

THE SAGE'--DECEMBER 2010

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

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2011 Wisconsin Garden Journal Now in Stock

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Holiday Decorating With Fresh Greenery

Christmas Trees--Fresh vs. Fake

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DANE BUY LOCAL GIFT CARDS

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

The Top 5 Reasons for Buying Local:

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

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

Buy Local Gift Cards Are Now Available.

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

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

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

THE MAD GARDENER

"Madison's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"

Ask any of your gardening questions by e-mailing them to us at madgardener@kleinsfloral.com. Klein's in-house **Mad Gardener** will e-mail you with an answer as promptly as we can. We've also posted a link to this e-mail address on our home page for your convenience. Your question might then appear in the **"You Asked"** feature of our monthly newsletter. If your question is the one selected for our monthly newsletter, you'll receive a small gift from us at Klein's. The **Mad Gardener** hopes to hear from you soon!

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

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

DECEMBER STORE HOURS:

Holiday Hours

Monday thru Friday 8:00-7:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Holiday hours run through Thursday, December 23

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

Starting December 27:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Please note that we will be closed Sundays during January. Our first Sunday open will be February 6, 2011

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

Closed Christmas Day, December 25, Sunday, December 26 & New Year's Day, January 1, 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

December 3 thru December 5--KLEIN'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE. Join us for one time savings on our famous homegrown poinsettias--for carry out or delivery anytime during the holiday season. Also save on Wisconsin grown pine boughs, evergreen roping and wreaths. Enter a winter wonderland filled with holiday plants and gift ideas. Let us inspire you with our extensive collection of ornaments for all your decorating needs. Free refreshments on hand.

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

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

December 2--Hanukkah Begins

December 8--Islamic New Year

December 19 thru December 24--Stop in and check-out our in-store specials for any last minute gift-giving ideas. We still have a fantastic selection of homegrown poinsettias, blooming plants, houseplants, decorations and more. Shop early for the best selection and we'll deliver anywhere in Madison or the surrounding communities thru noon on Dec. 24.

December 20--Winter Solstice

December 21--Full Moon

December 25--Christmas Day (Closed)

December 26--Kwanzaa Begins

December 27--The After Christmas 75% Off Sale begins at 8:00! Everything 'holiday' must go! This is a great time to plan for this week's New Years Eve party or to pick up some excellent bargains for next year's decorating. Poinsettias are perfect for adding instant color to your late season holiday party and are gorgeous in fresh arrangements.

December 27 thru December 31--Order your New Years Eve centerpieces and custom designed arrangements early!

January 1, 2011--New Year's Day (Closed)

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

For sheer selection of holiday greens for your decorating needs, Klein's should be your one and only choice. For the first time this season, Klein's is offering greenery from no less than a half dozen different suppliers from throughout Wisconsin and covering all types of greenery, quality and price ranges. We have it all; pine boughs, spruce tips, kissing balls, door swags, wreaths, roping and decorative branches (dogwood, willow, winterberry etc.). Our wreath choices range from the simple to the elegant and sophisticated with everything in between. Choose from dozens of outdoor holiday ribbon--cut to measure--for creating the perfect bow to suit any decor.

New for us this season are our miniature 4 foot frasier fir Christmas trees. Each perfectly shaped tree comes with its own plastic tree stand which also serves as its water reservoir. Just take it home and decorate! These trees are perfect for table tops, offices, small apartments and even for the kids' bedrooms.

Holiday Decorating With Fresh Greenery

By Karen Russ, HGIC Horticulture Specialist; George D. Kessler, Extension Forester; and Bob Polomski Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Clemson University.

Decorating the house with fresh greenery is one of the oldest winter holiday traditions. Evergreens have been a part of winter festivals since ancient times. Evergreens are used to represent everlasting life and hope for the return of spring.

Southerners have been decorating with greenery since colonial days, although the custom was not common in the Northern United States until the 1800s. Churches were decorated elaborately with garlands of holly, ivy, mountain laurel and mistletoe hung from the roof, the walls, the pews, pulpit and sometimes the altar. Lavender, rose petals and herbs such as rosemary and bay were scattered for scent. Homes were decorated in a simpler fashion with greenery and boughs in the window frames and holly sprigs stuck to the glass with wax.

