. Under those conditions, they become susceptible to mildews and stem rots.

There are three preferred techniques for planting your tuberous begonia “bulbs”. Always start your tubers in a warm and bright location.

Method #1) They can be planted directly, and very shallowly, in the pots in which they are intended to grow, being careful to keep the medium moist, but not overly wet. Use any commercial, well-drained potting mix.

Method #2) They can also be started in a very shallow tray, filled with a light potting mix or vermiculite, and then stepped up into pots as the plants begin to grow. Planting them by this method allows you more control in planting similar sized plants together later on. This method also saves on space. Plant the tubers next to each other almost bulb on bulb. They require very little space as they begin to root out and sprout.

3) The third method is a bit more fun and adventuresome. You’re also able to propagate more plants from the get go. Like potatoes or cannas, each tuber can be cut into pieces and planted so long as each piece has an “eye”. As the plants sprout and grow, the piece of tuber will grow as well. One single, firm and healthy begonia tuber can easily yield up to four pieces. Simply plant the pieces, again, very shallowly in a tray filled with a light potting mix or vermiculite and watch them grow. Come May you’ll hardly notice a difference from the tubers planted whole and directly into pots and these tuber pieces.

Once the growing season has passed and in late September, move your potted tuberous begonias to a garage or protected area to allow the pots to dry out COMPLETELY. This step is crucial for optimum success. If the pots are placed into storage moist, the tubers will most often rot as the winter progresses. When the soil has dried completely, the tubers will abort their foliage. Remove the wilted foliage. The wound from where the stem detached will callous itself over. Again, once the soil has completely dried, move your still potted begonias to a cool and dry spot in the basement and forget about them completely until late January. Then in late January or early February, move your pots to a bright and warm location and begin watering. Keep the watering on the lighter side until the new sprouts and leaves are well on their way. Then water thoroughly and allow to dry between waterings as with most other houseplants. Begonias are light feeders so fertilize with a diluted mixture starting in March.

Because begonias are very tender, don't be tempted to move your begonias outdoors until the end of May and once nighttime temperatures are regularly in the upper 50's and low 60's.

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER. . .

Hello. I have a peace lily that is about 8 years old. It has not bloomed for the last 3 years. Any thoughts? Amy

Hi Amy,

Peace lilies typically bloom during late winter and early spring in a household setting. In addition, peace lilies can be notoriously difficult to grow here in Wisconsin. Most households are too dry during the winter, causing the leaf tips to turn brown. An even more common problem is root and/or stem rot caused by overwatering. Peace lilies thrive on a fine line. Though they like to be constantly moist, they rot easily when kept too soggy--again, especially in the winter.

Assuming you have a healthy plant, the most common reason for a peace lily not to bloom could be that your plant is simply "too" healthy. Fertilizing, for example, encourages vigorous and lush green growth and little flowering. In addition, if the plant has been transplanted into a larger container, the peace lily might be spending its energy on rooting rather than flowering. Once the plant has filled the pot and become crowded again, the added stress might encourage flowering.

My suggestion would be to stop fertilizing entirely from October through February, keep your plant in a bright location (but away from full sun) and allow the plant to dry between waterings without wilting. Even under ideal conditions, peace lilies tend to bloom only sporadically at best.

Good luck and thanks for your question. Let us know if and when your plant blooms again.

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, 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 - Chocolate: The Bitter and the Sweet

January 4 through March 21, 2010
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00
In the Bolz Conservatory

Smell the sweet allure, and learn about one of the all-time favorite flavors, chocolate, and a unique exhibit in Olbrich's Bolz Conservatory. This exhibit highlights the cacao tree, first cultivated in South America. The seeds from this tree are commonly called cocoa beans and are surrounded by a pod. Chocolate is derived from cocoa beans. The high proportion of fat in the bean kernels (cocoa butter) is used in medications, cosmetics, and soaps. The pulverized residue, called cocoa, is used in beverages and as a flavoring.

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

23rd Annual Orchid Quest 2010

Saturday, February 6, 10:00-5:00
Sunday, February 7, 10:00-4:00

Escape the winter blues and join orchid enthusiasts at Orchid Quest 2010. Exhibits of exotic and deliciously fragrant orchid flowers will awaken your senses

and bring cheers on a winter day. In addition to many orchid exhibits, OQ will also feature florist displays, painted porcelain, art work, quilted banners and a raffle. OQ is one of the largest orchid shows and sales in the Midwest.

Aspiring home growers can expand their knowledge by attending orchid related educational seminars, conducted by renowned orchid experts.

20 orchid vendors from the Midwest and East Coast will be selling their exotic blooming orchids. You will be able to find everything you need to take care of your new orchid plants including literature, growing media, fertilizer, orchid pots, and more. Come see this multidimensional show. Visit www.orchidguild.org for more information or call Judy Stevenson at 608/231-3163.

