

'THE SAGE' --FEBRUARY 2011

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Our "Mad Gardener" Is Ready for Your Questions!

Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo, February 11-13

Klein's Cosponsors the 25th Annual Frostiball at the Overture Center

Valentine's Chocolate from Beernstens's Confectionary of Manitowoc

An Indoor Seed Starting Primer from A to Z

New & Exciting Blooming Shrubs for 2011

Brewing Alfalfa 'Tea' for the Garden--a Natural Alternative

Favorite Seed , Bulb & Plant Sources

New To Klein's: Organic Seeds from Olds Seed Co.

Favorite Parsnip Recipes (Website Only)

Notes from Rick's Garden Journal--January 2011

--'Tis the Season to Take Down Holiday Lights

--Our Neighborhood Cooper's Hawk Strikes Again

--About Mantis Tillers

Plant of the Month: The Coffee Plant

You Asked the Mad Gardener About Growing Figs in Wisconsin

February in the Garden: A Planner

Gardening Events Around Town

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Delivery Information

The City of Madison Recycles Used Plastic Pots

Related Resources and Websites

Plants Harmful to Kids and Pets

THE MAD GARDENER

"Madison's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"

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

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

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

#### FEBRUARY STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday: 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

February 2--Ground Hog Day

February 3-- Chinese New Year

February 5--25th Annual Frostiball at the Overture Center. Klein's Floral is very excited to be a supporting sponsor for this spectacular event. We are the sole florist selected to enhance the party-goer's experience. For details and tickets, visit <http://downtownmadison.org/events/frostiball>

February 11-13--Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center. The Klein's booths will entice all senses with fresh herbs, colorful windowsill bloomers and spring annuals. We'll also be giving out tons of coupons for free annuals and in-store savings. In addition, Klein's will be sponsoring two very informative seminars titled "Must Have Plants for 2011" presented by Kurt Varsogea from Four Star Greenhouse, at 9:00 and 1:00 on Saturday, February 12 in Mendota Room #3. Four Star Greenhouse is a major supplier of Proven Winner™ plant material throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. Tickets for Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo are available at Klein's for a lesser price than at the door. More details are available at <http://www.wpt.org/gardenexpo/>. There, you'll find a complete list of exhibitors and a calendar of scheduled events.

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

February 18--Full Moon

February 21--Presidents' Day

Throughout February--Ever thought about working at a greenhouse? Now is the time to stop in and ask for an application. We always need temporary, part-time counter help in the spring and greenhouse production swings into gear by mid-February. If you're interested, ask for Sue, Jen or Rick for the retail area or Jamie or Rick for the greenhouses. Benefits include a generous

discount on all those plants you buy at Klein's anyway. Join our team and experience how it's all done.

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

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

Valentine's Day is upon us and for the first time in three years, the holiday falls on a weekday/work day rather than on a weekend. For us, that can mean up to three times as many deliveries as when it fell on a Sunday last year.

Valentine's Day is far and away the busiest day for the design team. We'll be making 10 times the deliveries of a normal business day and that doesn't even count walk in traffic. We can't even fit all the fresh flowers in our coolers. We're lucky at Klein's in that we can use colder areas of the greenhouses to store product that will not fit in our regular coolers. Our design room will be filled with huge buckets of roses, alstromeria, lilies, iris, baby's breath, etc.--you name it--AND PEOPLE. The flower shop will bustle with designers prepping and conditioning flowers, greening up containers, taking orders and helping customers. It's both exhausting and invigorating simultaneously. We've been here since very late last night and it'll be just as late tonight. It's both fun and frustrating--it snows...the computers crash...someone calls in sick...it's always something. But it'll all be over soon and at the end of the day we'll pat ourselves on the back, as always, for a job well done. Next comes Mother's Day.

For the first time in 2011, we'll be using exclusively a Wisconsin company when sending out candy on Valentine's Day deliveries.

