

'THE SAGE'--OCTOBER 2010

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights: THE SPRING BULBS HAVE ARRIVED!!

Buy Local!! About Klein's HOMEGROWN Fall Mums

2011 Wisconsin Garden Journal Now in Stock

A Guide to Successful Seed Saving

Everything You Need to Know About Boss's Day

Fall Clean Up Makes For a Healthier Garden

Our "Mad Gardener" Is Ready for Your Questions!

Favorite Seed , Bulb & Plant Sources

Our Favorite Rosemary Recipes (Website Only)

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THE SPRING BULBS HAVE ARRIVED!

We have all of your favorites--tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, alliums--and a few not-so-well known treasures for your garden. Mid- to late October is the perfect time to plant your spring bulbs and nothing could be more uplifting after a long winter than crocus, snowdrops and winter aconite blossoms peeking through the snow come spring. Allow the Klein's staff to share planting tips and ideas to keep those pesky squirrels from digging up those newly planted bulbs. And for indoor blooms, don't forget a few hyacinths, paperwhites and amaryllis (arriving mid-month) for indoor forcing. We carry a lovely assortment of forcing glasses, vases and decorative pottery. Forced bulbs make for a n inexpensive and treasured holiday gift. Any bulb questions? Don't forget our Mad Gardener . . .!

DURING OCTOBER, ENJOY THESE END OF SEASON SAVINGS:

50% OFF all remaining Perennials, Shrubs, Hardy Vines & Potted Fruits. Buy 3 perennials at 50% off and get the 4th (of least value) for free!

CLEARANCE on overstocked Garden Art, Pots, Floral Supplies and much, much more. Hurry on in! Supplies are limited and we need to make room for poinsettias that are ready to come out of the back greenhouses.

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.

OCTOBER STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Throughout October watch for great season’s end savings on all remaining perennials. Check out our selection of spring bulbs. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, alliums and much more have arrived for fall planting.

October 4--Full Moon

October 10--National Bosses’ Week begins.

October 11--Columbus Day (observed)

October 16--National Bosses’ Day

October 16--Sweetest Day

October 24--Mother-in-Law's Day

October 31--Halloween. Choose from one of our many FTD and Teleflora bouquets and centerpieces for your Halloween parties or get-togethers. For more ideas and easy on-line ordering, check out our Teleflora or FTD web sites by clicking on www.flowerskleinsflrl.com or www.florists.ftd.com/kleinsfloral or talk to one of our designers at 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

October 16 is National Boss's Day and though it may seem to be just another "Hallmark Holiday", it has a bit more. Though National Boss's Day is Saturday, Oct. 16, the entire week before is Boss's Week and it's appropriate to show your appreciation anytime during the week. Here's a bit about National Boss's Day from www.thebosssday.com.

Boss's Day History

Bosses are the people responsible for giving us fortitude and making our life easier, despite the huge load of work. It happens that although we cherish a cordial approbation for them, but lack the opportunity to display it. This is what led to the naming of a National Boss's Day, which provides employees a chance of exhibiting their appreciation towards their bosses. The day marked for the celebration is 16th of October every year. Now-a-days, Boss's Day serves as an opportunity of improving the employee-senior relationship and appreciating the boss for handling the pressure he has to face day in and day out, to run an organization effectively.

History & Origin of National Boss Day

The entire credit of creating awareness among all the employees for a day dedicated to their boss goes to Patricia Bays Haroski. It was her efforts for having a day dedicated to bosses that led to the creation of National Boss's Day, on October 16. She was an employee at State Farm Insurance Company in Deerfield, Ill and worked under her father. In 1958, she registered the holiday with the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, in respect of her boss-father.

Patricia Bays Haroski, instead of working under her own father, was considerate enough to scrutinize the adversity and hurdles that her boss-father had to go through to run the company. She thought 16th October, the birthday of Patricia Bays Haroski's father, as the perfect day for the employees to officially acknowledge and honor their Bosses and superiors countrywide. Ms. Haroski's purpose was to authorize a day to authenticate thankfulness for her boss as well as other bosses. She thought of it as a day dedicated to the bosses, who make the workplace much more congenial for the workers.

It was four years later that the initiative taken by Patricia Bays Haroski's was honored by the Governor of Illinois, Otto Kerner. He welcomed the proposal of observing Boss's Day and officially declared 16th October as National Boss's Day, in 1962. Following that

day, the idea became popular across the countries very soon and many countries started to celebrate this day with full gusto. Employees across the world gladly accepted the concept of dedicating a day to their bosses and conveying their respect through its celebration.

Boss's Day Flowers

Flowers are the best communicators and can express your feelings better than words. They have distinct powers to exhilarate emotions by bringing your true feelings to the forefront. In effect, flowers are omnipresent on all occasions and celebrations and form an integral part of happiness. The vibrant colors, the freshness of their look and the aromatic effect, which they create, articulate your feelings just in the manner you feel for the person, whom you are presenting them with. Thus, they have dominated at all junctures of joyful bliss.

When you are in any confusion, flowers are the lender of the last resort. They are just the perfect gift you can choose, when in confusion. Just as birthdays, anniversaries and holistic occasions cannot go without the existence of flowers, it is very hard to let go an occasion such as Boss's Day as well. It may be very difficult to choose a gift for your boss as you may be completely clueless about his liking, but flowers are a hit always. Flowers are the best gift you can opt for, to give your boss.

You have a wide range of flowers, which you can choose from to give your boss. There is an endless list of flowers such as roses, carnations, tulips, orchids, gerberas, lilies, iris, etc. that can be presented on such an occasion. Even the floral arrangement can be of various styles right from a bunch to bouquets of various impressive styles. You can even choose between a singular flower arrangement and a mixed flower arrangement. Even if you do not know what each flower stands for, the colorful sight of the flowers would convey the respect and the admiration you feel for your boss.

If you are arranging a party for him at your office or even at an outside place, flowers are the best items to decorate the party place with. The invigorating beauty of the flowers is sure to make your boss have an enthralling experience. Take keen notice that you also chip in to write a message for your boss on each of the bouquet presented to him. While the flowers will wilt away with time, this small act of love and gratitude will be imprinted on the heart of your boss for years to come. So, just go ahead and treat your boss with exotic flowers to make the day a little more special.