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

17th Annual Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo

Friday, February 12, 4:00-9:00
Saturday, February 13, 8:00-6:00
Sunday, February 14, 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

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

- ___ Check perennials for heaving during warm spells. Remulch as needed.
- ___ Continue bringing out your cooled forced bulbs for indoor enjoyment.
- ___ Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.
- ___ Check for and treat for pests on plants brought in from the garden.
- ___ Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.
- ___ Repair and clean out birdhouses. Early arrivals will be here soon!
- ___ Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering or buying new ones.
- ___ Order seeds and plants. Favorite sources include:

For seeds:

- Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds @ RareSeeds.com or 417/924-8887
- Burpee @ burpee.com or 800/888-1447
- Harris Seeds @ harriseseeds.com or 800/514-4441
- Johnny's Select Seeds @ johnnyseeds.com or 207/861-3901
- Jung's Seeds @ jungseed.com or 800/247-5864
- Park's Seeds @ parkseed.com or 800/845-3369
- Seeds of Change @ seedsofchange.com or 888/762-7333
- Seed Savers @ seedsavers.org or 563/382-5990
- Select Seeds @ selectseeds.com or 800/684-0395
- Territorial Seeds @ territorialseed.com or 888/657-3131
- Thompson & Morgan @ thompson-morgan.com or 800/274-7333

For bulbs:

- Colorblends @ colorblends.com or 888/847-8637
- John Scheeper's @ johnscheepers.com or 860/567-0838
- McClure & Zimmerman @ mzbulb.com or 800/883-6998

For plants:

- Heronswood Nursery @ heronswood.com or 360/297-4172
- High Country Gardens @ highcountrygardens.com or 800/925-9387
- Logee's Greenhouses @ logees.com or 888/330-8038
- Plant Delights Nursery @ plantdelights.com or 912/772-4794
- Roots and Rhizomes @ rootsrhizomes.com or 800/374-5035
- Wayside Gardens @ waysidegardens.com or 800/213-0379
- White Flower Farm @ whiteflowerfarm.com or 800/503-9624

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!

- ___ Sterilize seed starting equipment and pots with a 1:16 bleach solution.
- ___ Shop for summer bulbs like begonias, caladium, calla and elephant's ears.
- ___ Use the winter days to plan next summer's garden.
- ___ Trim trees. Begin pruning fruit trees at month's end.
- ___ Begin bringing in branches for forcing: pussy willow, forsythia, quince, etc.
- ___ As the days lengthen and new growth occurs, begin fertilizing houseplants.
- ___ Check your garden for any plant damage from weather or 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 FEBRUARY:

---We're readying ourselves for two of our year's biggest events--Garden Expo and Valentine's Day. For Garden Expo, we've readied our displays and the plants we're selling are bursting with color. For Valentine's Day, we're awaiting the onslaught by prepping the thousands of additional cut flowers, unpacking all the beautiful vases and containers, ordering hundreds of blooming plants and securing additional delivery vehicles and staff.

---Spring plants begin arriving enforce! After Valentine's Day the first spring bedding annuals arrive. Pansies, violas and dianthus plugs are popped into cell packs so they're ready for early April sales.

---We're planting up our thousands of mixed annuals hanging baskets. The geranium hanging baskets planted in January are filling out and almost ready for their first pinching and shaping.

---We reopen greenhouses in our back range as needed. They've been shut down to save on heat and eliminate pest problems.

---The deadline approaches for Easter orders. Dozens of area churches order lilies, tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, mums, hydrangeas and azaleas for Easter delivery.

---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.

---Spring product begins arriving for unpacking and pricing--the pots, the tools, the sundries. We need to have everything priced and ready to go by April 1.

---We continue to assess 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.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--BETH SWANSON

The fact that Beth Swanson works at Klein's is quite a coup for us on so many levels. Seldom has such a person crossed Klein's path where it would have been foolish for us not to pounce on the opportunity to embrace a prospective employee and welcome them into our fold. Beth is well known in the Madison gardening community and we are happy and lucky to have her among our ranks.

Arriving at this point in life has not been a short journey for Beth and limited space required that we edit many of the fascinating twists and turns along that path. Beth says that her current love for nature, plants and gardening didn't come naturally for her. Or perhaps that passion had been suppressed until just the right moment came along for it to sprout, flourish and blossom. Beth comes from a family "plant people" and passionate gardeners. Her siblings have degrees in horticulture and her grandmother was instrumental in founding the garden club in Dousman, Wisconsin. Beth, on the other hand, says that due to allergies and a "fear of plants" she spent most of her childhood indoors rather than in the garden. She says that the harder the family tried to get her outdoors, the more she desired to seek haven inside.