Welcome to Beerntsen's Confectionary of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The following comes from the Beerntsen website at [www.beerntsens.com](http://www.beerntsens.com)

"Since we are dedicated to preserving our old family traditions, our candies and chocolates are made using the same methods our family started using over 50 years ago. We still use copper kettles and wooden paddles to make our hard candies, and continue to dip our chocolates by hand. Much of our equipment is irreplaceable due to advances in equipment technology and production. But one thing is certain...when you talk about quality chocolates...the new styles of equipment and production just don't hold a candle to the old way when it comes to quality and flavor!"

"Beerntsen's is now a third generation business in scenic, historic downtown Manitowoc. Through Joseph Beerntsen's dream, determination, and his family's backing, came the birth of Beerntsen's Candies and many family traditions, which are still being used today to conduct business in the grand Beerntsen style."

“Today, Beerntsen's (Manitowoc Store) supplies chocolates to the prestigious American Club (for use in their gift shop), and selected items to Woodlake Market, both in the city of Kohler, Wisconsin. We also produce custom corporate chocolate gift items and molded novelty items for numerous companies nation wide. These custom made items have become popular personalized items for corporations at gift giving occasions and seasons. Beerntsen's is now expanding our reach to the world and more importantly, you, through the use of the Internet!”

“We truly enjoy making the Manitowoc area a little bit sweeter and hope our efforts to reach people via the Internet will have the same effect globally.”

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Klein's shrub area continues to grow and expand with each passing season?

Not so many years ago, Klein's carried no shrubs, other than our extensive selection of Jackson & Perkin's potted roses. But things have changed drastically in recent years and we now carry a fine selection of blooming deciduous shrubs for the home landscape. Due to limited space, we've had to keep our selection very focused; offering the best, the newest and the showiest blooming shrubs for the garden. Our intent is to offer selections that fit perfectly when mingled amongst perennials in the natural garden, adding height and interest all season long. And though we don't carry conifers, we carry all of your favorites: hydrangeas, lilacs, rhododendrons, weigelas, spireas, forsythia, and SO much more. Some new favorites for 2011 include:

Aronia melanocarpa 'Autumn Magic'--Because of a wonderful introductory article by Shelley Ryan in the 2011 edition of the Wisconsin Garden Journal, we decided we couldn't pass on the opportunity to carry aronia (chokeberry) in our selection of deciduous shrubs. Apparently, aronia is a bird magnet in the winter landscape and the berries are delicious for humans alike. This native shrub has beautiful white flowers in May, followed by edible black berries. Fall foliage is a stunning red-purple.

American Bittersweet 'Autumn Revolution™'--Never think about having to buy a male and a female bittersweet plant again! This new bittersweet has flowers with both male and female parts. Therefore, fruits are produced with just one plant and the berries are twice the size of the species. An extraordinary improvement over the native vine.

Easy Elegance® Roses from Bailey's Nurseries--Roses come with a full 2 year guarantee from Bailey's Nurseries (see the plant tags for details). Developed in Minnesota, Easy Elegance Roses® are on their own root stock rather than being grafted. Now everyone can grow and maintain perfect roses with very little care. These roses have been bred for natural disease resistance and hardiness. All roses in the collection are guaranteed Zone 5 hardy or better or your money back!

Forsythia 'Fiesta'--Far and away our most popular forsythia. And why? In bloom, all forsythias look essentially the same. But after bloom, most forsythias are anything but beautiful for the rest of the year. Fiesta, on the other hand, lights up the garden all summer long. Incredible variegated foliage of bright yellow and green covers the plant all season long. Red stems are an added bonus when set against the foliage. This is also a very cold hardy forsythia.

Hydrangea paniculata 'Tickled Pink®'--Flowers on this hydrangea are simply extraordinary. Each bloom is completely covered by sterile flower petals and each petal recurves, giving the blossoms a full, frilly, lacy appearance. Blooms start out white and turn a rosy pink. Habit is upright and compact.