Today, decorating for the holidays with fresh greenery is more prevalent than ever. Greenery such as cedar, ivy, pine and holly add a fresh look and natural scent to our homes.

Gathering Greenery

The first and often the best place to look for holiday greenery may be in your own landscape. Greenery gathered from your own garden will be fresher than any that you can buy. You may also have a variety of unusual greenery that would be difficult to find for purchase.

When gathering live greenery from your shrubs and trees, remember that you are actually pruning the plants. Consider carefully which branches to cut and which ones to leave. Distribute the cuts evenly around the plant in order to preserve its natural form.

Many different kinds of greenery can be used for holiday decorations. Pines, firs and cedars are good to use for indoor decoration since they dry out slowly and hold their needles best at warm interior temperatures. They may last for several weeks if properly treated and cared for. Hemlock, spruces and most broadleaf evergreens will last longer if used outdoors.

Decorating Safely

Dried evergreens can become flammable when in contact with a heat source such as a candle flame. Make sure that any wreaths, roping and garlands that you bring indoors are as fresh as possible. Check needles by bending them. They should be flexible and not break. Avoid greenery that are shedding or that have brown, dry tips.

Before bringing the greenery inside, soak them in water overnight to rehydrate them. Never place fresh greenery near heat sources, such as space heaters, heater vents or sunny windows. Be careful of wreaths used on the front door, if there is a glass outer door that receives direct sunlight. Keep greenery away from candles and fireplaces. If you use lights near your green arrangements, make sure that they stay cool, and if outside, that they are rated for exterior use.

Check your decorations every couple of days for freshness. If greenery are becoming dry, either replace or remove the dry portions. Make sure to discard dry greenery away from the house or garage to prevent a further fire hazard.

Safety for Children & Pets

Some popular plants used in holiday decorating can present poisoning hazards for small children or pets. Poisonous berries are found on holly plants, yews, mistletoe, ivy plants, Jerusalem cherry, bittersweet and crown of thorns. The pearly white berries of mistletoe are particularly toxic. Keep all these plants out of the reach of children and curious pets.

Keeping Greenery Fresh

- Use clean, sharp cutters to cut branches and immediately put cut ends into water until ready to use.
- Crush the ends of woody stems to allow the cutting to take in more water.
- Keep greenery out of sunlight.
- Immerse greenery in water overnight before arranging. This allows the cuttings to absorb the maximum amount of moisture.
- Allow the foliage to dry and then spray it with an anti-transpirant, such as Wilt-pruf, to help seal in moisture. Note: Do not use antitranspirants on juniper berries, cedar or blue spruce. The product can damage the wax coating that gives these plants their distinctive color.
- Keep completed wreaths, garlands and arrangements in a cool location until use.
- Display fresh greenery and fruits out of the sun and away from heat.
- Plan to replace greenery and fruits throughout the holiday season if they become less than fresh.

Decorating With Greens

Many different types of decorations can be made with fresh greenery. Some traditional types are garlands, swags and wreaths. A number of different types of forms can be stuffed with sprigs or branches to create topiaries. Kissing balls are an unusual alternative to the usual mistletoe sprig.

A variety of wreaths and garlands are readily available commercially. Undecorated ones can be dressed up with contrasting live greenery from the yard for a personal look.

In addition to the more commonly used evergreens, consider using other plant parts such as berries, dried flowers, cones and seed pods to give color and texture interest. Some possibilities include:

- Acorns
- Bittersweet
- Holly berries
- Hydrangea blossoms
- Lotus seed pods
- Magnolia pods
- Mistletoe
- Nandina berries
- Pecans
- Pine cones
- Pyracantha
- Reindeer moss
- Rose hips
- Sweet gum balls
- Wax myrtle berries
- Fruits such as lemons, limes, lady apples, seckel pears, kumquats and pineapple.

Preserved leaves such as ivies, mahonia, eucalyptus, boxwood, beech, camellia, oak and rhododendron are useful and long-lasting as holiday decorations.

Source material from: www.clemson.edu/extension/

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that Klein's can special order a specific houseplant for you if we don't have it in stock?

Even though Klein's carries an amazing array of the most common houseplants in all sizes for much of the year, we don't always have everything on hand.