Gifts for Female Boss

The idea of receiving a gift is, in itself, exciting for the female folk. In the arena of gifts, a wide range of items are available for the females and it is comparatively easier to impress them with a gift, as compared to the male boss. This is because the market is flooded with gift items for a female. However, you need to gift something that suits the employee and the boss relationship between you. Always remember the fact that you are selecting something for your boss. The gift that you opt for must be sober and meaningful. When you give it to your female boss, it must clearly declare your

appreciation and thankfulness for her. Find here some of the interesting ideas for your female boss, to give as Boss's Day gifts and even otherwise.

Gift Ideas for Female Boss

- The top most priority that a woman gives is to jewelry. They usually get excited at the idea of receiving jewelry as gift. You can gift your boss with a piece of jewelry that is not gaudy or too expensive. In such a case, pearls are the best option. They are the perfect gift for the ladies in the professional field
- A bouquet of the favorite flowers of your boss is an excellent gift idea. Nothing can be compared to the charisma of a bouquet of fresh flower.
- You can even gift your boss with tall elegant floor vases, for her office. They also work as great gift ideas.
- Coffee mugs are one of the best gift items for any occasion. You can find them in a wide range, color and shapes. Gift your female boss with a coffee mug that has some beautiful quotes and pictures on it.
- One may notice that a female boss always has to carry a hand bag with her, for office purpose. You may even gift her with a trendy and stylish hand bag that she will be useful to her.
- In today's world, it is not only men who love gadgets. Women are increasingly becoming fond of them. If you are ready to burn your pockets, then go for gifts like i-Pods, mobiles and music systems. It is guaranteed that your boss will be taken by surprise.

Gifts for Male Boss

Buying gifts for your boss is bound to be an excruciating task, especially if you have a great boss and want to actually astound him with the perfect gift. Most bosses don't feel delighted in unwrapping a beautiful package that holds clothing or accessories inside. One has to be thoughtful while giving a gift to his boss, especially when he is a male. It is generally believed that you can impress a man with a gift of his efficacy, which reveals how much you know him. So, if you want to impress your male boss with a gift this boss day, try to find out exactly what he loves and enjoys. Head out with this list in mind and find the perfect gift for him. Here comes a list of gift items that you can give your male boss, on this Boss's Day as well as otherwise.

Gift Ideas for Male Boss

- Men are mostly fond of sports and this is an undeniable fact. If your boss is also fond of a particular team or sport, get him a nice collared shirt, frame, flag or jersey from that team. It's a great gift idea and he'll be delighted at your thoughtfulness.
- Now a day, there is hardly a party that goes without alcohol and if your boss likes to drink and party, then you can gift with a wine opener. Another option is a bottle of champagne, in a cool bottle holder.
- Boss's Day is the time when you shell out your saved bucks for your good. If are not much bothered about the expenses, then you can go for options like an Electronic Golf Score system. It will be a perfect gift for the Golf privy boss.

- Branded items have their own charm and you can make your boss feel special with a branded weekend T-Shirt. These T-shirts, no doubt, will be expensive, but at same time, they will also be comfortable, relaxing and the ideal gift for a holiday.
- A cheap, but elegant gift item for your boss is a coffee mug. They are very much in fashion these days. Pick out the right one, with funny, interesting pictures and quotes on it. This way, you can have your boss bragging about it to everyone who sees him holding it.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that it's not only prettier, but healthier for your garden to clean perennial beds in the fall rather than in the spring?

People generally clean up their perennial beds in the fall for two reasons. First off, gardeners usually have more time in the fall than in the spring. The first hard freezes usually occur during early October, giving us two full months to put the garden to bed before the ground freezes and the arrival of the first snowstorms. Springs, on the other hand, tend to be very short in Wisconsin. Weather warms quickly between mid-April and mid-May. In addition to the lack of time, the weather can be very rainy and the garden very muddy, making any cleanup rather unpleasant. On top of that, there are spring bulbs and the early bloomers popping up everywhere, making it even more difficult to walk through the perennial beds.

The second reason for cleaning up in the fall is to cut down on disease problems from the previous season. Fungal problems tend to be the most obvious and are easily carried over in the garden from year to year. Therefore, it's best to remove all foliage and stalks from garden phlox, bee balm, asters, hollyhocks, peonies, vervain and many others.

On the flip side, however, many perennials add interest to the winter landscape. These include grasses, coneflowers and sedums. Still others will bring more wildlife into the garden. Goldfinches and juncos are drawn to the seeds of many native prairie plants like rudbeckia, liatris and goldenrod. And still more birds and mammals are drawn to the garden for protection from predators--namely hawks. Birds like sparrows and mourning doves seek shelter amongst the standing foliage and twigs. Therefore, complete clean up depends on one's goals and whether one will have time in the spring when there's so much planting to do.

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

ENTRY: SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 (The Wettest Summer on Record!)

It's official; according to the weather service the summer of 2010 has been the wettest on record for the state of Wisconsin. Though Madison didn't have the huge deluges

that have occurred in many of the past summers, the rather consistent 1-2" rainfalls per week have certainly added up.

In my own garden, this past summer was nearly perfect. Not once during this entire summer have I had to set a sprinkler in the gardens. This has never happened in my nearly 25 years of gardening. Even in years that we've experienced flooding rains, there were weeks of relatively dry weather sometime during the summer. But not in 2010! The 1+" rainfalls came with a regularity I've never seen. The rains came mostly during the night, giving us mostly sunny and warm days. No cool, rainy days were to be had this summer--unlike last summer, when July 2009 was the coolest on record! In addition, we had the warmest nighttime averages in 2010 that Madison has ever experienced. Plants do nearly all of their growing during the nighttime. Hence, corn reached unimaginable heights this past summer. I grew up on a farm and I've never seen corn so tall as it is now.

My own garden is now a veritable jungle. My upright alocasias are up to 12' tall. Never have my colocasias had leaves so large. My fingertips barely reach their edges with outstretched arms. Morning glories have pretty much enveloped the lilac bush. In the cut flower bed the cosmos is nearly twice as tall as I am and the zinnias are up to my chin. Never have I had so many tomatoes, peppers and eggplants from my potted plants. I'm barely able to keep up with the production this season. Last year I had no eggplants or tomatoes and just a few peppers. The difference a year makes!

Further evidence of our record rainfall comes with the fact that the mosquito populations reached new levels--even surpassing the record year of 2008. So though my garden is more lush and beautiful than ever, much of my time was spent enjoying it from the comfort of the screenhouse.