Hydrangea paniculata 'Vanilla Strawberry™'--A delicious new creation from France. The enormous flower panicles are a blend of vanilla and strawberry, held upright on red stems. They start out white, turn pink and finally a strawberry red. New blooms give the plant a multi-colored effect. Excellent for fresh cut or dried arrangements.

Ilex verticillata 'Berry Heavy' & 'Jim Dandy'--Who says that fruiting holly isn't reliably hardy in the far north? Proven Winners has set out to prove the critics wrong. Here we have both male and female plants in the same pot, thereby taking out all guess work on your part. Plants put on a winter show of spectacular large, bright red berries. Foliage is thick, glossy and rich green. This holly is Zone 3 hardy!!!

Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) 'Dappled Dawn'--A lovely French lilac whose variegated foliage is irregularly splashed with deep yellow. Deep red-purple buds open to light mauve with very fragrant blooms.

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

ENTRY: JANUARY 10, 2011 ('Tis the Season to Take Down Holiday Lights)

Today I took advantage of the fact that the weather was rather warm and there is little snow on the ground after the recent thaw over the New Year's Day weekend. I decided to take down all of my outdoor holiday lights in one fell swoop. My window of opportunity is small in that more snow and cold weather is expected starting later this week.

It seems that the traditional 'January thaw' has become increasingly elusive during the past few winters. Years back it seems I could count on getting outside for a few relatively mild days during January to take down the holiday lights and put away the extension cords. But with all of the snowfall the past few winters, I've had to wait until February or even later. Cords remained buried under the deep snow and lights were frozen to the gutters sometimes into March. It was nearly impossible to set ladders up in the snow to remove the lights. And the longer the lights

remain outdoors in harsh winter weather, the more the wear and tear on the bulbs, cords and decorations. When properly maintained, holiday lights should last for several years.

I check each set as I put them away and make notes for myself for next year. I replace burnt out bulbs and discard sets that are no longer working properly, jotting down what I need to buy when they become available in stores again next fall. I carefully wrap the light sets around cardboard, label them appropriately and then pack them neatly into boxes for storage in the upstairs of the garage. The extra effort now makes all of the difference when bringing them out again next November.

ENTRY: JANUARY 12, 2011 (Our Neighborhood Cooper's Hawk Strikes Again)

As I was working on the computer this afternoon, there was a sudden and loud thump against the TV room window as the birds in the backyard burst into a flurry of flight as they tried to get away from the neighborhood Cooper's hawk that makes his daily visit to my backyard birdfeeders. The thump was probably a mourning dove who mistakenly thought the window was a means of escape. Minutes later and with no activity in the yard, I knew the hawk remained close at hand. Sure enough; the hawk was perched on the neighbor's fence near my feeding stations, waiting for any sign of activity to reappear.

The Cooper's hawk, along with the occasional red-tailed and sharp-shinned hawk, is a frequent visitor to my yard. Just a few weeks ago I came home from work to find the snow on the deck splattered with blood and mourning dove feathers everywhere around. I knew one of the hawks had made a visit. And a few years back I made some amazing video of a Cooper's hawk on the deck railing dismantling a squirrel. The mesmerizing process took a couple of hours before it finally flew away with the carcass. Oddly though, the squirrels, as of late, seem unfazed by the hawk's presence. They continue nibbling on corn cobs and sometimes even appear to taunt the hawk until it eventually flies away.

Cooper's hawks are large and beautiful, streamlined birds that are blue-gray above with warm, reddish bars on the undersides. They are common woodland hawks that come in at high speeds in pursuit of other birds--their most common prey. Wisconsin is at the northern edge of their winter range. Sharp-shinned hawks look very similar, but are much smaller. Personally, I welcome the hawks to my yard. Seeing as I enjoy feeding all birds, my feeders are their open invitation to a feast.

