

'THE SAGE'--AUGUST 2010

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

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

Our Native Pollinators--A Behind the Scenes Look

Choosing Perennial Flowers for Your Cutting Garden

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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](mailto: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.

FOR NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS OR GARDEN TOURS that you would like posted on our web site or in our monthly newsletters, please contact Rick at (608) 244-5661 or Sue at [sue@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:sue@kleinsfloral.com). Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Our readership is ever-growing so this is a great opportunity for free advertising. Events must be garden related and must take place in the immediate Madison vicinity.

AUGUST STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Open Labor Day, Monday, September 6: 10:00-4:00

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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

Week of August 8--Watch for the arrival of our semi-load of indoor houseplants. Select from all shapes and sizes; from tropicals to succulents. The showrooms become a veritable jungle overnight.

August 11--Ramadan Begins

August 24--Full Moon

September 6--Labor Day. Special Store Hours: 10:00-4:00

#### 'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

##### Choosing Perennial Flowers for Your Cutting Garden

In our July newsletter we supplied a list of some of the best annuals to choose for a cutting garden (click on Newsletter on our home page and then July 2010 from our newsletter archive to view that list). But no seasonal bouquet would be complete without a few additions from your perennial bed. The following is a list of some of the best perennials for fresh arrangements. Please note that our perennials are now 25% off so this is the perfect time to add a few to your garden!

*Achillea millefolium* - Yarrow

*Aconitum napellus* - Garden Monkshood

*Alchemilla mollis* - Lady's Mantle

*Anemone japonica* - Japanese Anemone

*Aquilegia* spp. - Columbine

*Armeria maritima* - Common or Sea Thrift

Aster, nearly all

*Astrantia major* - Great Masterwort

*Campanula persicifolia* - Peach-leaved Bellflower

*Chrysanthemum coccineum* - Painted Lady

*Chrysanthemum x superbum* - Shasta Daisy

*Convallaria majalis* - Lily-of-the-Valley

*Coreopsis* spp. - Coreopsis

*Delphinium elatum* - Delphinium or Larkspur

*Delphinium* hybrids

*Dianthus barbatus* - Sweet William

*Dicentra* - Bleeding Heart

*Echinacea purpurea* - Purple Coneflower

*Echinops ritro* - Small Globe Thistle

*Gaillardia aristata* - Blanket Flower

*Gypsophila paniculata* - Baby's Breath

*Heliopsis helianthoides* - Sunflower Heliopsis

*Heuchera sanguinea* - Coral Bells

Iris, various

*Lavandula angustifolia* - English Lavender

Liatrix spp. - Gayfeather  
Lilium spp. - Hardy Lilies  
Lupinus 'Russell Hybrid' - Russel Hybrid Lupine  
Lysimachia - Gooseneck Loosestrife  
Mertensia virginica - Blue Bells  
Paeonia, various - Peony  
Penstemon spp. - Beardtongue  
Platycodon grandiflorus - Balloon Flower  
Rudbeckia spp. - Black-eyed Susan  
Rudbeckia, various - Cone Flower  
Salvia azurea grandiflora - Azure Sage  
Scabiosa spp. - Pincushion Flower  
Stokesia laevis - Stokes Aster  
Veronica spicata - Spike Speedwell

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that with the decline of honeybee populations, our own native pollinators are having to pick up the slack--or can they?

And though honeybees are still far and away the major pollinator for nearly all of our food crops that require insect pollination, the debate continues on whether we should even rely on the nonnative honeybee for pollination, or whether we should switch and promote the use of our own native pollinators to carry the load. It's a well-known fact that nonnative bee and insect introductions have had an adverse effect on the populations of our native species and on the plants they pollinate. In turn, the introduction on nonnative plant species has also had an effect on both the populations of our native pollinators and the native plant species that they pollinate.

Following are a few fascinating articles addressing these and other topics regarding our native pollinators, along with information on what we as gardeners can do to help their declining numbers. The first two articles come from the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign @ <http://www.pollinator.org>

#### Effects of Invasive Plant Species on Pollinators

Invasive species affect both pollinating animals and pollinated plants by disrupting the structure and function of ecosystems. Nonnative plants can alter the community composition of natural habitats, reducing food and shelter resources available for all species of wildlife. Native pollinators have co-evolved with the plants they visit, such that their physiology is matched to most efficiently exploit the nectar and pollen resources of the flowers upon which they specialize.

For pollinators that are physiologically adapted to specialize on particular plants, non-natives may present floral structures that are inaccessible to local pollinating animals, preventing them from reaching the nectar reward that lies within. In such cases, the nonnative plant "steals" the reproductive opportunity to spread its pollen by attracting pollinators that unwittingly transfer pollen grains while visiting flower after flower, seeking nectar that is physically inaccessible to them. The invasives rob the ecosystem by propagating throughout the habitat, while returning no ecosystem benefits to the animals that depend on that habitat for survival.

Pollinators visiting invasive species are drawn away from native plant species, which may result in reduced reproductive capacity and degeneration of native plant habitats. Introduced plant diseases can be carried from non-natives to native plants on the bodies of pollinators seeking food, and hybrids can be unwittingly created through the genetic mixing that occurs.

Invasive plants can also directly impact pollinators, as shown in the case of the

invasive species, garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Garlic mustard threatens native plants in forests of the Eastern and Midwestern U.S. by out-competing native species in the mustard family, known as "toothworts" (Genus *Cardamine*).

Toothworts provide the primary source of food for caterpillars of the rare West Virginia White Butterfly (*Pieris virginiensis*). Besides causing local extirpations of native toothworts, the chemicals in garlic mustard have a toxic effect on the White Butterfly's eggs, keeping them from hatching when butterflies unwittingly lay their eggs on the plant's foliage. Efforts to reestablish native plant communities should consider the vital importance of specific native pollinators for each plant species in a given habitat.

#### Effects of Invasive Animal Species & Pathogens on Pollinators

Invasive species of animal are also major concerns for the future of pollinators and ecosystems in North America and around the world. Parasites such as *Varroa* and Tracheal mites, African Hive Beetles, and diseases such as *Nosema* have been introduced to native pollinators by invasive species, decimating pollinator populations and causing severe declines in pollination services for agricultural crops, resulting in economic problems for growers.

Even introduced pollinators such as Large Earth Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) can become a great concern for the future of native pollinating animals. The Large Earth Bumblebee is currently spreading its range throughout Mexico as fast as 75 km per year, out-competing native bumble bee species as it spreads. The consequences for native habitats and pollinators have been documented in Japan and other countries.

#### As Honeybee Colonies Collapse, Can Native Bees Handle Pollination?

April 13, 2010, From the University of Wisconsin-Madison News website @

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/17948>

by David Tenenbaum

With colony collapse disorder continuing to plague commercial beekeepers in many parts of the country, University of Wisconsin-Madison experts are studying whether native pollinators can supply the insect pollination needed to form many fruits.

While honeybees are social insects that live in large colonies, or hives, most native pollinators are solitary bees that nest in the ground or inside vegetation. Although the natives cannot be trucked into fields like honeybees, they do not suffer colony collapse. Studies elsewhere show that native pollinators can play a major role in sustaining such pollination-dependent crops as watermelon and cranberry. Entomologists say that although the collapse seems less dire in Wisconsin, honeybees are still declining.