ENTRY: SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 (Bed of Nails? Bring It On!)

I've often said in the past that I go through phases where I discover a new group of plants, become obsessed with learning as much as I can about the plants and then start collecting them to the point where I ultimately become bored with them. Past obsessions have included coleus, elephant's ears, cannas, hostas, streptocarpus, succulents and daylilies. Well, my current obsession is learning about and collecting little known treasures from the family Solanaceae, members of the nightshade family. Common members of this family include deadly nightshade, tomatoes, eggplants, potatoes, datura, brugmansia, peppers, petunias, Jerusalem cherries and tobacco. Not so common, but equally beautiful members include **Blue Potato Bush**, **Giant Potato Tree**, **Night Blooming Jasmine** (Cestrum), **Potato Vine** (a little known golden variegated vine we sell each spring at Klein's) and the intriguingly named **Bed of Nails**.

Years ago, while visiting Australia, I came across my first **Blue Potato Bush** (*Lycianthes rantonnetii*) in full bloom. It left quite an impression because I was determined to find one. Only later did I learn that Blue Potato Bush is fairly common in gardens in the

southern U.S. In fact, so common, that it has become difficult to find in trade. Years later, I discovered that Monrovia offered the plant and I was able to purchase a plant locally. I not only still have the original plant, but many of its offspring. It's fairly easy to take cuttings from nearly all members of the nightshade family. Plants grow up to 8' tall each summer and bloom nonstop. The 1" blooms are the deepest blue with their characteristic yellow eye. Each fall I cut the plants back quite hard to about 8". I overwinter them indoors in a cool, bright location. When plants become too large to handle, I simply take more cuttings and throw out the parent plant.

This past spring I made two new *Solanum* discoveries in the Logee's Tropical Plants catalog (www.logees.com). I had to have them!!! One is a variegated version of the above (*L. rantonnetii* 'Royal Robe'). The flowers are that same stunning royal blue, but the foliage is variegated in creamy gold. The other discovery is the **Giant Potato Tree** (*Solanum wrightii*). Though it lists the height as 2-4' in the Logee's catalog, mine has grown to at least 16' tall and is still growing!! (and that's after cutting it back at least once in early summer). The shiny leaves are very spiny on the undersides and grip clothing and skin quite readily. The pale blue flowers are magnificent, appearing in clusters all over the plant. They open nearly purple and fade as they age. The blooms look exactly like eggplant flowers but are up to 3" across! I'm pretty impressed.

Next year it's gonna be **Bed of Nails**, also known as **Quito Orange** (*Solanum quitoense*). Though it too has very spiny leaves (on both sides!), the plants are extremely attractive. I saw some while touring gardens for work this past summer. The soft green leaves have a burgundy cast and are highlighted with purple veins and midribs. Stems are also a lovely burgundy/purple. In its native South America, the orange fruit from this plant is called *naranjilla* and is said to have a taste somewhere between "rhubarb and lime", I guess I'll find out next summer!

ENTRY: SEPTEMBER 23, 2010 (Cleaning Gutters)

Given all of the rain we've received recently I can't overstate how important it is for every home owner to check their gutters regularly for debris. Though tedious, this simple task saves both time and money down the road. More often than not, flooded basements are caused by clogged gutters. Rather than flowing away from the foundation, overflowing gutters can cause water to collect at the foundation, ultimately seeping in through basement walls or flowing in through cracks and window wells. With heavy rain nearly every week this past summer, the chore of keeping the gutters cleaned seemed endless. In fact, my ladder has spent very little time in the garage this summer.

It's especially important to keep my gutters clean because of my rain barrel. I've found that if debris flows into the rain barrel, it can block not only the barrel's spigot, but also the barrel's overflow. Just this week, the overflow became clogged with honey locust leaves during a downpour. The barrel then overflowed and water pooled along the foundation; flowing into a window well and creating a stream through the basement. I knew it was going to pour, but I became complacent. My gutter problems are

compounded by the fact that the neighbor has not just that huge (but beautiful) honey locust, but also a giant silver maple--notorious for blocking gutters with its thousands of seeds in the spring and small leaves in the fall.

People have asked why we don't put on some of the many 'gutter guards' available on the market. In doing research, I've found that none offer a permanent solution to regular gutter cleaning. Though leaves and large debris are prevented from going into the gutters, over the years a build up of mudlike gunk can accumulate. Because people have the guards, they no longer check for potential gutter problems. Therefore, old-fashioned cleanings are the surest answer.

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

When cooking with rosemary, a little goes a long way. Just a few teaspoons of this pungent and very aromatic herb usually suffices in any recipe calling for rosemary. Only the leaves and soft growing tips are used when cooking. Flowers are usually a soft blue or even white and are also edible. One healthy, good sized plant can supply a family with more than enough rosemary for average use. Plants are available nearly year round at Klein's. Our selection for winter windowsill culture becomes available in mid-October. During the holidays, look for rosemary plants pruned into small Christmas trees or topiaries. In the spring we sell small plants in our herb area. But shop early! We almost always run out of this ever-popular herb by June 1.

This woody shrub of the Mediterranean region can be very long lived and is very easy to grow under the proper conditions. Though an annual in Wisconsin, rosemary can be overwintered indoors in a bright south or west window. Outdoors in summer, rosemary thrives in the hottest and sunniest location you can find. Keep in mind that, though it appears rosemary would be very drought tolerant, it hates to become bone dry. In fact, keeping rosemary too dry too often is usually the reason for a plant's demise. Though it can never remain soggy, rosemary likes to be constantly moist--even in winter. Another problem to watch out for is powdery mildew. There are many natural and safe fungicides available to remedy this problem. A combination of milk and water is an effective homemade remedy to control powdery mildew on rosemary.

Rosemary is an ancient herb and is most commonly used in Italian based dishes and with chicken, pork or lamb. When cooking, it's important to use fresh, rather than dried. Unlike many herbs that dry well, rosemary becomes rather flavorless once dried. Enjoy some of our very favorite rosemary recipes:

ROASTED POTATOES WITH HERBS-- For one of Klein's staff members, this is far and away his favorite potato recipe when serving friends and family. Extremely simple with "a great rosemary taste." "The house smells amazing while the potatoes are roasting." Rave reviews all around!