Each August we receive a huge semi-load of tropical houseplants from Florida. During the fall and winter we then allow this inventory to diminish in order to make room for our bedding plants the following spring. However, throughout this period we continue ordering plants from two Wisconsin suppliers, who deliver to our shop on a weekly basis. These suppliers not only offer us our seasonal bloomers, but they also keep us well-stocked with our most in demand houseplants, such as; peace lilies, ficus trees, assorted palms, fern and pothos baskets, English ivy tubs and our assortment of 3" starter plants for dishgardens and terrariums, etc. These are all items that we must have on hand year round for filling outgoing orders. Each and every Monday, we place orders with these suppliers to fill our current week's needs.

Therefore, if you're looking for a certain houseplant or a size that no one has on hand, just give us a call and we'll try to find it for you. Though our local suppliers might not have the item in stock themselves, they receive shipments from Florida on a regular basis. If available, they'll simply tag on your desired plant. We request a 3-4 week window when searching for a special order plant. While most are readily and more quickly available, the brokers in Florida may need some time to look for hard-to-find items. We may also ask for a down payment on plants that we don't normally carry. For more information, **please contact Rick at 244-5661 or rick@kleinsfloral.com**.

Please note that some tropical houseplants are only available seasonally and that some may not be available at all. Klein's will also supply you any needed advice and care tips once your special order arrives.

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

ENTRY: NOVEMBER 3, 2010 (Favorite Indoor Euphorbias)

Succulents and cacti have forever been favorites of mine. Dozens of different types line nearly every windowsill of the house during the winter months. All spend the summer outdoors on my sunny balcony. My collection includes everything from barrel cactus to prickly pears to echeverias, sedums and agaves. But some of my very favorites are the euphorbias.

Euphorbias are a huge group of plants , containing nearly 2200 species. It is one of the most diverse groups of plants on earth. Common members include garden spurge, snow-on-the-mountain, poinsettias, the popular bedding plant, 'Diamond Frost' and a ton of cactus-like succulents. All have at least one thing in common. They produce a white and sticky sap (latex). In addition to the poinsettia, the most well-known of the indoor spurges are crown-of-thorns, pencil cactus and candelabra cactus.

I still have a piece of my very first euphorbia, a candelabra cactus (*Euphorbia ammak*) that was given to me more than 20 years ago. Friends and I affectionately call it the 'Angelique Cactus'. My friend, Angelique, gave it to me, but only after it spent months, if not years, tucked in a dark closet in her downtown Madison apartment. I can't remember if it was in there due to room in the apartment or the fact she had cats. The sap from members of the euphorbia genus is notoriously dangerous for pets to ingest. Those hard living conditions are testimony to how tough this plant is. Eventually the plant grew so large that I had to take cuttings from it, throwing the original plant away.

In the past year or so I've begun collecting some interesting and unusual euphorbias. New favorites include:

Euphorbia milii (Crown-of-Thorns) 'Candyland'--This stunning crown-of-thorns has unusual, brightly colored variegated foliage with red flowers. This selection is a showpiece even when not in bloom!!

Euphorbia milii (Crown-of-Thorns) 'Pink Cupcake'--Flowers are far larger than the species and in the most beautiful shade of pink.

Euphorbia geroldii (Gerold's Spurge)--I picked up this thornless crown-of-thorns from Logee's Tropical Plants (www.logees.com). According to their literature they got it from the Mitchell Park domes in Milwaukee. This plant never goes out of bloom. Flowers are a vivid red.

Another I'm eager to try from Logee's is **Euphorbia punicea 'Jamaican Poinsettia'**. Bracts create a brilliant display ranging from crimson to scarlet to pinkish-orange. It sounds and looks amazing!

Euphorbia tirucalli -rosea 'Firesticks' (Pencil Cactus)--Glowing stems in shades of red, pink, orange and yellow. Very unusual.

ENTRY: NOVEMBER 10, 2010 (Time for a Physical)

Had a physical this afternoon and I cannot believe how often it came up that I'm a gardener or I work at a greenhouse . . .

Doctor: "What do you do for a living?"

"I work at a greenhouse--Klein's on East Wash."

Doctor taking history: "Any surgeries?"

"Yeh, broke my leg falling off a cooler while replacing roofs at work after some hail damage." (He hadn't heard that one before!)

Doctor: "Your weight is good. Do you exercise regularly?"

"Yeh, I work at a greenhouse."

Doctor: "No, I mean aerobic exercise . . . where your heart really gets pumping."