"If you look at some of the comments about colony collapse, you'd think the end of world was coming, and that this was a new problem," says Phillip Pellitteri, a distinguished faculty associate in the insect diagnostic lab, "but honeybees have been on a decline for three decades for a litany of reasons."

As the bee business has consolidated, and started to emphasize pollination rather than honey production, new insect pests and diseases have made beekeeping more work than it used to be, and pushed some marginal producers out of business, Pellitteri says.

Still, Pellitteri says most of the collapse seems associated with migratory beekeeping.

"I've heard reports of up to 90 percent losses in the almond groves in California," where semitrailer loads of hives are trucked in from around the country just before the trees flower, he says. The stress of long journeys may be impairing the bees' immune system, making them vulnerable to exotic viruses.

In Wisconsin, where migratory beekeeping is less common, crops like cucumber, cranberry and apples require bees, as do many popular prairie and garden plants.

Colony collapse is less clear-cut in Wisconsin, Pellitteri says. When a hive dies out, "There is no diagnostic test to confirm whether it is collapse or something else. There's always a question, is it one of the mites or another familiar problem?"

The threat or reality of colony collapse has certainly focused attention on native pollinators. About 4,000 species of bees, most of them solitary, are known to pollinate plants in the United States, Pellitteri says.

"Under the right circumstances, native pollinators can do a lot of benefit, but you can't manipulate them like honeybees. You can't throw them on a truck and move them across country to get pollination services," he says.

Pellitteri says native pollinators are a "much bigger pool than most people think, with about 400 species in Wisconsin," including bumblebees and the more obscure squash bees and leaf cutter bees.

Hannah Gaines, a Ph.D. student in the entomology department at UW-Madison, is studying native pollinators in Wisconsin's cranberry crop, the nation's largest. Although cranberry growers routinely rent honeybees to do the pollinating, relying on native pollinators could cut costs.

Studies of pollination in New Jersey showed that native bees are actually more efficient than honeybees at pollinating cranberries. Gaines says other studies have found that native pollinators can handle watermelon pollination in California, in fields where sufficient natural habitat exists within 1 kilometer.

Gaines is studying how the nature of the surrounding landscape affects pollination in the Wisconsin cranberry bogs, located between Tomah and Wisconsin Rapids. During 2008, she collected 108 species of native bees, and found that both abundance and diversity increased along with the amount of nearby natural habitat.

"Cranberry growers in Wisconsin are very open to the idea of using native pollination," she says, "but none of the big growers are ready to get rid of honeybees yet, and use natives exclusively."

Native pollinators should get a boost from the federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which supports landscape conservation, says Gaines. "We're hoping to find growers to participate, to put in strips and plots of native perennial, flowering plants, as habitat for bee nests, and to provide floral resources when the crops are not in bloom."

"Native bee conservation is habitat conservation," she says.

"You can't have native pollinators with a bunch of parking lots," adds Pellitteri. "You have to promote patches of native ground, flowers, prairie or oak savanna, so the bees have a food source and habitat to nest in the ground."

How You Can Help Native Plants and Pollinators:

--Cultivate only native plants that bloom from early spring into late fall, and plant them in clusters.

--Reduce or eliminate pesticides whenever possible.

--Include larval host plants in your landscape.

--Create homes for bees. Leave an occasional dead limb or tree to provide nesting sites

for native bees. Build a "bee condo" by drilling holes of varying diameter 3-5 inches deep in a piece of scrap wood mounted to a post or under eaves with southern exposure.

--Add to nectar resources with a hummingbird feeder.

--Provide additional resources for butterflies and bees. Put out slices of overripe fruit, or a sponge in a dish of lightly salted water. Use a dripping hose to create a butterfly and bee drinking area. Mix a small bit of sea salt or wood ash into the mud.

--Learn more about pollinators. Get a guidebook and learn to recognize the pollinators in your neighborhood.

--Seek more information, and support local, national, and international efforts to promote pollinators and native plant communities.

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

ENTRY: JUNE 12, 2010 (Poinsettias in the Summer Garden)

Believe it or not, one of my favorite foliage plants to use in the summer landscape or in containers is the poinsettia. Few annuals respond to our summer heat and humidity as well as the poinsettia. One small, almost leafless and yellowed plant from last Christmas is now a 3 foot tall and wide shrub that fills a bare spot in the garden. And a new variegated variety, splashed with gold and cream is a highlight amongst the containers on the deck just outside the TV room door. Its bright red petioles add color to this already stunning plant. Over the years I've saved many a poinsettia to place in the summer garden. Once in while, I've even been treated to a random bloom--an odd occurrence in that a poinsettia's blooming hinges upon day length. Plants can become quite large when placed in ideal conditions. They love a very sunny position protected from strong winds. The hotter the summer, the better they perform. Soil should be fertile and kept moist though well-drained. For years of enjoyment, poinsettias can be forced to rebloom at Christmastime, though this is a painstaking procedure, requiring a specific dark period each and every day starting in early October. For details on getting a poinsettia to rebloom see our January 2009 Newsletter by clicking on 'Newsletter' on the left side of our home page at [www.kleinsfloral.com](http://www.kleinsfloral.com) where you'll find our Newsletter Archive and all of our previous newsletters.

ENTRY: JULY 18, 2010 (Veggie Explosion!)

This summer has (so far) been the perfect storm for vegetable production in my garden. An early spring, warm summer temperatures, no pests, and abundant rainfall and sunshine have lead to my biggest bounty on record. Pepper and tomato plants are so laden with fruit that I've had to stake and restake them multiple times. I've been harvesting the peppers, summer squash and basil for a number of weeks now. Just this week the eggplants have kicked into high gear. I watched one fruit grow from golf ball sized to maturity in a matter of days! My first tomato is just beginning to turn red. I'm to the point where, along with my weekly CSA box of vegetables, I'm almost unable to keep up with using or freezing them.

In counterpart, 2009 was one of the worst vegetable summers ever! With a record cold July and the arrival of late blight, tomatoes crops were devastated and pepper and eggplants saw no fruit form. Ahh--summer in Wisconsin and the difference a year can make!

ENTRY: JULY 20, 2010 (Maintenance of Summer Annuals)

Plant maintenance is a regular part of my daily routine as we head into the dog days of summer. Plants are growing quickly now and blooming is fast and furious. The early

summer annuals and perennials are now past their prime, looking a bit ragged and going into seed. It was time this morning to get out there, do a bit of deadheading and give many of my annuals their "summer cut".

Each mid-July I give many of my potted annuals a drastic "haircut". Doing so, along with regular fertilizing, revitalizes them for the rest of the growing season. Pruning them back accomplishes a number of tasks all at once--namely deadheading, ridding the plants of gangly growth and pinching them for renewed branching. The new branching means increased flowering in the weeks to come. Petunias and calibrachos respond particularly well to being cut back by up to 75%. It seems like a lot, but in just a few weeks the now bushy plants will be loaded with fresh blossoms on bright green foliage. Plants that respond well to a moderate (25-30%) pruning include geraniums, coleus, salvia, zinnias, pentas, nicotiana and many others. With these, I prune out heavy branches and essentially reshape the plants. And some annuals I avoid pruning all together. These include many of the woody annuals whose growth rate is much slower. Were I to cut back my lantana, bougainvillea, angel's trumpets, oleander or hibiscus this late in the season I might not see any blooms for the rest of the summer.