1-2 TBS. butter
2 lbs. red potatoes cut into 3/4" cubes or tiny new potatoes
3 TBS. extra virgin olive oil
1 TBS. snipped fresh rosemary
1 tsp. dried thyme, crushed, or 1TBS. fresh snipped
2+ cloves minced garlic
coarse salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 375°. Toss together all ingredients, except the butter, in a large bowl. Place butter in a 10x15" baking dish or heavy, rimmed sheet. Allow the butter to melt in the hot oven for a few minutes. Once butter has melted, carefully swirl the melted butter to spread out in the bottom of the baking dish. Spread the potatoes into the baking dish and bake 20 minutes. Stir and roast another 20 minutes until the potatoes are tender and turning crunchy at the edges. Serves 8.

PASTA SAUCE WITH ROSEMARY & BACON-- Another favorite from Cook's Illustrated from September 2006. Few foods are easier or heartier than a good thick tomato sauce!

1 lb. pasta of choice
6 slices of bacon, cut into 1/2" pieces
2 Tbs. extra virgin olive oil
2 cloves pressed garlic
1/2 tsp. fresh snipped rosemary
1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
3 lbs. chopped tomatoes (about 4 cups)
1 TBS. snipped parsley
1/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
Sugar to taste
Parmesan

Cook the bacon in a large skillet until crisp. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Discard the fat. Return the skillet to medium-high heat and add the oil, garlic, rosemary and red pepper flakes. Cook, stirring, about 30 seconds. Stir in the tomatoes, bring to a simmer and cook 10 minutes. Stir in the salt, pepper and the sugar. Toss with cooked pasta. Sprinkle with the reserved bacon and parmesan. Serves 8.

TOMATO TAPENADE--An easy and delicious appetizer from Cooking Light (September 2007).

1/2 cup pitted kalamata olives
2 tsp. fresh snipped rosemary
3/4 tsp. dried oregano
4 cloves minced garlic
2 1/2 lbs. plum tomatoes, halved and seeded
2 TBS. extra virgin olive oil

1/4 tsp. pepper
24 slices French bread
2 TBS. slivered basil

Preheat the oven to 300°. Combine the olives, rosemary, oregano, garlic and the tomatoes on a rimmed sheet that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Toss to coat. Arrange tomatoes in a single layer, cut sides up. Bake, 2 hours 15 minutes. Allow to cool and coarsely chop. Stir in the pepper. Serve on the bread topped with the slivered basil. Serves 8.

ROSEMARY BUTTER BASTE--This staple for grilling chicken came to us with our Weber grill. It's been a family favorite ever since.

1/2 cup melted butter
juice of one lemon
1 TBS. finely minced fresh rosemary

Baste chicken while grilling.

ROSEMARY PUNCH--This yet-to-be-tested recipe comes to us from The Capital Times (July 2002). The quote from the article says, "wonderful and unusually refreshing."

2 TBS. crushed fresh rosemary
3 TBS. sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
2/3 cups water
2 cups apricot nectar
1 qt. ginger ale
1 cup fresh lime juice

Simmer the rosemary, sugar, salt and water for 3 minutes. Allow to cool, then strain. Combine the nectar, ginger ale and lime juice. Add the cooled rosemary water and serve over ice.

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: QMT Windchimes™

Few items add more romance to the garden than the relaxing sound of windchimes. For the first time this holiday season, Klein's will be offering the Corinthian Bells® series

from QMT Windchimes™, a leading manufacturer of upscale windchimes. The following excerpt comes to us from the QMT Windchimes™ website @ www.qmtwindchimes.com.

“Corinthian Bells® windchimes are the first in a new generation of windchimes to combine excellence in design with incredible tones and resonance. These are visually and acoustically exceptional chimes; we believe that they are the best chimes on the market today. The centrally suspended heavy-walled aluminum tubes along with the very high density striker give these chimes their outstanding tones and resonance. The tubes are powder coated to match the dome and wind sail, giving a complete finished look to the chime. Corinthian Bells® are available in ten sizes, with each size available in four to six colors.”

About QMT Windchimes:

“QMT Windchimes™ is the premier domestic manufacturer of fine, hand-tuned windchimes. Our products are proudly manufactured and shipped from our factory and shipping warehouse facilities located in Manassas Park, Virginia. We understand our success is dependent upon the success of our retail partners.”

History

“QMT Windchimes™ originated in the Florida craft show circuit in the early 80’s. Mike Throne camped in the back of his van and traveled to craft shows selling different products, including windchimes from a local producer. When his source for chimes dried up, Mike began to fabricate his own windchimes, with an eye toward continually improving his designs. Working during the week in a 10’ x 20’ warehouse, he produced the chimes that would be sold on the weekend. Mike was determined to offer the buying public a chime that was as beautiful to see as it was to hear. And it worked; the demand for his windchimes soon overwhelmed his ability to manufacture chimes so he took a deep breath and became a young entrepreneur following the American dream. He hired his first employees, found our facility in Manassas Park and set down roots in the community to produce windchimes for wholesale trade shows.”

“Arias® was the first line of windchimes he created, soon followed by Weatherland®. QMT Windchimes™ continued to grow in numbers of chimes produced and in the number of lines offered. The introduction of Corinthian Bells®, the first in the next generation of windchimes, created an astonishing excitement among retailers in the gift and garden industry. Corinthian Bells® are the ultimate windchimes on the market today; the exceptional tones and resonances and the contemporary design stay true to Mike’s original desire to offer chimes that were pleasing to all the senses. QMT Windchimes™ also offers other lines of windchimes, birdhouses and birdfeeders.”

“In the spring of 2005, Mike chose his successor, Jamie Baisden, who shared Mike’s vision for QMT. Since Jamie’s purchase of QMT in 2006, QMT has continued to move forward as a domestic producer committed to its employees, customers and community. Over the past three years QMT Windchimes™ has introduced the Shenandoah Melodies® line, the new Arias® Elite line and three new sizes in the Corinthian Bells®

line. All have been well received by our customers and continue to gain in popularity. Our customer service team continues evolving to anticipate our customers' needs. We are continuing to move forward with new sounds and designs, while maintaining the standards of excellence and innovation on which the company was built."

Please sample the sounds of their windchimes by visiting the QMT website @ www.qmtwindchimes.com.