"Yeh, I work at a greenhouse!!!"

Doctor: "Your arms are really scratched up!"

"Yeh, I was out in the garden cutting back the perennial beds right before I came here."

Doctor: "And your hands and knees are really rough and calloused."

(I didn't say anything . . . just thinking 'DUH'.)

Doctor: "And you've got some nasty looking toenails."

"Yeh, my feet are ALWAYS wet. We call 'em 'greenhouse feet' at work and I think we all have 'em. After all, we work at a greenhouse!"

ENTRY: NOVEMBER 30, 2010 (Garden Fresh Lettuce in December)

The lows have been well into the teens lately, but I still have a few things going in the garden--a pot of parsley (which freezes and thaws nearly every day, yet is still flourishing) and two beautiful tubs of leaf lettuce. Normally, the lettuce would be long dead by now with temperatures that cold. But I'm lucky enough to live in an older home with deep and large basement window wells. Essentially I've created a cozy little cold frame in the well along the south wall of my basement. I covered the window well with one of those clear, domed window well covers available at any home improvement store. Temperatures inside are well into the 60's on sunny days while air temps remain in the 20's. Nighttime temps drop to barely below freezing because of heat radiating from the basement. On the coldest of nights, I've thrown an old blanket over the top just to be safe. My two tubs of fall lettuce have yielded two huge bowls of sweet greens with a third crop ready to be harvested in the next week or so--that'll be the first week of December!!

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

Nuts are one of the most popular of all appetizers/munchies during the holiday season. Huge bins of nuts of all types line grocery store aisles this time of the year and prices are at their best while supply is at its peak. Below are a few of our more unusual concoctions using a wide assortment nuts. Enjoy and **HAPPY HOLIDAYS from all of us at Klein's!**

GINGERED CASHEWS--This eternal favorite appeared at a work holiday party a number of years ago.

2 cups lightly salted cashews
1 TBS. melted butter
1 TBS. minced fresh or jarred ginger
2 tsp. garam masala spice mix

Preheat the oven to 300°. In a bowl, toss together the cashews, butter, ginger and garam masala. Line a shallow, rimmed baking sheet with foil. Spread the nuts into the pan and roast 20 minutes until golden, stirring occasionally. Serve either warm or cooled. Makes 2 cups.

CRUNCHY MUNCHIES-- Who can resist with a name like that? A delicious mixture from the December 2004 issue of Better Homes & Gardens magazine.

1/4 cup jalapeno jelly
2 TBS. butter
1/4 tsp. Chinese 5-spice powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. Tobasco
2 cups whole unsalted cashews or dry roast peanuts
1 cup banana chips
1 cup dried pineapple, cut up
1 cup chopped dates
1 cup chow mein noodles

Preheat oven to 325°. In a medium saucepan, combine the jelly, butter, spice powder, salt and Tobasco. Heat over low heat until the jelly is melted. Stir in the rest of ingredients until well coated. Pour into a large roasting pan and bake 15-20 minutes until the nuts are lightly browned, stirring just once. Remove from the oven and spread on a large piece of foil to cool.

SYRIAN WALNUT SPREAD (MUHAMMARA)--We don't remember where this one came from, but it's a keeper!!

1 x 12 oz. jar roasted red peppers in olive oil and garlic, drained
1 cup walnuts
1/3 cup panko (Japanese bread crumbs)
2 TBS. extra virgin olive oil
2 tsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 tsp. cayenne
salt
Pita chips

Blend all ingredients in a food processor until a coarse puree. Season to taste with salt and serve with chips. Makes 2 cups.

BAKED BRIE WITH PECANS--A classic from the November 2007 issue of Everyday Food magazine.

1 x 9 oz. wheel of brie or camembert cheese
1/2 cup pecan pieces
3 TBS. brown sugar
3 TBS. maple syrup
Crackers or sliced baguette

Preheat the oven to 350°. Place the cheese on a rimmed sheet and bake 15-20 minutes until soft. Transfer to a serving plate and cool 20 minutes. Meanwhile, toast the nuts 7-10 minutes in the hot oven. In a saucepan, combine the sugar and the syrup. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Simmer until foamy, 1-2 minutes. Drizzle the warm sauce over the cheese and nuts and serve with the crackers or baguette slices. Serves 4.