A Reminder: FERTILIZE!

Though the nearly constant barrage of rain showers this season has made it more difficult to fertilize containers, this reminder from Rick's Observations from our June 2009 Newsletter reminds us of how important it is to fertilize when we get any window of opportunity.

ENTRY: JULY 20, 2009

One of the more common questions I'm asked as neighbors and friends visit my garden is how I can possibly keep all of my containers looking so healthy from spring until fall. My simple answer is FERTILIZE, FERTILIZE & FERTILIZE! Starting about now each year I begin a rigid schedule of fertilizing all of my containers every two weeks (give or take a few days depending on the weather). Many experts recommend weekly fertilizing, but with experience, I've found every second week to be adequate. The key to my success is using a calendar or my garden journal in planning the fertilizing schedule. Doing so ensures that I actually do this most important of garden tasks.

I fertilize my containers in a cycle of three beginning in mid-June using a water soluble, all-purpose fertilizer like Miracle-Gro. An all-purpose fertilizer is higher in nitrogen to promote vigorous and rich green growth. It's very important to closely follow the recommended rates on the box for outdoor plants (1 level TBS./gallon for Miracle-Gro). I repeat the process again two weeks later--again, using regular Miracle-Gro to encourage strong new growth. But every third watering I now use one of three fertilizers based on the plant and intended results. For my foliage containers (coleus, palms, elephant's ears, bananas, houseplants, etc.), I continue using an all-purpose fertilizer for vigorous growth and healthy color. For the vast majority of my blooming containers (and vegetables), I now use a high in phosphorous "bloom booster" for added flower power, making sure to closely follow the instructions. Without a bloom booster, flowering typically slows for most annuals as the summer progresses and as the plant spends its energy. Now for my petunias, calibrachos, gerbers and certain other plants that tend to yellow, I instead use a fertilizer higher in acid, such as Mir-acid. For these plants, the acid in the fertilizer helps prevent bare and woody stems and the typical yellowing foliage as the season progresses.

In two weeks, the cycle begins again until about mid-September. As an added note, I've found that fertilizing is most effective if the soil is slightly moist. Not only do the plants take up the fertilizer more quickly and efficiently, but less is wasted. If the soil is overly dry, much of the fertilizer is lost as the water quickly runs through and out of the pots.

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

Customers are oftentimes confused when they visit Klein's in the spring looking for the zucchini starter plants and expecting to find them in their own area. But being a summer squash, we choose to merchandise them along with our other summer squashes including yellow summer squash and patty-pans. Unlike their winter counterparts, summer squashes are eaten skin and all. Of the summer squashes, zucchinis are exceptionally versatile. They can be eaten raw in salads or cooked in soups, stews, casseroles, breads, or on their own sautéed in olive oil with a little salt and pepper. Zucchini production in the garden is a sure sign that summer is here and once plants start producing, there's no shortage of zucchini for weeks to come. It's always good to have a number of zucchini recipes on hand awaiting the influx. Fresh zucchini does not store well and should be used within a few days of harvest.

ZUCCHINI TOMATO CASSEROLE-- From the Vermont Valley Farm newsletter.

5 cups zucchini or any summer squash, cubed  
1 cup onion, sliced  
1 clove garlic, minced  
2 tomatoes, chopped  
1/2 tsp. dried basil  
1/2 tsp. dried oregano  
1/2 tsp. paprika  
1 1/2 cups cooked brown rice  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat the oven to 350°. Sauté the onions, garlic and squash until tender. Combine the rest of the ingredients in a bowl and add the onion mixture. Spread into a 1 1/2 qt. casserole. Bake about 25 minutes. This recipe is easily doubled. Adjust baking time as needed.

STEAMED ZUCCHINI WITH HERB SAUCE-- This recipe appeared in the September 2007 issue of Cooking Light magazine.

1/4 cup parsley  
3 TBS. finely chopped onion  
1 TBS. chopped fresh basil  
1 TBS. chopped capers  
2 tsp. lemon zest  
1/4 tsp. dried oregano  
2 tsp. extra virgin olive oil  
1 tsp. lemon juice  
1/4 tsp. coarse salt  
6 cups, 1/4" zucchini slices

Combine all ingredients, except the zucchini, in a large bowl. Steam the zucchini slices 4 minutes or until tender crisp. Add the cooked slices to the bowl and toss gently to coat. Serves 4.

ZUCCHINI BOATS--From Rachel Ray's magazine of September 2007. The review says "Wonderful!"

4 medium to large zucchinis  
3 TBS. extra virgin olive oil  
1/2 onion, chopped  
5 smallish plum tomatoes, chopped  
1 cup bread crumbs  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts, toasted  
1/2 tsp. dried oregano  
salt & pepper to taste



6 oz. shredded mozzarella  
1/2 cup parmesan

Preheat oven to 375°. Halve the zucchinis lengthwise and scoop out the flesh leaving a 1/4-1/2" shell. Wrap the flesh in a paper towel and squeeze out the liquid. Discard the liquid. Place the shells, cut side down on a cookie sheet and bake 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat 2 TBS. olive oil in a large skillet on high. Add the zucchini flesh and the onion and cook, stirring, for 5 minutes. Add the tomatoes and cook 5 minutes longer.

Push the veggies aside and add the 1 TBS. olive oil and the bread crumbs. Toast the crumbs for 2 minutes. Off heat, stir in the nuts and the oregano and then combine with the veggies. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Flip over the shells and line the bottom of the boats with cheese. Pack in the filling. (They will be mounded.) Sprinkle with parmesan. Bake until tender, 20-25 minutes. Serves 4.

ROAST ZUCCHINI, ONION AND PEPPERS--Delicious and SO easy. From Martha Stewart's Everyday Food of May 2005.

3 lbs. zucchini cut into 1" thick rounds  
2 red peppers cut into 1" pieces  
1 medium onion cut into 1/2" wedges  
2 TBS. olive oil  
2 tsp. coarse salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper

Preheat oven to 475°. In a bowl, combine the veggies, oil, salt and pepper. Place the mixture on a large, rimmed baking sheet sprayed with cooking spray. Roast until tender and browned in spots for 30-35 minutes. Serves 6-8.

ZUCCHINI AND EGGPLANT BAKE--From the May 2008 issue of Better Homes & Gardens magazine.