After graduating from Waukesha South High School in 1985, Beth says she spent the next several years in search of herself. In addition to attending seven different colleges, Beth says she explored countless career possibilities including those in fashion merchandising, retail and human resources. She says she worked for a dating service, at a tanning salon and even at a pumpkin farm where she says she loved the "family feel". But along the way Beth began to realize that her forte was in the field of communications. In fact, Beth acknowledges that her parents often said, "Beth sure can talk on the phone."

Ultimately Beth attended Carroll College in Waukesha with a focus on communication arts. While watching TV, Beth saw an infomercial for the Brown Institute of Broadcasting in Minneapolis. Life was about to take a new path. It was there that she met her future husband, Scott. She says it was love at first sight as he walked into the room. Together “Team Scott & Beth” roamed Wisconsin in various careers. After a stint in radio in the Fond du Lac market, they ended up in customer service (a phone job) at Land’s End, first in Mauston and then in Dodgeville. It was while working at Land’s End and living in Lone Rock that the opportunity of a lifetime came along--a job opening at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin near Spring Green. It’s now 1999. Though initially hired into a jack-of-all-trades position, the people at Taliesin saw Beth’s amazing potential and created a position for her as Media and Events Coordinator, a position she held until 2003. The stars realigned themselves and everything was about to change again.

Beth says she and Scott began realizing that they wanted to be nearer a city and it was at that time that Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison posted a job opening for an Events Coordinator. Beth was hired and started at Olbrich Gardens in March of 2003. It was while working at Olbrich Botanical Gardens that something magical happened. Beth says she became very aware of her amazing surroundings. Beauty surrounded her every day at work. The “plant thing” was finally tapped into and an until now unknown passion surfaced and blossomed. Perhaps her love of plants had truly been suppressed all these years. Beth says her position at Olbrich was the ultimate job, bringing together the three P’s--plants, people & parties. It was while working at Olbrich that Beth discovered and learned about Klein’s. Olbrich Gardens and Klein’s have a long-standing relationship and she says that Klein’s is well known among the Olbrich crowd for our plant selection, plant quality, customer service and knowledgeable staff. Beth says that as events coordinator at Olbrich, Klein’s, and in particular, Kathy (Klein’s design manager), “bent over backwards” when Olbrich required special flowers, centerpieces or just advice. Beth says that Klein’s and Olbrich are not just good neighbors, but also good business partners.

By 2008, the time was right to take everything she had learned and to start her own business, E. M. Swanson Events--Professional Events Coordinator. As with any new business, it takes a while for things to take off. Beth not only needed to keep busy on the side, but also needed to be surrounded by the beauty of plants. It was during the winter of early 2009 that Beth learned that Klein’s was hiring for a retail position. The three P’s--plants, people & parties? Beth realized that working at Klein’s would tie in perfectly with her newly formed business and

vice versa. Needless to say, Klein's hired Beth on the spot. Beth, like most of us, says she enjoys the intimate family feel of Klein's. She says she loves the opportunity to "play with plants" on a daily basis and to be creative with customers. She says she thrives on the craziness and the flurry around the greenhouse in the springtime. Beth also says she's happy to see her "Olbrich people", many of whom regularly shop at Klein's.

Together, Beth and Scott own a charming home on Madison's north side surrounded by what she calls a woodland cottage garden "with flair", filled with art, sculpture and everyday objects that she recycles and reuses in the garden setting. Beth says she's especially fond of container gardening and incorporating tropicals into her garden. Husband, Scott, teaches high school English in Sauk City and, though not a gardener, does the "guy things" around the yard. Arlo, the cutest Brussels Griffon on this planet, rounds out their family and is himself a frequent Klein's visitor.

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

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/>

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/>

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

Dept. of Plant Pathology

1630 Linden Dr.

Madison, WI 53706

<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/index.php>

Insect Diagnostic Lab
240 Russell Labs
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
<http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/>

U.W. Soil and Plant Analysis Lab
8452 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-4364
<http://uwlabs.soils.wisc.edu/>

American Horticultural Society
<http://www.ahs.org/>

Garden Catalogs (an extensive list with links)
<http://www.gardenlist.com/>
also <http://www.mailordergardening.com/>
Invasive Species
<http://www.invasive.org/>

Friends of Troy Gardens
Rm. 171, Bldg. 14
3601 Memorial Dr.
Madison, WI 53704
608/240-0409
<http://www.troygardens.org/>

Community Gardens Division (Madison area)
Community Action Coalition
1717 N. Stoughton Rd.
Madison, WI 53704
608/246-4730
<http://www.cacscw.org/gardens/>

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)
<http://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
<http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>

The Wisconsin Gardener
<http://www.wpt.org/garden/>

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

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

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

University of WI Arboretum
1207 Seminole Hwy.
Madison, WI 53711
608/263-7888
<http://uwarboretum.org/>

University of Wisconsin-West Madison
Agricultural Research Center
8502 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-2257
<http://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 @ <http://www.humanesociety.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