CARROT CASHEW DIP/SPREAD--A very healthy spread from a Krupalu yoga cookbook. Very delicious!!

4 cups chopped carrots
5 cups water
1 TBS. salt
1/2 cup unsalted cashews
Crackers, pita bread or crudités

In a saucepan, combine the carrots and the water and bring to a boil. Add the salt, reduce the heat and simmer 20 minutes until the carrots are very soft. Drain, keeping the cooking water. Allow everything to cool. In a food processor, blend the carrots and the cashews. Add water for desired consistency. Serve with crackers, pita bread or crudités.

CURRIED PECANS--This family favorite comes from the November 2002 pages of Bon Appetit magazine.

1 1/2 tsp. onion powder
1 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 1/4 tsp. kosher salt
3/4 tsp. curry powder
1/4 tsp. cayenne
2 TBS. butter
2 TBS. honey
3 cups pecan halves

Preheat the oven to 250°. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil. Mix the onion powder, garlic powder, 1 tsp. salt, curry powder and cayenne to blend. Melt the butter and honey with 1/4 tsp. salt in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add the nuts and stir to coat. Remove from the heat and stir in the spice mixture. Toss to coat evenly. Spread the mixture in a single layer on the baking sheet. Bake until dry and toasted, about 40 minutes. Cool completely and separate the pecans. Makes 3 cups.

NEW PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT--Each month we will spotlight some new product that we already carry or one that we've taken note of and plan to carry in the near future. Likewise, if you would like to see Klein's to carry a product that we don't currently, please let us know. Our goal is to be responsive to the marketplace and to our loyal clientele. If a product fits into our profile, we will make every effort to get it into our store. In addition, we may be able to special order an item for you, whether plant or hard good, given enough time.

This month's spotlight features: Scheurich Pottery--"Feeling Home"

Klein's is excited about offering our new line **Scheurich Pottery** direct from Germany. This high end, fashionable product is of top notch quality and sure to be the hit of your gift giving this holiday season. Klein's is bringing in Scheurich Pottery to add class and elegance to our already famous homegrown poinsettias and holiday plants. Whether planted directly into their container or simply used as a pot cover, Scheurich Pottery is sure to draw attention to your plants at your holiday get togethers or throughout the year. From **Scheurich Pottery**:

"Our mission is to bring well designed high quality decorative pottery to the market and to regularly update the designs as fashion and consumers lifestyles change. We are 75 years old; family owned and managed and have 400 employees. We supply 13,5 million decorative coverpots and vases for 14.000 customers in 45 countries."

"Ceramics should be more than just a functional container for the plant, they should augment nature's beauty and offer through a choice of colors the crossover to home fashion and gift purchases."

"Home proud and fashion conscious consumers want to have a look in their homes that represents who they are and they are prepared to makeover this look seasonally."

"Our products designs represent the fashion trends the consumer will have seen in the garment market and fashion magazines. They emulate this look in association with plants in their home, the combination giving an accent to the general décor, even if they haven't repainted the room a new plant-pot combination changes the look."

For more about Scheurich Pottery, please visit them at www.scheurich.de/.

NATURAL NEWS--

The debate about whether a real Christmas tree or an artificial tree is better for the environment rages on and there are, of course, as in any other debate, arguments for both sides. The reality is that about 80% of American homes purchase a real Christmas tree during the holiday season and there are many options for recycling your tree after the holidays.

The greenest of all options when choosing a Christmas tree is to purchase a living, potted evergreen available at many tree lots and garden centers. The advantage of purchasing a living tree is that it can be planted into the landscape after Christmas. The biggest disadvantage is that it can remain in the house for only a very short period of time. The trees are purchased dormant and warm indoor temperatures stimulate new growth at exactly the wrong time of the year. A few days indoors, up to a week tops, is best when purchasing a living tree. Keep it moist and away from heat sources. Having the house cool during the night is helpful. Immediately after Christmas, move the tree to a garage or enclosed porch to acclimate the tree for a winter outdoors. After a few weeks, your tree can be moved completely outdoors for the rest of the winter. In spring, the tree can be planted into the yard or garden. With forethought, it's actually best to prep a planting hole before the ground freezes. The root ball will have much better protection from winter cold when placed below the soil line than sitting above ground. Make sure to water the tree throughout the winter during periods of mild weather.