ENTRY: JANUARY 19, 2011 (About Mantis Tillers)

Spring must be coming in that I've started seeing countless ads on TV for garden products and tools. Among them are the ads for the Mantis Tiller.

It was about 10 years ago that I bit and bought a Mantis Tiller after seeing one of those very ads--and with no regrets. My Mantis runs as well today as the day I bought it and has surpassed my

every expectation. It's very dependable, very lightweight, very easy to maintain, very easy to store and very easy to use. Unlike a standard tiller, one uses it almost like a motorized hoe. Rather than tilling the soil while walking forward with the tiller, one walks backwards with a Mantis. If allowed to remain stationary while tilling you can actually dig a deep hole with a Mantis. Because the Mantis is so small, I'm able to till the smallest of flower beds in no time and get places that no tiller could possibly go. In larger vegetable gardens, a Mantis Tiller can easily be used for weeding between rows without causing the least bit of damage to the surrounding plants. The motor is strong enough to cut through the toughest roots. To clean, all I do is remove a few cotter pins, remove the tines and pull out any debris. It takes literally seconds!

My Mantis Tiller came with a border edger but there are many other attachments available including a lawn aerator, a furrower, a plow, a dethatcher and hedge trimmers. Check out their website at <http://mantis.com> for more information or to place an order. Mantis Tillers are available only through mail order and are, therefore, not available in stores.

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

Parsnips are, sadly, one of the most underutilized vegetables available in American supermarkets. Though readily available, few people have actually tried these delectable, white, carrot-like root vegetables. Their sweet taste is absolutely delightful in any recipe that uses mixed roasted root vegetables and they add a unique sweetness when added to winter soups, stews or with pot roast. Harvested during the late fall, parsnips are at their peak during the winter months. They are usually sold in one pound bags alongside turnips, celeriac, beets and other similar root vegetables and are sometimes sold with a natural wax coating that must be peeled away before use. Though they store very well for the long term, the wax coating increases the amount of storage time. Parsnips are delicious both cooked or raw in salads or as a crudite with veggie dips.

Parsnips are very popular all over Europe, where they grew wild until the Middle Ages. In fact, the invasive, roadside wild parsnip was brought to America for its delicious and edible root and escaped from East Coast gardens generations ago. In the garden, parsnips have a very long growing season and are best harvested after the first frosts in the fall. Their flavor improves in cool temperatures and as their starch transforms into sugar. Parsnips are high in potassium and vitamin C.

PARSNIP AND APPLE SOUP--The reviews say this is a "perfect and easy recipe" from the pages of the March 2003 issue of Bon Appetit magazine.

3 TBS. butter

3 large leeks, white and pale green parts, finely chopped; dark green parts reserved

5 large parsnips (1 1/2 lbs.), peeled and cut into 1/2" pcs.

2 medium Gala or Fuji apples, peeled, cored and cut into 1/2" pcs.

4+ cups water  
1 1/2 cups whole milk (or skim/half & half blend)  
a large pinch of sugar  
salt & pepper to taste

Melt the butter in a large, heavy pot on medium-high heat. Add the leeks, parsnips and apples. Cover and cook until the veggies begin to soften, stirring often, about 20 minutes. Add 4 cups water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and simmer, uncovered, until the veggies are very tender, about 20 minutes. Cool slightly, add the milk, and puree in the pot with a hand blender or in batches in a blender, until smooth, thinning with more water as desired. Return the soup to the pot (if using a blender) and season to taste with sugar, salt and pepper. Cut the remaining greens into match-sized strips to get about 1 cup. Cook the strips in a small saucepan of boiling water about 10 minutes and drain. Bring the soup to a simmer. Serve the soup garnished with the leek strips. Serves 6.