3 medium zucchinis sliced thin (4 cups)  
2 large, sweet peppers, coarsely chopped  
2 medium onions, coarsely chopped  
1 eggplant, peeled and coarsely chopped (5 cups)  
2 cloves minced garlic  
3 TBS. olive oil  
4 eggs  
1/2 cup mayonnaise  
1 cup grated romano or parmesan  
8 oz. (2 cups) shredded mozzarella  
12 (2/3 cup) crushed "rich" crackers

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray a 9 x 13" baking dish (3 qts.) with cooking spray. In a skillet, sauté zucchini, peppers, onions, eggplant, garlic, 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper on medium high for 10-15 minutes until all is tender. Meanwhile, in a very large bowl, whisk together the eggs and the mayo. Stir in the grated cheese and 1 cup of the mozzarella. Add the cooked veggies and toss to combine. Spread the mixture into the prepared dish and top with the rest of the mozzarella and the crumbs. Bake, uncovered, 20-25 minutes until lightly browned and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Let rest 10 minutes before serving. Serves 6-8.

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: New Annuals From The Spring of 2010--The Hype & The Reality

Klein's has a reputation as being a market leader when it comes to the introduction of new spring annuals. Beginning the previous summer, members of Klein's staff visit trade shows and test gardens and scour catalogs and gardening magazines in hopes of finding hot new plants for the following spring season. While most of the plants that enter into our enormous selection prove their worthiness, there are a few duds that pop up now and again. And because there are so many factors that play into how a plant performs in the garden (weather and pests to name a few), we generally give a new plant a few years before deciding on the final thumbs up or thumbs down. Here are a few of our 2010 introductions and some early reviews. Let us know how these 'hot' new plants performed in your own garden.

Alyssum 'Snow Princess' from Proven Winners

The Hype: A breakthrough in breeding, 'Snow Princess' is covered in loads of small white flowers creating large snowballs of blooms. This sterile selection will add a playful and whimsical touch to combinations and hanging baskets. Unlike regular alyssum, 'Snow Princess' is extremely heat tolerant. A bit taller than the species at 4-6" and rather vigorous.

The Reality: It's all true! We've used 'Snow Princess' in our display containers below the Klein's sign on East Wash and even with the hot summer we've had, this alyssum has never stopped blooming! Plants have cascaded down the sides of the large containers with amazing, yet subtle, effect. In our mixed hanging baskets, the plant has also proved very effective. The plant mixes nicely with geraniums and petunias in mixed combos. Because this is like no other alyssum, our grower, Jamie Vanden Wymelenberg, prefers that the staff uses the Latin name 'Lobularia' when referring to this winning introduction as not to confuse it with bedding alyssum. So far it's only available in white.

Begonia boliviensis 'Sparkle' Series

The Hype: A brand new series notable for their compact, well-branched habit and huge flowers. Remains far tamer in containers than the species. Blooms nonstop on 18" tall plants. For part sun to shade.

The Reality: Both in performance and structure this new trailing begonia series outshines the older 'Bonfire' and 'Bellfire' in many ways. The habit is more cascading than the more upright 'Bonfire' making for phenomenal hanging baskets. Whereas 'Bonfire' performs equally well in mixed containers and hanging baskets, 'Sparkle' must be allowed to cascade over the edge. Though the colors are not as intense as 'Bonfire', both the salmon and the scarlet make a statement in the garden. Stems are sturdy enough to hold up in a fair amount of wind and plants are very sun and drought tolerant. A winner!

Euphorbia 'Breathless' Series

The Hype: This elegant and durable series includes the only red-flushed leaf form on the market. We carry blush which also has pink-flushed blooms. Ht.: 8-12". For full sun to part shade.

The Reality: Kinda boring!! Plants just don't sparkle like the much praised 'Diamond Frost' by Proven Winners. Seeing as we only carried the blush, it would be interesting to see how the white version stacks up against 'Diamond Frost'. The "pink-flushed" blooms get lost in mixed plantings and the plant had little impact on the sales floor. The pink, in reality, is just a very dull white. Thumbs down!

Geranium 'Calliope' Series Dark Red

The Hype: A new trailing series of zonal geraniums bred from the Americana series. This is a revolutionary breakthrough in the production of zonal geraniums. Perfect for baskets, large pots and beds. Blooms are large and very full. Dark red is the first from the series (released in 2008 as 'Americana Trailing Dark Red').

The Reality: Very nice color and cascading habit! The color is the richest red of any geranium we've carried to date! The cascading habit is more vigorous and sturdy than any ivy geranium and tolerates full sun--unlike its ivy counterpart. 'Calliope' performed

very well for us in mixed hanging baskets.

#### Goodenia 'Fresca'

The Hype: Low-growing, heat-loving plant with dainty yellow flowers. The attractive, glossy green foliage provides contrasting texture. A great accent plant for baskets and mixed containers. Just 4-8" tall and trailing.

The Reality: A very attractive little plant! Plants are glossy, with the brightest of yellow flowers. Because the plants are rather insignificant, they are best used on their own in a small pot or at the very edge of smallish mixed containers, window boxes or hanging baskets. Plain old "cute" best describes this newcomer.

#### Heliotrope 'Simply Scentsational'

The Hype: A new 24-30" tall hybrid from Proven Winners. Very fragrant lavender flowers on bushy plants. Extremely heat and drought tolerant. Excellent both in beds and in mixed containers. Pinching encourages added branching.

The Reality: AMAZING, old-fashioned heliotrope fragrance on a rather unattractive and very floppy plant. For us, pinching simply encouraged even more floppy growth. This plant should not be used as the focal point of one's garden or containers. But what it lacks in appearance, it sure makes up for in fragrance! When strategically placed, the perfumy aroma fills the air (especially on quiet warm and humid evenings). Flowers are smaller than most heliotropes and in a shade of the palest blue. This one could go either way. When in bloom in our showrooms, this plant was impossible to pass by without a sniff.

#### Otacanthus (Brazilian Snapdragon) 'Peek-A-Blue'

The Hype: With its minty fragrance, bright purple flower spikes and dark green foliage, this Brazilian snapdragon makes a statement in any garden. A heat and humidity lover that needs no deadheading. Avoid wet and cold conditions so do not set outside until late May. For full to part sun.

The Reality: A very, very beautiful and interesting plant! Blooms are an intense blue on sturdy and well-branched plants and perform nonstop! It seems to love full hot sun. Though showy, 'Peek-A-Blue' looks especially nice on its own in a pot, rather than in mixed plantings. The fragrant foliage is an added bonus. This is a keeper!

#### Pennisetum (Fountain Grass) 'Fireworks'

The Hype: A rubrum with flair!! The first variegated purple fountain grass. The foliage has midveins of burgundy with hot pink margins. This sport was discovered by accident and had been in very short supply until very recently.

The Reality: Stunning! We've used it in beds and containers and it's hard for this bright pink grass to go unnoticed! It looks especially nice when mixed with other brightly colored flowers, especially yellow, orange, blue and violet. It seems a bit tamer than ordinary purple fountain grass, but with the same feathery plumes starting in mid-July.

#### Petunia 'Pretty Much Picasso'

The Hype: WOW!! Talk about something eye-catching and new. This is the talk of the petunia world and another fantastic introduction from Proven Winners. With its deep violet throat and softer violet petal surrounded by a chartreuse edge, this new variety will be a focal point of any garden! Very vigorous with a strong trailing habit. Great for the landscape or very large containers. 8-12" tall.