NATURAL NEWS--

Joyce Moore's Guide to Successful Seed Saving Seed Saving to Preserve Today's Bounty For Tomorrow's Gardens

Seed saving has long been the primary way to pass plants down from generation to generation. Seed Saving is not only fun, it's also an important way to perpetuate heirloom plants and to ensure the genetic diversity of the world's food crops, which are eroding at an unprecedented and accelerating rate. Seed saving has been used successfully for many crops over the years-- the varieties we call "heirloom" are here today because of dedicated gardeners like you and me have faithfully saved seed over the generations.

Seeds are generally saved from annual and biennial plants. Seeds you save from your home production system are accustomed to your climate and growing medium and are adapted to pests in your area. Seeds from hybrid varieties produce a mix of offspring, many of which may have different characteristics than the parent. Seed saving is easy; people have done it for thousands of years, in the process breeding all of the wonderful vegetables that we eat today.

Saving seed requires you to grow plants to maturity and consequently they get bigger and stay around longer than normal, so leave a bit more space around them. Saving and growing seed, year on year, is taking part in evolution. Saving garden seeds at the end of each growing season can be a great cost saving measure and a way to duplicate last year's delectable harvest.

Plants are pollinated in three differing ways, by wind, insects or by what is known as self-pollination. Plants from the same species can cross with each other producing mixes of the parent plant. Plants with pods, like beans, are ready when the pods are brown and dry. Plants pollinated by wind (such as corn and spinach) and those pollinated by insects (such as squash and cucumbers) may produce a next generation that resembles a parent, or they may cross with other varieties to turn up something entirely unique. In recent decades, there has been a major shift to purchasing seed annually from commercial seed suppliers, and to hybridized or cloned plants that do not produce seed that remains "true to type"-retaining the parent's characteristics- from

seed. To be successful at seed saving, new skills need to be developed that enhance the capacity of growers to ensure that desired characteristics are retained in their plant: learning the minimum number of plants to be grown which will preserve inherent genetic diversity, recognizing the preferred characteristics of the cultivar being grown so that plants that are not breeding true are not selected for seed production. Recommended minimums number of plants for seed preservation: 25 cucumbers, squash, melons; 50-100 radishes, brassicas, mustards; 200 sweet corn. Seed saved from these plants will breed true, provided the plants have been properly isolated from different varieties of the same species.

Open-pollinated varieties will grow true to type when randomly mated within their own variety. If two varieties of spinach bloom near each other, the resultant seed is likely to be a cross between the two. Different varieties of peppers should be separated by 500 feet to avoid cross-pollination. The closer the varieties are located, the higher the amount of crossed seeds. Theoretically you should aim for at least half a mile between varieties.

Heirloom vegetables are varieties that are grown, selected, saved, named, and shared by farmers and gardeners. Heirloom plants are accessible now because people have saved seeds for domestic use throughout generations of sustenance farming. You can really cut down on your gardening costs by gardening with heirloom seeds that you save year to year. You can also save heirloom flower seeds such as: cleome, foxgloves, hollyhock, nasturtium, sweet pea, and zinnia. You are in control of heirloom varieties that do best in your garden. Saving your own seeds increases your self-sufficiency; and it can save you money. It is generally accepted that, to be an heirloom, a variety must be open pollinated and be at least fifty years old. And since heirloom seeds and the practice of seed saving also hold hope for helping feed a hungry planet, they're even more compelling today. You can save favorite heirloom seeds for your own use in your garden, breed and improve varieties, swap with friends, join seed-saving organizations, or grow seed commercially at many levels of scale--the possibilities are numerous.

Before you store your seeds, make sure that you have thoroughly dried them. Home-saved seeds will retain their vigor if thoroughly dried and saved in air proof containers in the freezer for extended storage or in a cool dry cellar for next season. While some vegetable seed can remain viable in storage for as long as 15 years or more, and grains may remain viable much longer under stable environmental conditions, every year in storage will decrease the amount of seed that will germinate. When you have processed the seeds and are ready to package for the winter, it pays to buy desiccant packs for your storage containers to keep your seeds dry. Seeds should contain 3-5 percent moisture while in storage. General rule is if you can bend your seed then it still has too much moisture in it and will rupture and die if frozen. However, if you attempt to bend it and it breaks instead, then it's probably at 8% or less and can be safely frozen. Another point is that when you remove the seeds from the freezer, allow them to come up to room temperature before handling for planting or sowing. Saving seeds in storage will safeguard your family's food crop in the event of worldwide catastrophes, war, pandemic outbreaks and other unforeseen disasters.

Seed saving can quickly become a hobby and you'll be in good company. Seed saving teaches us about the wonder of nature and by saving seeds, we complete the circle of growing. What a marvelous way to end the garden season and look forward to next year's crops. What's more, seed saving is a marvelous way to introduce children to gardening.

Learning to build biodiversity in our garden through seed saving is one of the most important human activities we can participate in.

Common methods of preparing your seeds:

1) Allowing the seeds to dry naturally on the plant. Corn and garlucs would be a good representative of these method. Pull the corn husks when the corn as fully ripened and allow to continued drying on racks (if protected from birds and squirrels) or in paper grocery sacks indoors until they are thoroughly dried. Then you can twist them in your hands to get the kernels to fall off. Package, label with name of variety and date or year of harvest and store. For garlucs, the same drying method applies. Garlucs can also be braided and hung from nails, or stored in open weaved bags while they are drying. This is also referred to as "curing" when in reference to garlucs. Lettuce and cole crops such as broccoli seeds can be collected directly from the plant. When you notice the seeds look dry and about ready to fall off, then you can directly pull the seeds off by hand into a waiting paper bag. How easy can that be!

2) Removing the seeds and allowing to air dry. This would be the most common methods of vegetable seed storage. For example, cucumbers and other squash type plants. Allow the fruits to fully ripen even to the point of the fruit starting to turn yellow so that the seeds inside fully develop. Then cut open the vegetable and scoop out the seeds. I would recommend a gentle washing in a mild bleach solution (one part bleach to ten parts water) and then lay out in a single layer on newspaper or paper towels until the seeds have thoroughly dried. Then store in containers of choice with appropriate labeling.

3) For bean and pea plants, again, allow the pods to ripen fully on the plant, then remove the pods, open and out pop the seeds! You will probably want to let the seeds dry out some more if they appear to need it.