PARSNIPS AND CELERIAC WITH NUTMEG--Another super-easy recipe from the pages of Bon Appetit, November, 2002)

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

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add the onion and saute until almost tender, about 4 minutes. Add the parsnips and celeriac and toss to coat. Add the broth, cream and nutmeg and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, cover and simmer until tender and the liquid is almost absorbed, stirring occasionally and adding water by the tablespoonfuls if it gets too dry--about 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in the celery leaves and serve. Serves 8.

GLAZED PARSNIPS AND CELERY--This yummy recipe comes to us from the pages of Cooks Illustrated (January 2005). Great with simple pork or chicken recipes.

1 1/2 TBS. butter  
1 lb. parsnips peeled and cut into 1/2" pcs.  
3 stalks celery, sliced 1/2" thick, bias cut  
1/2 cup chicken or vegetable broth  
1 TBS. sugar  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/8 tsp. pepper



Heat the butter in a large skillet on medium high heat. When foaming subsides, swirl to coat the skillet. Add the parsnips in an even layer and cook without stirring on medium high until browned, about 2-3 minutes. Stir in the celery and cook, stirring occasionally until well-browned, about 2 minutes longer. Add the broth, sugar, salt and pepper. Cover the skillet, reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, about 6 minutes. Uncover, turn the heat to high and cook, stirring, until the liquid reduces to a glaze, about 1 minute. Makes 4 side-dish servings.

PARSNIP FRIES--How easy could this recipe be?? From the November 2005 issue of Martha Stewart's Everyday Food.

2 1/2 lb. parsnips, peeled and cut into even-sized sticks  
2 TBS. olive oil  
coarse salt and pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 450°. In a large bowl, toss together the parsnips, oil and season to taste. Spread onto two rimmed sheets in a single layer and roast until tender and golden, about 25-30 minutes, rotating the sheets and tossing the parsnips about halfway through. Serves 4.

AROMATIC PARSNIPS AND CARROTS--From the November 2005 issue of Better Homes & Gardens magazine.

1 1/2 lbs. parsnips, peeled and halved lengthwise  
1 1/2 lbs. carrots, peeled and halved lengthwise  
3 TBS. olive oil  
1/2 tsp. ground coriander  
1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon  
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced  
2 TBS. fresh cilantro  
1 tsp. lemon zest  
3/4 tsp. fennel seeds  
2 TBS. lemon juice  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/8 tsp. pepper  
1 TBS. olive oil

Cut the long carrot and parsnip sticks in half crosswise. In a large skillet, cook the parsnips in a small amount of salted boiling water, covered, 2 minutes. Add the carrots, return to a boil and cook 4 minutes. Drain the veggies and set aside. Wipe the skillet dry. Heat 3 TBS. oil on medium. Add the fennel, coriander and cinnamon and cook 1 minute until fragrant. Add the parsnips, carrots and garlic and cook 10-12 minutes, until the veggies are tender, turning occasionally. Remove from the heat and stir in the cilantro, zest, juice, salt and pepper, then drizzle with the remaining 1 TBS. oil. Serves 10.

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: Organic Seeds from Olds Garden Seeds of Madison

Klein's is excited about carrying our first line of organic seeds and we're happy to say that they're coming from a local company. According to Today's Garden Center magazine, Olds will be offering for the first time in 2011 a new collection of organic garden vegetable and herb seeds.

Olds Seed Company, located on Packers Avenue here in Madison, has been in the seed business since 1888. Olds Seed is a wholesale supplier of superior quality turf grass, farm, restoration, habitat, and garden seed and seed related products to our customers throughout the Upper Midwest.

Focusing on the Upper Midwest has allowed Olds Seed to develop products that will deliver peak performance in a challenging climate. Our commitment to you, our customers, is to keep research and product development a top priority so you will continue to enjoy the excellent products and service you have come to depend on from Olds Seed.

Olds Garden Seed is only sold through independent garden retailers nationwide. Olds is not sold by 'big box' stores or discount chains.

Olds Organic Seeds are currently in stock!!