The Reality: Yet another winning petunia from Proven Winners! But don't refer to the plant tag when purchasing plants that are not in bloom--the colors and effect are far subtler than the bright, eye-popping magenta pictured on the tag. Plants are sturdy and very vigorous. The vigor complements 'Snow Princess' alyssum when used together in mixed containers and hanging baskets. We couldn't keep this new introduction on the shelves when customers saw this petunia in bloom! Truly a proven winner!

#### Zinnia 'Zahara Rose Starlight'

The Hype: All-new disease-tolerant and heat-loving series with larger flowers and stronger colors than the market leaders. These zinnias are very drought tolerant with very low watering needs. Grows to 12-18". 'Rose Starlight' (2010 AAS Winner) is a white and rose bicolor .

The Reality: Though an excellent performer in the garden and in containers, the flower color in reality is nothing like the picture in catalogs, magazines or on the plant labels. Flowers are FAR more white, than they are rose bicolor. And instead of rose, the color leans more toward a pastel pink. This is a perfect example of where photographs can be deceiving. From a distance, Zahara 'Rose Starlight' looks no different than 'Profusion White'. If you're expecting something flashy from this zinnia, prepare to be disappointed.

## NATURAL NEWS--

### Natural Garden Pest Control

Natural pest control is less expensive than buying and applying pesticides, and it's safer for your garden, your family, the natural wildlife and the environment.

Each year North American homes use approximately 136 million pounds of pesticides on lawns and gardens, and in the home. In fact, homeowners use about three times the amount of pesticides as farmers. Most wildlife pest poisonings, and most surface water contamination from pesticides, come from single-family homes.

### Prevention

The easiest way to prevent insect damage in your garden is to discourage them from coming in the first place. A healthy garden is the best defense.

--Pull out any weak plants. They may already be infected. If not, they will attract predators. Pull the plant and dispose of it away from the garden area.

--Build healthy, organic soil. Natural composting methods, mulching and top-dressing your soil with compost or natural fertilizer is the best way to develop strong, vigorous plants.

--Seaweed mulch or spray. Seaweed contains trace elements such as iron, zinc, barium, calcium, sulfur and magnesium, which promote healthy development in plants. Seaweed fertilizer in mulch or spray form will enhance growth and give plants the strength to withstand disease. Seaweed mulch also repels slugs.

--Minimize insect habitat. Clear garden area of debris and weeds which are breeding places for insects. Use clean mulch.

--Interplant and rotate crops. Insect pests are often plant specific. When plantings are mixed, pests are less likely to spread throughout a crop. Rotating crops each year is a common method to avoid re-infestation of pests which have overwintered in the bed.

--Keep foliage dry. Water early so foliage will be dry for most of the day. Wet foliage encourages insect and fungal damage to your plants. See our page on drip-irrigation for methods of delivering water to the root systems without wetting the foliage.

--Disinfect. If you've been working with infested plants, clean your tools before moving on to other garden areas. This will reduce the speed of invading insects.

### Beneficial Insects

Beneficial insects are insects which you can attract to your garden, or buy from catalogues, which prey on harmful insects or their larvae. There are many different species for specific problems.

#### --Brachonids, Chalcids and Ichneumon Wasps

These small beneficial insects destroy leaf-eating caterpillars. You can attract them to your garden by planting carrots, celery, parsley, caraway and Queen Anne's lace, all members of the Umbelliferae family. These plants are easy to grow, and some should be left to flower. It's the flower that attracts the insects.

#### --Ladybugs

These common insects consume aphids, mites, whiteflies and scale. They can be attracted to your garden by planting members of the daisy family (Compositae), tansy or yarrow. Ladybugs are also available from catalogues online.

#### --Lacewings

Lacewings are avid consumers of aphids, and their larva eat aphids and other varieties of other insect pests. They are attracted to "composite" flowers, such as yarrow, goldenrod, black-eyed susan's and asters. Lacewings can also be purchased online.

#### --Hover-flies

Hover-flies are avid consumers of aphids, and the larva of hover-flies eat aphids and other insect pests. Like the Lacewings, they are attracted to "composite" flowers, such as yarrow, goldenrod, black-eyed susan's and asters.

#### --Praying Mantis

These large insects have an appetite for most garden pests. Praying mantis eggs are set out in the garden where they hatch and quickly grow to adult size. The eggs are available through mail-order catalogues.

#### Nematodes

Effective against cutworms, a common pest which destroys sprouts before they can grow into seedlings. Nematodes are also effective against beetles and root weevil larvae. Nematode eggs are microscopic and come in a small sponge a million at a time. These are mixed with water and applied to the soil, where they hatch and go to work. If they get on foliage, wash them off to the ground.

Nematodes are harmless to humans and pets. They are available in some garden centers and through mail-order catalogues.

#### Garden 'Mini - Insectary'

You can also set aside a small garden plot of flowering plants designed to attract and harbor beneficial insects. These 'good' insects prey on many common garden insect pests, and offer the gardener a safer, natural alternative to pesticides.

#### Nontoxic and Homemade Remedies

Homemade remedies are inexpensive and, best of all, you know what is going into your garden. Many homemade sprays have been used with good results to control harmful insects. They usually involve noxious (but nontoxic) ingredients such as garlic, cayenne, stinging nettles or horsetail which are diluted in water and blended to be sprayed on the plants. Here are a few simple formulas:

#### --Soft-bodied insects (mites, aphids, mealybugs):

Mix one tablespoon canola oil and a few drops of Ivory soap into a quart of water. Shake well and pour into a spray bottle. Spray plant from above down, and from below up to get the underside of the leaves. The oil smothers the insects.

#### --Grubs:

For lawn or garden grubs, there is a natural remedy called milky spore. The granules are spread on the soil and cause the grubs to contract a disease that kills them. This natural control affects only the grubs, leaving the beneficial organisms unharmed. Milky

spore multiplies over time and will sit inactive, waiting for grubs to infect. One treatment is said to last 40 years. The grubs are actually the larvae of Japanese beetles. So, when you kill the grubs you kill the beetle.

--Mites and other insects:

Mix two tablespoons of hot pepper sauce or cayenne pepper with a few drops of Ivory soap into a quart of water. Let stand overnight, then stir and pour into a spray bottle and apply as above. Shake container frequently during application.

--Earwigs, slugs, and other soft-bodied garden pests:

Sprinkle diatomaceous earth over plants and around edges of garden beds. The diatoms particles are very small and sharp – but only harmful to the small exoskeletons of insects, slugs and snails. Insects cannot become immune to its action, as it is a mechanical killer – not a chemical one.

--Fungal diseases:

Mix two tablespoons of baking soda into a quart of water. Pour into a spray container and spray affected areas. Repeat this process every few days until problem ceases.

--Powdery mildew:

Mix equal parts milk and water and spray on infected plants. Three treatments a week apart should control the disease.

--Insects and fungal diseases:

Combine one tablespoon of cooking oil, two tablespoons of baking soda and a few drops of Ivory soap into a quart of water. Pour into a spray container and apply as above.

--Insects on fruit trees:

Lime sulfur and dormant oil, available at nurseries and garden centers, can be sprayed on the trunk and branches of dormant fruit trees. This concoction will suffocate insect egg cases. Because the oily spray is heavy compared to the other water-based sprays, you'll need a pump sprayer. These are fairly inexpensive, and are available to rent from some nurseries. Only use this method while the tree is dormant, however, or it can kill the tree.