As for fresh cut Christmas trees, nearly all are now recycled in some way or another and few end up in landfills. Municipalities usually provide curbside pick up after the holiday season. The trees are then chipped and offered as free mulch along with chipped brush and shredded leaves in the spring and summer. Another option is to strip the tree of it's branches yourself at home. Pine boughs, like marsh hay, are an excellent winter protection for perennial beds allowing valuable airflow throughout the winter. Pine boughs are especially well suited for shallow rooted perennials and peonies. The trunk can then be cut into pieces and burned in the fireplace or fire pit.

Another alternative is to use your discarded Christmas tree in the winter landscape. Christmas trees generally remain green throughout the winter and provide valuable protection for your yard's wildlife. Dense evergreens offer roosting options for many songbirds and protection from preying hawks and cats. The dense foliage also hides small mammals like rabbits. Areas with lakes oftentimes place weighted discarded trees on top of the ice. As the lakes thaw, the trees sink to the bottom and provide breeding areas for many fish species and shelter to their offspring from predators.

Some excellent web sites with more information include the National Christmas Tree Association's site at www.christmastree.org and www.christmas-tree-care.com.

DECEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

CYCLAMEN

Few indoor blooming plants thrive on neglect, but the cyclamen certainly lean in that direction. Traditionally, cyclamen were only available during the winter months, but are now available nearly year round. Their love of cool temperatures makes them the perfect candidate to brighten the home during the long winter months. A bright east windowsill is the ideal condition for growing cyclamen, but they are tolerant of any bright and cool location. Why cool? Cool temperatures not only stimulate bud development, but also prevent the leaf and blossom stems from elongating and becoming floppy. Given a cool location, a cyclamen will bloom almost nonstop from late fall through late spring. In addition to being kept cool, cyclamen also prefer to be kept on the dryish side. Overwatering can lead to rotting. Allow a cyclamen plant to become rather dry between thorough waterings. Remove all standing water from the saucer, and when watering, be careful to water around the base of the corm and not in the center of the plant. Doing so can also lead to rot. The corm is the “bulb” (actually an elongated stem) from which the leaves and flowers sprout.

Cyclamen flowers generally appear in shades of red, pink, violet and white and combinations thereof. The bright petals appear reflexed on short stalks and are tough as nails. New flower buds sprout tirelessly from the corm. Deadheading is necessary to maintain the overall appearance of the plant. To deadhead, simply grasp the spent flower stalk and carefully twist it away from the corm. It should easily break away at the base. The leathery, gray patterned foliage seldom needs maintenance. Simply break away any yellowing leaves at the base.

After your cyclamen has finished blooming in late spring, it can be moved to any shady spot in the garden and allowed to spend the summer outdoors. Remove the saucer and water only as needed. The corm may or may not go dormant. By late summer and early fall one should see new growth and new flower buds. Keep in mind that the cool nights stimulate new bud development. Therefore, keep it outdoors as long as possible, short of freezing. An alternative method is to allow your bloomed out cyclamen to go completely dormant by cutting back on the watering entirely and allowing the pot to dry out completely. After a few weeks the leaves will wither and dry up. Store the dormant corm in a cool and dry spot for the summer months. In late summer, gradually begin your regular watering regimen. Experience has shown us more limited success with this latter method. Cyclamen prefer a dilute fertilizer just once a month while actively growing. Too much fertilizer promotes vigorous growth at the expense of flowering.

Cyclamen are available as standards and as miniatures. Some even have double flowers, though those are a bit harder to find. Some of the miniature pinks are even delightfully fragrant--an added bonus. The miniatures are also more tolerant of warmer locations.

Cyclamen make the perfect holiday gift and are nice alternative to poinsettias. **Klein's own homegrown cyclamen** become available during October and remain available through March. They look especially lovely in a decorative basket or pot. The miniatures work nicely in mixed European gardens of mixed green and blooming plants.

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER. . .

We have about a dozen geranium's in pots that we would like to keep over the winter and put out again next spring. What is the best way to keep them? Do you cut them back,water them and do they need to be by a window? Thanks for your help. Gordy

Hi Gordy,

I, too, overwinter about a dozen or so potted geraniums each season. Doing so not only saves money next spring, but also rewards us with larger and bushier plants and with more blossoms next summer. Most of my overwintered geraniums are treasured varieties that I can no longer find in garden centers or on-line. Preserving these cultivars ensures that I will continue to enjoy them (and cuttings from them) for years to come.