4) Fermenting:

This method is needed for tomatoes as the viscous gel substance or pulp, inhibits germination so must be removed. The easiest way to do this is to slice open your tomato, squeeze the contents into a glass jar, add water up to about 3/4 of the jar, stir and set aside for a few days. You will notice a icky smelly moldy residue collecting on the top of the water as well as some seeds (these are dead seeds). The water will clear and the good seeds will sink to the bottom of the jar. After about 4-5 days this process will seem to have come to an end, so carefully scoop out the stuff from the top and throw away, pour off the water down the sink, and then lastly, pour out the seeds from

the bottom of the jar onto newspaper or paper towel for the final drying. When the seeds have dried, they can be removed from the paper and stored.

Thanks for reading my tutorial on seed saving. This tutorial is from my own personal experience so soils, growing conditions and weather may be different for your location and you may need to amend these guidelines to fit your situation. A great source for information on seed saving is your local county extension office. Ask to speak to a Master Gardener or stop by and pick up a helpful brochure on seed saving. Most of all, have fun in your garden!

Happy Gardening!
Joyce Moore
Master Gardener-Oregon

From www.virtualseeds.com/seedsaving.html

OCTOBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

FLORIST MUMS

One of the more commonly asked questions at Klein's is whether or not the large flowered florist mums seen in our blooming plant area near the front registers can be put into the garden once they've finished blooming. The answer is technically, yes, but with little chance of any long term success.

Strictly speaking, both garden mums and florist mums are of the exact same parentage--a yellow, daisy mum from China. Only through extensive breeding have we achieved the many varieties and flower forms and colors that we see today. While garden mums were bred for hardiness and compactness, florist mums were bred for sheer flower impact in bloom size, form and color. Extensive root development became a lost trait. Therefore, though plants may survive a winter outdoors, their lack of vigorous rooting makes this very unlikely. Even if the plants do survive the winter here in Zone 5, most varieties would bloom too late the following season to put on any sort of show. On the other hand, florist mums can be planted in the garden as an annual in early autumn; much like pansies or flowering kale. Like garden mums, the cool temperatures lengthen their bloom time. If purchased when the buds are rather tight, a florist mum can bloom a month or more in the garden. Because the flowers are bigger, they can be much showier in mixed fall containers. Florist mums are usually available in both 4" and 6" pots.

Like their hardy cousins, florist mums like to be kept moist. If allowed to wilt they perk up quickly with a thorough watering. As mentioned above, the cooler the temperatures, the longer your mum will bloom.

And from last month:

About Klein's Homegrown 'Hardy' Mums

The appearance of the garden mums signals fall is surely here. We receive our fall mums already in May, arriving as rooted 2" plugs. Upon arrival, we pop them into small pots to buy some time. Because that is also the busiest time of the year for us, we don't have room yet out back for the thousands of larger pots. During late May and most of June, they're allowed to root out. We give them one soft tip pinch during June for well-branched bush plants down the road.

Around July 4 the mums are then stepped up into their larger pots. At Klein's we sell them in 6x6" and larger fiber pots, hanging baskets and in larger decorative containers. Later we'll also plant up some gorgeous fall mixes using grasses, kales, pansies and other cool weather annuals. For the rest of the summer the mums enjoy plenty of sun and pampering sitting out in the open on the ground in the back part of our property. Our mums get plenty of moisture and fertilizer during this growing period. They require no more pinching and will begin blooming in succession by variety usually beginning about August 15 (due to the very warm summer this year blooming has been delayed by a few weeks). This is when the first ones become available to the consumer. Color choices run the full spectrum of fall colors: yellow, gold, orange, bronze, red, purple, pink, etc.

If planning a special event this fall, give us a call. Because we grow our thousands of mums on site, we always have more out back and at varying stages of bloom. We generally have mums well into November.

Please note that mums planted into the garden in the fall will usually not winter over. As the ground cools there's generally not enough time for the plants to root out before the ground freezes. For mums to perennialize, it's best to plant them in the spring when they are available in small pots in our perennial area.

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER. . .

I have a couple of questions. First, most of my houseplants have been outside on my balcony all summer. Can you recommend a gentle insecticide to use before I bring these plants back indoors? And what's the best way to return these plants to the house? For example, last summer my big fern was all lush and full, but as soon as I brought it inside, it started dramatically losing its greenery. How can I avoid that with my houseplants, in general?

Second, I have geraniums and a begonia that I'd like to keep over the winter. What's the best way to do that - just cut back the plant and bring it inside? Thanks for any helpful information you can give me! Donna

Hi Donna,

I, too, have a ton of houseplants and tropicals that I summer outdoors and then bring

back inside as the weather cools. Your question is quite timely in that just yesterday I began the process for that journey.

Most people forget to prepare their plants for that move. Pest control should be first and foremost on that list. Once established indoors, insect pests can be difficult to control without resorting to extreme measures.

Each year, right around Labor Day I use a granular systemic that I stir into the surface of the soil. The one we carry at our shop is from Bonide. The amount used is based on pot size. Remember to follow all instructions carefully.

Why Labor Day? Because it's an easy day to remember, a long weekend (so I usually have time to apply the systemic to the dozens of plants I bring in) and because it's about 5 weeks before I bring the plants indoors (I move many to the garage first during those early frosty nights). Because the pesticide acts systemically, it takes a bit of time for the plants (especially woody plants like hibiscus and lantana) to absorb the active ingredients. By the time I bring the plants indoors, the plants should be theoretically pest-free. I then reapply the systemic every 5-6 weeks per package instructions to keep my plants pest-free. After all, eggs will continue to hatch and larvae in the soil will continue to mature. Follow up applications are critical for success. In some stages of certain insects' (scale, whitefly, mealy bugs) development, spray on pesticides are virtually ineffective (as are many "natural" pesticides without extreme diligence).

Before bringing in certain plants that seem more prone to insect pests, I also remove most, if not all, of the foliage. Hibiscus and lantana fall into this category. This prevents insects from coming in for the ride and I avoid the plants' eventual leaf drop and mess as the days shorten.

That segues into the next part of your question. Because your plants have spent the summer outdoors, they've been growing like crazy--especially this past summer with the warm temperatures, abundant sunshine and ample rainfall. No matter how hard we try, we can't replicate those conditions indoors. Winter days are short, houses are dark and drafty and the air lacks humidity. When we bring the plants indoors, plants need to acclimate to those conditions in order to survive. Plants drop their leaves primarily because they're adapting to the new light conditions. They simply don't need all of those leaves. Even in the tropics many, many plants lose their leaves seasonally as the days shorten. The plants are wanting to go somewhat dormant.