Commercial dormant oils may contain petroleum oil or kerosene. A less toxic method is to make your own. Mix 1 cup vegetable oil and 2 tbsp liquid soap in one gallon (4 liters) water. Mix the soap and oil first, then add the water. Shake often during use.

Caution: Sprays which kill harmful insects will also kill beneficial insects. Use these homemade remedies selectively, only spraying the infected plants. Apply them early in the morning or just before dark. Reapply after a rain. Wear protective clothing when spraying insecticides.

Traps and Barriers

--Yellow Flypaper: Old-fashioned flypaper is very effective in the garden for aphids and whiteflies. In fact, any board or heavy paper painted yellow and coated with a sticky substance such as tanglefoot (available at garden centers) will do the job.

--Apple Maggot Traps: The apple maggot is the most destructive pest of apples grown in home orchards. This insect is a type of fly which pierces the skin of ripening fruit and lays eggs. In 5 - 10 days, the eggs hatch a maggot which burrows through the fruit. These pests can be managed by using sticky red sphere traps. Hang one trap for every 100 apples in a tree.

--Pheromones: These biological mating scents attract insects to a trap which is coated with a sticky substance. Pheromone traps are effective, but remember they are "attracting" the insects - be sure to position them on your garden perimeter or you'll

attract outside pests into your garden!

--Floating Row Covers: Floating row covers consist of lightweight opaque material which is draped over the garden bed. Sunlight and water go through, but insects and birds are kept out. The material is so light that the growing plants simply push it up as they grow - like Jiffy Pop popcorn. The edges of the row cover need to be anchored with rocks or boards or the wind will lift it. The material is "spun" which resists tearing, but usually begins to break down after a few years. Row cover material comes in rolls so you can make a continuous cover no matter how long the garden bed.

Row covers are great for protecting seedlings. They are even more useful throughout the growing season when placed over vegetables such as carrots, beets, broccoli, swiss chard and spinach because it makes an effective barrier against flying insects looking for these plants to lay their eggs on.

--Cloche: The cloche is like a miniature greenhouse for your seedbeds and young plants, and acts as a barrier against pests. Unlike the floating row cover, however, the cloche has to be opened on hot days and for watering, and this presents an opportunity for pests to find the plants. But because the cloche helps seedlings and young plants get well established, the enhanced natural resistance of stronger healthy plants is the best defense against pests and disease.

--Barrier Paper: Scraps of waxed cardboard from milk cartons, or a scrap of roofing felt are a simple yet effective defense against cabbage moths. Cabbage moth larva kill young sprouts of the Brassica family (broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprouts, kale or cauliflower).

Cut into 2" squares and slit one side into the center; make another small slit crossways. Open the slit and slide the square so the seedling stem is in the center. This prevents the cabbage moth from laying eggs at the base of the sprouts. Leave in place - as the plant grows it will simply push the slit open wider. Be sure to apply as soon as the sprout appears, or the moth will beat you to it!

#### Deer Control

The average deer eats about 5 pounds of greenery each day. Creatures of habit, they revisit the same forage areas often. The following nontoxic recipes will deter the deer, but may need to be reapplied after a heavy rain.

--Mix one whole egg with a quarter cup of water and mix well. Pour the mixture into a pump bottle and spray it on your plants. This deterrent will withstand light rains because the egg sticks to the leaves.

--Mix one tablespoon of liquid dish detergent with one ounce of hot sauce in one liter of water and spray directly on plants which deer have been nibbling.

--For larger volume applications, mix the following ingredients:

1 cup milk

2 gallons water (8 liters)

2 whole eggs

2 TBS. cooking oil

2 TBS. liquid detergent

Pour the mixture into a pump bottle and spray it on your plants.

Eventually, even the most persistent deer will become discouraged and look elsewhere for forage. Once they're in the habit of feeding elsewhere, you may be able to let up on the spraying regimen.

Other suggestions for nontoxic deer control:

--Hang a bar of fragrant soap from a middle branch of a bush to keep deer from eating the leaves. They don't like the smell. The rain and humidity keeps the soap fragrant.

--Human hair stuffed into a small cheesecloth sack and hung in trees will repel deer.

#### Rodent Control

First, secure any open food sources, especially the compost bin. Sealed compost bins, such as compost tumblers, are recommended if you have rodents in your garden. As a deterrent, soak a rag or cotton balls in oil of peppermint (found at most health food stores), and place in areas of rodent activity. Place under an eave or under a cover that will keep the rain from diluting the peppermint. Rodents are allergic to peppermint and will avoid it.

This method is also effective at deterring rabbits.

Source: <http://eartheasy.com>

#### AUGUST'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

##### LIATRIS (Blazing Star, Gayfeather)

No perennial bed or border should be without the many liatris that are native to Wisconsin prairies and meadows. These garden stalwarts are durable, sturdy and long-lived and are available in shades of purple and white. The long-lasting flower spikes are a common component in mixed floral arrangements, adding height and texture. Plants arise from corms; a bulb-like structure that stores the plant's energy during the winter months. Native Americans dug the corms and stored them as a winter food source. Clumps spread slowly and never need to be divided--rare among perennials. Many of the native prairie species self-sow for a continued source of new plants. Interestingly this member of the daisy family (Compositae) blooms starting at the top of the flower spike, working its way down the stem over a period of several weeks. Flower stalks are packed with up to 100 individual flowers. The attractive foliage is grass-like and holds up well all summer. Plants are sometimes late to emerge in the spring so care must be taken as not to damage dormant plants. There are liatris species for all parts of the perennial bed. Some species prefer moist soil, while others prefer dry to sandy, lean soil. Either way, all liatris prefer well-drained soil in full sun for best results. Liatris species are a food source for many of Wisconsin's native pollinators so are a must for any bee and butterfly garden. All liatris species available at garden centers are at least Zone 4 hardy. Recommended liatris species for the garden include:

##### Liatris aspera (Rough Blazing Star)

This is a native of the Eastern U.S. Unlike the other gayfeathers, the flower heads are placed further apart on the flower stalk, revealing incurved papery bracts. Plants have a looser, more wildflower appearance than the more commonly used *Liatris spicata*. This liatris grows to about 3-5 feet tall.

##### Liatris ligulistylis (Meadow Blazing Star)

No garden plant--no, not even milkweed--will attract more monarch butterflies to your garden than this liatris species. Plants tend to be tall and usually need staking, but the added energy spent is worth the reward! On warm, sunny days, beginning in August, up to a dozen or more monarchs are often seen sipping nectar from a single flower stalk. This Wisconsin native has pinkish lavender flowers and grows to 4-5 feet tall.

##### Liatris spicata

This is the most widely cultivated species. This native to moist meadows of the eastern U.S. is more compact and sturdy than many liatris choices, making it the best choice for most perennial gardens. The densely packed flower spikes rarely need staking, especially the variety 'Kobold', a very compact and sturdy cultivar with dark purple flowers. A white version is also available. Height tops out at about 3' for the species. 'Kobold' grows to just 2 feet.