There are three common ways to overwinter geraniums. The first is to do as you said in your question . . . prune them back hard and store the pots near a light source in the basement or in a cool room somewhere in the house. This method guarantees the greatest amount of success. (I also keep a few of my more compact favorites in sunny windows throughout the house where they'll continue to bloom through the winter months.)

Before bringing my geraniums indoors in the fall, I prune them back to about 4-6", removing almost all of the foliage and leaving essentially bare stems. This eliminates much of the chance that you'll be bringing pests inside along with your plants. Aphids are the most likely passenger from outdoors on overwintered geraniums. Removing most of the foliage, especially the older leaves, also makes later cleanup a bit easier. Geraniums usually shed many of their older leaves when brought indoors due to the lower light intensity.

I next place my geraniums on a shelves near a few basement windows. Artificial florescent lights on a timer set at about 12 hours will also do. The plants don't need much light while semi-dormant--just enough to remain active through the winter. Plants will begin to grow within just a few weeks. Through the winter, new growth will become spindly and unsightly as plants try to reach for the light. That's OK!!

Water your geraniums only sparingly while the plants are in this semi-dormant state. I usually water my plants about once per month from November through February. Plants can be watered thoroughly, BUT be sure to remove any excess water from the saucers and allow the plants to become bone dry again before their next watering. How often you'll water your geraniums depends upon how warm and how humid your house is. Because geraniums (pelargoniums) are originally from semi-arid regions of South Africa, they can tolerate very dry conditions during the winter months. Do not fertilize your geraniums from November through February as not to encourage new growth.

About March 1 I again prune back my geraniums fairly hard, shaping them as I go. I remove all spindly growth. This is the last time I prune them before moving them outside. I begin watering my geraniums more regularly now and I also begin fertilizing them. The days are getting substantially longer and plants are wanting to come out of dormancy. By the time you move them outdoors in late April, your plants will be green and growing like crazy! They may take a setback once moved back outdoors. After all, they're used to the pleasant conditions in your home. But they'll bounce right back once they acclimate to the cooler nighttime temps and as the days warm in May. You may need to move them in and out on frosty nights.

During the winter months, watch for aphids. Use a mild pesticide as needed. Also watch for rotting. There are two types that geraniums are prone to. One is caused by overwatering and the other is a sort of dry rot that affects usually older plants or just parts of plants. Discard plants or the infected parts of plants as necessary throughout the winter.

I mentioned there are two other ways to overwinter geraniums. The first is the way people used to do it when basements were very cool and root cellars were common. One would remove the geranium plant from the ground, shaking off any excess soil and either hang the plants in bunches from the ceiling or put them in a brown paper bag, allowing them to go completely dormant through the winter months and then having to replant them the following spring. The survival rate is usually about 25% at best with this method unless conditions are ideal.

The other method is to take cuttings from parent plants, keeping only the offspring. This method allows you to increase your stock and saves space. Success rate is usually very high.

I hope I was of some help and let me know next spring how they fared. Feel free to ask questions through the winter as needed.

Thanks for your question,
The Mad Gardener

AROUND TOWN:

For neighborhood events or garden tours that you would like posted in our monthly newsletter, please contact Rick at (608) 244-5661 or Sue at sue@kleinsfloral.com. Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Events must be garden related and must take place in the Madison vicinity and we must receive your information by the first of the month in which the event takes place for it to appear in that month's newsletter. This is a great opportunity for free advertising.

Dane County Winter Farmer's Market

Saturdays, November 13 thru December 18, 7:30-noon
Monona Terrace

Saturdays, January 8 thru April 19, 8:00-noon
Madison Senior Center
330 W. Mifflin

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 Garden's Holiday Express: Flower & Model Train Show

December 4 through December 31

Twinkling lights, festive poinsettias, tiny landscapes, and large-scale model trains: all aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Using large-scale model trains, Olbrich's horticulture staff will showcase miniature landscapes among hundreds of colorful poinsettias. Members of the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society come from all over the state to show off their large-scale model trains. Relax with friends and family and enjoy holiday refreshments available for purchase in the lobby. Olbrich's Photo Depot also provides the perfect background for a holiday photo! Admission for Olbrich Botanical Society members is free. Admission to Olbrich's Holiday Express for the general public is \$3 for adults, and \$2 for children ages 3 to 12. Children 2 and under are free. Admission to the tropical Bolz Conservatory is included.