#### NATURAL NEWS--

A recent Mad Gardener question prompted this article for our Natural News Section and provides a fantastic and easy alternative to chemical fertilizers:

Dear Mad Gardener -

I've recently learned of the recommendation to brew a "tea" of steeped alfalfa pellets (containing no additives) for watering my hostas. I understand this essence of grass will improve the nitrogen content in the soil (for all of outdoor plants), but am concerned it may attract critters--particularly rabbits. What's your opinion in this regard? Judith

Hi Judith,

Alfalfa pellets, available as rabbit, guinea pig and hamster food, are great organic alternative to chemical fertilizers. Alfalfa, like all legumes, is a source for nitrogen and a host of micronutrients. The brew recipe I found on-line says to fill a garbage can with 20 gallons of water. Then add 16 cups of alfalfa pellets and 2 cups of Epsom salts. Stir well and allow to steep for one week. Before use, stir again and pour by the cupful on flowers, veggies, shrubs, roses and, yes, your hostas! I found no reference regarding the attraction of critters to the garden. My assumption is that as the brew ferments, it loses much of its appeal for rabbits and other critters. Use the "tea" weekly during the growing season.

Thanks for your great question,  
The Mad Gardener

## FEBRUARY'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

### COFFEE PLANT

For the next few weeks (until March 20), Olbrich Botanical Gardens is having a Bolz Conservatory exhibit entitled 'From Bean To Coffee Cup', spotlighting the source and story of the coffee bean. In light of that, we thought it appropriate to talk about the coffee plant as a houseplant. This very common houseplant is currently available at Klein's in 3" pots and is usually available year round and is readily available by special order in larger sizes. The coffee plant is a large and easy-to-care-for foliage plant that adds drama and elegance to any bright indoor setting.

The coffee plant (*Coffea arabica*) is grown for its glossy, dark green leaves. The clusters of star-shaped, fragrant, white flowers and red berries, which contain the coffee beans, are rarely seen on indoor potted plants or can take several years before they are produced. The coffee plant is a native to eastern tropical Africa. Water plants liberally in the summer and sparingly in the winter. Adequate humidity is also important. Leaves brown easily if the air is too dry.

Coffee plants love to spend the summer outdoors in a spot with morning sun and afternoon shade. Too much sun can burn the plant. Moving the plant outdoors in the summer increases the chances of it flowering and setting fruit. Plants are very long lived and can grow rather large, but can be pruned to shape regularly. Plants should be repotted into a larger pot each spring in any rich, peat based potting mix. The variety 'Nana' is a more compact cultivar and is suitable for indoor culture.

### YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER. . .

Hi there. I am wondering what you know about growing figs around here. I live in town up here in Viroqua. Thanks, Arwyn.

Hi Arwyn,

It is an AMAZING coincidence that you're asking me about figs!!! Just yesterday I was going through seed and plant catalogs for things I might want to purchase this upcoming spring. I had to stop because we had our work Christmas party yesterday evening. The very last plant I looked at and am considering getting before I had to stop is a miniature fig! I put a huge question mark through the picture so I could look into it later.

As far as I can find, there aren't any fruit producing figs (ficus) hardy north of Zone 6. Zone 6's northern edge reaches to Northern Illinois and pockets in Wisconsin along Lake Michigan in the southeast corner of the state. The most reliable cold tolerant fig seems to be a variety called 'Chicago Hardy'. It too, dies completely back to the ground each winter, yet grows and produces fruit in a single season. Even in Zone 6, it apparently requires a heavy mulch to survive the winter. I believe you live in Zone 4 (we're Zone 5 here in Madison) so chances of survival seem slim, unless you have a warmer microclimate in your yard; perhaps along the south facing foundation of your house.

Having said that, figs, however, (including 'Chicago Hardy') make EXCELLENT container plants that can be brought indoors each winter. Two smaller fruit producing varieties that I'm looking at in the Logee's Tropical Plants catalog ([www.logees.com](http://www.logees.com)) include: Ficus carica 'Celeste' and 'Petite Nigra'. Here are their descriptions from the Logee's catalog.