### *Liatris pycnostachya* (Prairie Blazing Star)

Though extremely hardy in Wisconsin, prairie blazing star is actually native to areas further south in the U.S., but has naturalized throughout southern Wisconsin meadows and prairies. Stems are tall and sturdy and held above sturdy grass-like foliage. This blazing star has been used in American gardens since the early 1700's, brought back to the eastern United States by early settlers of the Great Plains. This was the most common species used as a food source by Native Americans. Plants grow to 4-5 feet.

### YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER. . .

I am besieged with the Iris borer. I have had problems for years. I have dug up all of my irises twice in the past (soaking in a bleach solution to disinfect) & the last time moved them around different areas of my garden. I have sprayed insecticides on the leaves. Used Grubex on the soil, & trimmed the leaves very short in the fall & then sprayed with insecticide again (this seemed to reduce the problem). I know the larvae are laid by moths. Any help would be appreciated as over the years, I've lost some nice flowers. Thanks. Linda

Hi Linda,

I have to start out by saying that you have done everything right and that your diligence is admirable. Sometimes we as gardeners eventually come to the conclusion that some plants are not meant to be in our gardens. For many years, I've tried to grow lupines (and a long list of other perennials) with no success, whereas friends, who are terrible gardeners, have more lupines than they could possibly use. If I try to grow a perennial three times with no success, I move on to something new.

Bearded iris are one of those perennials for me. Like you, I've had terrible luck with iris borer over the years. My plants were beautiful for a few years, the borer appeared and I worked hard to eliminate them. Eventually the borer always won--EXCEPT for one lone iris variety that blooms unbelievably and spreads beautifully in my garden. That single variety has never shown sign of iris borer! My thoughts are that many of newer, larger flowered hybrids are inherently weaker and more susceptible to the borer. Perhaps their rhizomes are more tender and tasty. The iris that has shown no sign of borer in my garden is a hand-me-down, unnamed variety from a friend that had been passed on from gardener to gardener for years. Seemingly, this iris is not prone to borer attack. Though not quite as showy as the iris I had wanted in my garden, it has become one of my favorite plants as the years have passed.

My advice? If you want to grow bearded iris, maybe talk to the perennial experts at The Flower Factory (I assume you're from the Madison, WI area) and see if they know of or carry any of those hand-me-down, farmstead varieties that the borers seem to ignore. If while you're driving around you see a garden with an amazing patch of bearded iris, stop and ask the owners for their secrets to success or whether they possess resilient varieties. Or lastly, do as I did--give up on the iris and use the space in the garden for equally cherished perennials.

Another source for information and advice is the Madison Area Iris Society. Their contact phone number is 608/271-3607.

Good luck and sorry I couldn't be of more help.  
The Mad Gardener

NOTE: Klein's bareroot iris rhizomes will be arriving for fall planting in mid-August. Late August and September are the best times to plant and divide both iris and peonies. The rest of the fall bulbs will be arriving just after Labor Day.

#### 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](mailto: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.

#### Northside Farmers Market

Sundays, May through October, 8:30-12:30

In the Northside TownCenter at the intersection of N. Sherman Ave. and Northport Dr. across from Warner Park.

The Northside Farmers Market is a nonprofit community enterprise. It is one of the newest and fastest growing farmers' markets in Dane County. In keeping with the innovative spirit of Madison's Northside, we are surpassing what defines the traditional farmers' market. Our fundamental principles include:

--Providing an abundant selection of high quality, locally grown foods.

The market accepts Quest, WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers.

--Supporting our local agricultural entrepreneurs who are increasingly important today in ensuring that we have the best and safest food possible.

--Educating the community about traditional foods and the history of local agriculture in an attempt to preserve (and expand upon) our rich heritage.

--Promoting nutrition and the market by hosting dinners for neighborhood groups and seniors.

Parking is always FREE!

For details visit [www.northsidefarmersmarket.org](http://www.northsidefarmersmarket.org)

#### Dane County Farmer's Market

Saturdays, April 17 thru November 6, 6:00-2:00

On the Capitol Square

Wednesdays, April 21 thru November 3, 8:30-2:00

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

For details visit [www.madfarmmkt.org](http://www.madfarmmkt.org)

#### Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies

July 14-August 8

Daily from 10:00-4:00

In the Bolz Conservatory

Experience the wonder of strolling through a tropical forest on a search for fleeting butterflies. Live butterflies emerge from chrysalises daily in the Bolz Conservatory. Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies is a great adventure for people of all ages. Children can visit stamping stations in the outdoor gardens with their Butterfly Passport while learning fun facts. Tour the outdoor gardens and visit the Growing Gifts shop. The cost

is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 12 and under, and free for children under 2. Olbrich Botanical Society members are admitted free. Parking is free. Bus tours are welcome. The Bolz Conservatory will be closed Monday, July 12 and Tuesday, July 13 in preparation for Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison  
608/246-4550 or [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

9th Annual Better Lawns & Gutters Tour  
Saturday, August 14, 9:00-1:00  
Information Center at Brant Park, McFarland  
Take the Siggelkow Rd. exit off Hwy. 51 and head west 2 blocks.  
For more info contact Marcia at 608/224-3746

See how native plants and rain gardens beautify yards, improve lakes and streams.

Rain gardens help reduce stormwater runoff and the amount of nutrients, chemicals and other pollutants that are carried from our lawns, gutters and streets to our lakes and streams. The Tour Information Center will also have ideas on beautifying your landscape, saving time and money on maintenance, attracting beneficial wildlife and helping our lakes, rivers and streams. Event partners include the City of McFarland, Madison Audubon Society, Wild Ones and Healthy Lawn Team. Gardeners will be available during the tour to answer questions at the tour sites.

Native plants can replace all or part of a traditional lawn. They are hardy, low-maintenance, a delight to the senses and attract butterflies and birds. They do not require frequent mowing and watering that traditional lawns do. In dry weather, native plants are one of the few green things in yards, because their roots go so deep. They are better suited to this climate and can withstand periods of drought.

The 9th Annual Better Lawns and Gutters Tour, is sponsored by the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission.

Visit [www.danewaters.com](http://www.danewaters.com). for more information.

Daylily Sale  
Saturday, August 14, 10:00-4:00  
Sunday, August 15, 11:00-3:00  
Sponsored by the Wisconsin Daylily Society  
For info call 608/231-3279 or visit [www.wisdaylilysoc.org](http://www.wisdaylilysoc.org)

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison  
608/246-4550 or [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

Dahlia Show  
Saturday, August 21, 12:00-4:00  
Sunday, August 22, 10:00-4:00

Dahlias are late summer bloomers known for their diverse forms and bright colors. Sponsored by the Badger State Dahlia Society. For more information call 608-577-1924.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

608/246-4550 or [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

Urban Horticultural Field Day  
Saturday, August 21, 10:00-3:00  
West Madison Agricultural Research Station  
8502 Mineral Point Road  
Verona, WI 53593  
608/262-2257

Want to make your green thumb even greener? Join us for the annual Urban Horticulture Field Day at the University of Wisconsin - Madison's West Madison Agricultural Research Station's - Trial and Demonstration Gardens, held, every year, on the third Saturday, in August.