Unfortunately, many of our most common houseplants--ficus, crotons, schefflera--suffer the most leaf drop when brought back indoors. Ficus will even lose leaves if moved from room to room within a house. Ferns usually suffer even more due to the lack of humidity as winter approaches. Plants will usually recuperate from the leaf drop but can look unsightly and, of course, it makes a big mess.

As the days shorten, cut back drastically on watering (allow the soil to become dry to the touch) and stop fertilizing completely by November. During the winter, water the

plants thoroughly, but only when the surface becomes dry. Once the days begin lengthening in late February, slowly increase the watering and fertilizing regimen, coming fully up to speed by early May. Usually, houseplants will begin growing like crazy again during the month of March. As for the ferns, some, like the old fashioned Boston fern, will lose nearly all of their leaves during the winter. Others, such as Kimberly ferns, are more tolerant of dry air and keep their foliage quite well. Sometimes I've had to cut ferns completely back to the soil and allow them to grow all new foliage during the winter.

As for the geraniums and begonias, you have a few choices. You could allow them to remain active, as houseplants, in a bright window. Both will bloom throughout the winter. The geraniums will tend to bloom more sporadically than the begonias and more toward late winter and spring. Both can be pruned rather hard before being brought indoors if the plants are too large (even down to 3-4") and pruned periodically throughout the winter. The geraniums can also be stored semi-dormant in a cool location. I store mine in the basement where they get a little light from the basement windows, watering them just once a month. If your begonias are tuberous begonias, they can be stored completely dormant in a dark location.

I hope I was of some help and thanks for the questions!
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.

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

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

Olbrich's Garden's Bolz Conservatory Exhibit - Life in the Canopy

September 7 through January 2, 2011
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00
In the Bolz Conservatory

The lush plants on the forest floor of the Bolz Conservatory draw the attention of most visitors...But look up! Up to 90 percent of life in the rainforest exists in the trees - colorful orchids, bromeliads that provide watery homes for tree frogs, birds, animals, and more. Discover the Bolz Conservatory's canopy layer and the plants and animals that call the canopy home.

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

Olbrich's Garden's Bulk Mulch Sale

Saturday, October 2 , 9 & 16
9:00-1:00

Buy leaf mulch in bulk and save money during Olbrich's Fall bulk Mulch sale! The shredded, composted leaves enrich soil and provide nourishment and protection for your gardens, shrubs, and trees. While applying mulch to gardens in the spring is most common, applying leaf mulch in the fall helps regulate soil temperatures during the winter, and gives the garden a head start in the spring. Bulk mulch is loose and is loaded with a tractor. Bring your own truck or trailer and Olbrich will load bulk scoops for you. Each scoop is \$40 and covers approximately 350-square feet at a 3-inch depth.

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

African Violet Show and Sale

Saturday, October 9, 12:00-5:00
Sunday, October 10, 10:00-4:00

African violets will be on display and for sale in the Evjue Commons. The sale will include African violets, Streptocarpus, and other gesneriads. Leaves, starter plants, soil, pots, and handouts with growing tips will also be available. Sponsored by the Wisconsin State Council of African Violets. A portion of the proceeds benefits Olbrich Botanical Gardens. For more information call 608-833-5552.

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

Badger Trolley Tours

Sundays, October 10, 17 & 24--1:00, 2:00 & 3:00

Free, narrated tours aboard the Badger Trolley begin at the Visitor Center. Tours last about 45 minutes. View the prairies and woodlands in beautiful fall color and learn more about the Arboretum's history and purpose. Get your free ticket at the Arboretum Visitor Center the day of the tour—first come, first served.

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

Crackle--Fire & Froth in the Gardens

Friday, October 22

7:00-10:00 p.m.

Olbrich is pleased to introduce **CRACKLE**, an exciting new fall event at the Gardens! Watch the flames dance on the Great Lawn as you're warmed by spectacular bonfires and savor a variety of refreshing Wisconsin brews. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to spread out and enjoy the party! Move to the beat and enjoy the bluesy tunes of the CashBox Kings, a local up and coming band dedicated to carrying on the spirit of the 1940s and 1950s post-war blues sound!

Tempt your taste buds with delectable edibles provided by Food Fight Restaurants: Johnny Delmonico's, Bluephies, and Market Street Diner. Tickets are available for purchase at Olbrich or by calling 608-246-4550 and are \$15 for Olbrich members, \$20 for the general public and just \$10 for your designated driver. Food and beverage offered at an additional cost. A limited number of pre-sale tickets are available. Must be 21 years old to attend. Additional tickets may be available the day of the event, weather dependent (in the case of inclement weather the event may be relocated indoors).

Enjoy local micro-brews from:

Capital Brewery

New Glarus Brewing Company

Lake Louie Brewing

Tyrannena Brewing

Menu

Appetizers - \$5

Pumpkin Seed Crackle Soup

Cheese Tray - local cheese, fruit & crackers

Prosciutto Wrapped Figs Stuffed with Blue Cheese

Marinated Beef on a Skewer served in a Pita Purse with Cucumber Salad

Entrees - \$8

Pork Belly Taco

Grilled Prime Rib Wrap

Seasonal grilled vegetable quesadilla with house made pico de gallo

Desserts - \$4

Chocolate Chip Cookie Egg Roll

Chocolate Hazelnut Tart

Perfect Pumpkin Pie

Mini Donut Hole with Dipping Sauce

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

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

Herb Fair

Saturday, November 6, 8:30-4:00.

Browse through displays of herbal foods, crafts, and books for sale. Sponsored by the Madison Herb Society. For more information call 608-233-6219.

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

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

**Although the average first frost date for Madison is about Oct. 6, killing frosts have occurred as early as September 12 (1955). Be aware of quick weather changes this time of year. Be prepared to cover tender plants at any time.

___ Pick up a copy of the 2011 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores & Klein's

___ Visit Olbrich, Rotary or Allen Centennial Gardens and note plants of fall interest for spring planting and best selection.