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

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

Rotary Botanical Gardens' Holiday Light Show

December 17-23 and December 26-31

Illuminated garden pathways guide visitors on an evening stroll through various themed light displays throughout the botanical gardens.

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

NEW FOR 2010!

Holospex glasses (Christmas-themed). One free pair per family to the first 500 families to visit the Holiday Light Show. They exaggerate the lights and make them look "wicked cool."

A gingerbread house contest open to both kids & adults. Also displayed during HLS will be gingerbread houses created by area businesses including: Cakes by Sheila, Best Events Catering and the Janesville Country Club.

Doors open 5pm. Last ticket sold 8pm

Admission- Early bird*

\$4 adults (12 and up)

\$2 youth (2 to 11)

Admission- at the door

\$5 adults (12 and up)

\$3 youth (2 to 11)

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

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

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

___ Pick up a copy of the 2011 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores.

___ Mulch perennials to protect from the cold and prevent heaving.

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

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.harriseseeds.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.seed savers.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 DECEMBER:

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

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

---Hundreds of herbs for windowsill culture are thriving in the sunny, warm greenhouses. We have chosen only the best assortment for indoor growing and winter harvest. Choose from rosemary, lavender, parsley, thyme and more.

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

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--MATT FRIE

For many of us, there was one moment--one decision--one event--that changed the course our lives forever and ultimately led to us working here at Klein's. For Matt Frie, that moment came in early 2003 at K&W Greenery in Janesville. When Matt went shopping at that garden center that spring day he was an experienced nurse with years under his belt. He had no experience with plants and he wasn't necessarily looking for a new job. But it was while there that something profound hit him. For the first time in a very long time Matt felt happy. Joy and beauty surrounded him. Life was about to

make a drastic turn for Matt. When Matt stepped into K&W Greenery that day, there was no hint that he would be leaving with an application.

Matt was born in Monroe, Wisconsin, but grew up in nearby Brodhead, just south of Madison. Matt says that he was never really surrounded by gardening as a child, but remembers experiencing and enjoying nature along the nearby Sugar River. After graduating from Brodhead High School in 1985, Matt attended Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville and then Gateway Technical College in Elkhorn, where he received his certificate as a Medication Assistant with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Matt says that while he was in school he worked two jobs, both in the health field to some extent and at the Prime Quarter Steak House in Janesville. After receiving his degree, Matt took a position at the Fairhaven Retirement Community in Whitewater. Life was relatively good until February of 2002 when his very close sister, Michelle, passed away. It was that single event that made Matt step back and look at life from a very different perspective. He says that he realized he needed a “happy place to work”, rather than being surrounded by death and depression. He knew that he needed to leave nursing, but for what? More than a year later that question was answered on that day in K & W. Timing was on his side. It was nearing the spring season and Matt was hired the next day.

Matt worked at K & W Greenery for about three years in the retail area; expanding his knowledge of plants and gardening. In 2006, he decided to move to Denver “for a change and to figure things out.” But missing family back home, Matt decided to move back to Wisconsin. As luck would have it, his old manager from the Janesville Prime Quarter now worked in Madison and hired him back on the spot. The Madison Prime Quarter is just down the street from Klein’s. It was the spring of 2007. Matt says he knew when greenhouses would be hiring and low and behold Klein’s posted that we were hiring. Given his experience and outgoing personality, Matt was essentially hired on the spot. Now a few years later, Matt continues to juggle the two jobs and says that life is good. In addition to work, he’s currently pursuing an on-line pharmaceutical degree through Brighton College.

Away from work, Matt says he enjoys tennis, volleyball and his collection of houseplants. Matt says he’s particularly proud of and attached to his giant peace lily. Though notoriously hard to grow well, he says his special peace lily thrives and blooms reliably every year. He got the peace lily from his sister’s funeral.

At Klein’s, Matt says he really enjoys customer service, merchandising and doing seasonal displays. Everyone knows when Matt’s working by his booming voice and hearty laughter. When shopping at Klein’s, if that doesn’t give away which one of us is Matt, simply look for the fellow wearing tank tops in the middle of winter and a daisy tucked behind his left ear!!

**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://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
- 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