It's a great place to get new ideas and answers to perplexing problems, sample fresh produce and tour one of the area's most extensive collections of flower and vegetable varieties, including many that haven't yet appeared in seed catalogs.

The field day is sponsored by UW - West Madison Agricultural Research Station staff, researchers at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Extension staff, and Master Gardener Volunteers. The West Madison Agricultural Research Station is located at 8502 Mineral Point Road, about a mile west of the beltline. Admission and parking are free.

Visit their web site @ [www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/](http://www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/) for details.

Pollination, the Story of a Partnership  
Sunday, August 22, 12:30-4:00 p.m.  
In the Native Plant Garden

Experience the exciting world of pollination through educational activities. Create different types of pollinating mouth parts and experiment with these to see what types of flowers match the type of mouth. There will be a self-guided "flower find" and information on the latest research concerning native pollinators. A naturalist-led hike takes place 1:30-2:30 p.m.

University of WI Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Hwy.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608/263-7888 or [uwarboretum.org/events](http://uwarboretum.org/events)

The Wisconsin Gardener  
"The End of the Season is Just the Beginning"  
Thursday, August 26, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, August 28, 10:30 a.m.  
on Wisconsin Public Television  
Check local listings for the station nearest you.

The days may be getting shorter but the growing season is far from over. Host Shelley Ryan travels to Rotary Gardens in Janesville to look at perennials and annuals that do not even reach their peak until fall. In Lone Rock master gardener volunteer Roger Reynolds builds the perfect compost pile and shares the secrets to his success. He also teaches the fine art of lasagna gardening. No, it does not involve pasta, but your garden will thank you for it! At Middlebury Hills CSA Farm near Barneveld the topic is planting fall vegetables using germination blankets.

For more information, visit [www.wpt.org/garden](http://www.wpt.org/garden)

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

- Give the garden at least 1" of moisture per week.
- Mow as little as possible and with mower raised to at least 2".
- Mulch beds to conserve moisture and keep down weeds.
- Deadheading spent blooms as needed.
- Collect seeds for next year's garden.
- Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- Take pictures of your garden for record keeping.
- Stake and support tall plants as needed.
- Divide daylilies as they finish blooming.
- Transplant and divide iris and peonies.
- Plant late crops of lettuce, spinach, radishes, etc.
- Order spring bulbs for fall planting: daffodils, tulips, hyacinth, etc.
- Plant fall blooming crocus bulbs.
- Fertilize potted plants at least every 2 weeks. Follow directions.
- Stop fertilizing all trees and shrubs.
- Keep an eye on the weather. Water as needed.
- Watch for pests and control as needed or desired.
- Shop for early mum selection and fall pansies.
- Begin checking out the garden centers for spring bulb selection.
- Stop watering held over amaryllis for 8 weeks for holiday blooms.
- Begin taking cuttings of geraniums, coleus and other plants to winter over.
- Visit Klein's---Watch for end of season savings on annuals and perennials.

Some of our very favorite seed and plant sources include:

For seeds:

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

For bulbs:

- Brent & Becky's Bulbs @ [www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com](http://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com) or 877/661-2852
- Colorblends @ [www.colorblends.com](http://www.colorblends.com) or 888/847-8637
- John Scheeper's @ [www.johnscheepers.com](http://www.johnscheepers.com) or 860/567-0838
- McClure & Zimmerman @ [www.mzbulb.com](http://www.mzbulb.com) or 800/883-6998

For plants:

- Heronwood Nursery @ [www.heronwood.com](http://www.heronwood.com) or 360/297-4172
- High Country Gardens @ [www.highcountrygardens.com](http://www.highcountrygardens.com) or 800/925-9387
- Logee's Greenhouses @ [www.logees.com](http://www.logees.com) or 888/330-8038
- Plant Delights Nursery @ [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com) or 912/772-4794
- Roots and Rhizomes @ [www.rootsrhizomes.com](http://www.rootsrhizomes.com) or 800/374-5035
- Wayside Gardens @ [www.waysidegardens.com](http://www.waysidegardens.com) or 800/213-0379
- White Flower Farm @ [www.whiteflowerfarm.com](http://www.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 @ [www.gardenlist.com](http://www.gardenlist.com). Most catalogs are free and make for great winter reading!

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

#### IN AUGUST:

---The poinsettias continue grow and thrive in our back greenhouses. They're so big already, we've had to give them adequate spacing.

--The first of the mums, winter hardy pansies and fall cole crops go out onto the sales floor.

---Summer maintenance projects are under way. This year's plans include replacing old benches in our main showroom, replacing and repairing some roofs and some general touchups.

---We continue to space and pamper the fall mums that are now just beginning to bloom.

---We're prepping our main showrooms for the semi-load of houseplants arriving from Florida about mid-month. We time this shipment with the arrival of the college students. Select from all shapes and sizes; from tropicals to succulents. The showrooms become a veritable jungle.

---We begin ordering plants for the 2011 season.

#### EMPLOYEE PROFILE--SHARON BEDNER

After graduating from college and working in a job she didn't enjoy, Sharon Bedner says she wanted to try a job that seemed fun for a while. And though Sharon no longer works at Klein's full time, that "for a while" has turned into nearly two decades of both full time and seasonal employment. Sharon started with Klein's in April of 1993 as our primary full-time floral designer, a position she held for 4 years until taking a position with Kraft Foods. Sharon continues to design as needed during busy periods and holidays, but it's the seasonal greenhouse work that Sharon enjoys most. Although Sharon currently works full-time as a Transportation Planning Analyst with Kraft, she rejoins the Klein's team each and every March, spending her weekends transplanting and then in May, both weekends and some evenings on the sales floor helping customers, answering questions, restocking and taking care of the plants. Sharon says "I'm so jealous of your job" is a common comment heard from both customers and her Kraft coworkers.

Sharon Bedner grew up in nearby Sun Prairie and says she comes from a long line of avid gardeners. Her parents and her parents' parents all maintained both flower and vegetable gardens. In fact, to this day, her dad and sisters are themselves frequent Klein's shoppers. Sharon remembers weeding as one of her garden chores while growing up. Though at the time she hated doing it, she says she really enjoys weeding now that she has her own garden.

Sharon owns a lovely and well-maintained home in the Vilas neighborhood. With bad soil and surrounded by mature trees (including black walnuts), she says that vegetable gardening is a challenge. Therefore, flower gardening has become Sharon's priority. Bright, eye-catching window boxes and containers punctuate the entry to her home and stunning perennial beds line the driveway. Sharon enjoys overwintering many of her

potted tropicals indoors, some of which, including plumbago and hibiscus, are now many years old. In addition, Sharon has a fine collection of cherished and sometimes unique African violets. Though difficult to grow well for most of us, Sharon finds them rather easy to both maintain and propagate.

Sharon says it's fun to come back to Klein's each spring to spend time with coworkers and customers alike. In fact, she says that several of the "kids" from her old neighborhood in Sun Prairie are themselves regular Klein's shoppers and have carried on their parents' gardening traditions. She says, "It's a lot of fun seeing them each spring!"

#### 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/RigidPlasticRecyclingDropOff.cfm)

##### 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.

#### 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://uwlab.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