___ Dig new beds now! It's easier now than in spring when super-busy.

___ Take geranium, salvia, impatiens, abutilon cuttings before the first freeze.

___ Plant spring bulbs now! Plant tulips, daffodils, hyacinths & crocus.

___ Plant bulbs for forcing and put in a cool location for 10-12 weeks.

___ Plant Christmas amaryllis now for holiday blooms; paperwhites now for Thanksgiving blooms.

___ Apply a systemic pesticide to plants to be wintered over indoors.

___ Move potted bulbs to be stored like begonias, callas, caladiums and cannas to a garage so they can dry out before storage.

___ Dig up and store dahlias, glads, cannas and elephant's ear after tops freeze.

___ Continue planting deciduous shrubs and trees until the ground freezes.

___ Divide and plant perennials as desired.

___ Clean up stalks and leaves of annuals and vegetables, preventing viruses and pests for next year's garden.

___ Continue harvesting brussels sprouts, kale, greens and root crops.

___ Plant garlic. October is the best time.

___ Stop deadheading perennials for winter interest, i.e. sedums, grasses, etc.

___ Cut perennials back to 4-6", leaving those for winter interest.

___ Collect seeds for next year's garden.

___ Plant winter rye as a cover crop for spring tilling.

___ Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.

___ Take pictures of your garden for record keeping.

___ Mow the lawn at shortest setting for last mowing of the season.

___ Visit Klein's---Great selection of mums, kales, cabbages, pansies & more!

Some of our very favorite seed and plant sources include:

For seeds:

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

For bulbs:

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

For plants:

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

---We've put any leftover perennials to bed for the winter in one of our unheated back greenhouses. It's been a good season...we have very little left to pack away.

---We begin shutting down the back greenhouses. They remain unheated for the winter allowing energy savings and pest control.

---Weatherizing continues. We seal up and insulate unused doors and caulk up air leaks. Water is shut off to the greenhouses not used during the winter.

---Pots, cell packs and trays arrive from our wholesalers in preparation for next spring. Most are stored in the unused greenhouses out back. It's only 3 months till the first of next year's geranium crop arrive (we already have many of next season's tropicals).

---Plants begin arriving for the big Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center in February. Herbs, primrose and cool-loving annuals are arriving enforce.

---Cyclamen and azaleas continue to arrive for winter sales.

---We send out our mailings to local churches regarding poinsettia and blooming plant information for the upcoming holidays. We are proud to say that hundreds of area churches and businesses are decked out with Klein's **HOME GROWN** poinsettias during the holiday season.

---By month's end the poinsettias begin to change color. Looking across the greenhouses, one begins to see hints of red, pink and white. We've moved many of our poinsettias into our retail area from the back greenhouses before cold weather sets in.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--TONYA FRY

"I think I'm a 'lifer' here at Klein's" was one of the very first things Tonya said to us while we were preparing for her story; and that coming from someone who only recently graduated from MATC (now Madison College) and who is looking for a full time career position as a website designer. It was refreshing to see such joy and self awareness emanating from someone wanting to tell 'their' Klein's story.

The Tonya Fry story begins just across the street from Klein's here on Madison's east side where she and her family rented an apartment. And though she and her family only lived there a few years before buying their home in Oregon, Madison's east side has had a profound impact on Tonya's life in so many ways. Tonya says it was her grandmother, who also lived on Madison's east side, that had the greatest influence on her when it comes to her love of plants and gardening. She says she has fond memories of spending time in the garden with her grandmother. For many, weeding is a chore. But for Tonya, weeding was a way to spend time with her grandmother and connect with the garden and nature. She says her grandmother grew primarily flowers and only a few vegetables. She had a rock garden and extensive perennial beds. The love of gardening was passed on to Tonya's own mother, who herself maintains extensive and established perennial beds at their Oregon home. Tonya says that her dad, who grew up on a farm, does the vegetable gardening and maintains the lawn. Yes, like most of us at Klein's, gardening is in her genes. There's no escaping the gardening bug.

Once finished with her schooling, Tonya says she worked for the State of Wisconsin for a number of years before deciding to go back to school to pursue a degree as an I.T. Web Analyst/Programmer. It was during this period of her life and while living on a farm out in the country that the gardener in her surfaced. Tonya says she realized that her gardening possibilities were endless. She was working with a clean slate on that rural property. She says she tore up tons of grass and sod for her new flower and vegetable gardens. It was during this same period in her life that Klein's entered the picture. Destiny? Luck?

Tonya says it was while she and her mother were at the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo in early 2007 that they passed the Klein's booth and noticed that we had signs posted for spring positions. It would be a convenient part time job in that Klein's is located a mere two blocks from the MATC campus. This was the beginning of a match made in heaven. Tonya joined the Klein's team in the spring of 2007 as a seasonal sales associate in our retail area. At first, Tonya juggled school and work. But since graduating, Tonya has found a more regular position within the Klein's family; creating her own and invaluable niche. Tonya has dabbled in everything at the greenhouse. She says that the ability to do so is one of the greatest joys of the job. Someday she says she's wanting to start her own business and hopes she can take with her much of what she learns at Klein's. Tonya loves Klein's "old fashioned" business philosophy where it's all about loyalty, family and trust. She also says that working at Klein's allows her own creativity to blossom. She says that helping customers put together arrangements, containers or even a dish garden is like creating a piece of art. She sees this as tying in perfectly with her website design goals. Tonya says she's hoping to become increasingly involved in the day to day maintenance of Klein's own website and hopes to keep it updated and looking "clean & fresh". In addition to helping our customers, Tonya enjoys the day to day upkeep and organization of our retail area.

In her own garden, Tonya says that due to logistics, she's been limited lately to container gardening, an area she hopes to learn more about as the years pass. She says she loves to experiment with plants using color and texture. She says she also grows her vegetables and herbs in pots. "Houseplants have always been a big part of my life."

When visiting Klein's, customer's appreciate Tonya's quiet demeanor even in the craziest of moments. Her patience and kindheartedness are core to her very being. Tonya radiates warmth. We sincerely hope Tonya's "lifer" quote becomes a reality!

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

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://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
- Mexicantes
- Mistletoe
- Morning glory
- Mountain laurel
- Night-blooming jasmine
- Nutmeg
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Poison ivy
- Poison sumac
- Pokeweed
- Poppy
- Potato
- Privet
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Water hemlock
- Wisteria

PLANTS POISONOUS TO PETS:

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