Ficus carica 'Celeste' -- 'Celeste's' ability to produce two sizeable crops a season has far surpassed our expectations. The sweetness of a 'Black Mission' fruit, whether eaten fresh or dried, is why this fig is so famous.

Ficus carica 'Petite Negra' -- 'Petite Negra' is an amazing fruiting fig that produces medium sized plump black juicy figs at a young age. This impressive fig is perfect for the indoor or patio gardener since it starts fruiting when plants are less than 12" tall. 'Petite Negra' is an ornamental beauty as well since the mitten-shaped green leaves make a lovely backdrop for the ripening deep purple fruit. Grow in full sun on a windowsill or outside in warm temperatures. If growing conditions are kept warm, it will hold its foliage year-round. Under cool temperatures, the plant will drop its leaves and go dormant until temperatures warm up.

I order plants from Logee's quite often. Their plants are always healthy and reasonably priced; so they come with my highest recommendation. Their print catalog is free. During the winter months I have plants shipped to my work, where I know there will always be someone there to receive them; instead of sitting outside.

I hope I was of some help and 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](mailto:sue@kleinsfloral.com). Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Events must be garden related and must take place in the Madison vicinity and we must receive your information by the first of the month in which the event takes place for it to appear in that month's newsletter. This is a great opportunity for free advertising.

Dane County Winter Farmer's Market  
Saturdays, January 8 thru April 19, 8:00-noon  
Madison Senior Center  
330 W. Mifflin

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

Olbrich's Garden's Bolz Conservatory Exhibit -  
From Bean to Coffee Cup  
January 8 through March 20, 2011  
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00  
In the Bolz Conservatory

The history of the coffee bean is as rich as double espresso and dates back to the 6th Century. Whether you call it java, mud, or a shot in the arm, and estimated 2 billion cups are consumed every day around the world - making coffee the most popular beverage in the world. Discover the source and story of the coffee bean in this Bolz Conservatory exhibit.

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

24th Annual Orchid Quest 2011  
Saturday, February 5, 10:00-5:00  
Sunday, February 6, 10:00-4:00

Escape the winter blues and join orchid enthusiasts at Orchid Quest 2010. Exhibits of exotic and deliciously fragrant orchid flowers will awaken your senses and bring cheers on a winter day. In addition to many orchid exhibits, OQ will also feature florist displays, painted porcelain, art work, quilted banners and a raffle. OQ is one of the largest orchid shows and sales in the Midwest.

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

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

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall  
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way  
Madison, WI 53713  
608/267-3976 or [www.alliantenergycenter.com](http://www.alliantenergycenter.com)

18th Annual Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo  
Friday, February 11, 4:00-9:00  
Saturday, February 12, 8:00-6:00  
Sunday, February 13, 10:00-4:00

Walk through the custom garden display, attend demonstrations and seminars, register for workshops and view over 400 different exhibitors. One and two day tickets are available at the door or in advance from Klein's. Visit [www.wpt.org/gardenexpo](http://www.wpt.org/gardenexpo) for more information. Meet Shelley Ryan, master gardener and producer/host of The Wisconsin Gardener series, UW-Extension experts, and Master Gardeners. All show proceeds, including admission fee, support Wisconsin Public Television programming. Garden Expo also meets WPT's educational and community outreach mission.

Tickets cost \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Two-day passes are available for \$10 both in advance and at the door. Advance tickets are available at Klein's.

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall  
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way  
Madison, WI 53713  
608/267-3976 or [www.alliantenergycenter.com](http://www.alliantenergycenter.com)

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

- Check perennials for heaving during warm spells. Remulch as needed.
- Continue bringing out your cooled forced bulbs for indoor enjoyment.
- Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.
- Check for and treat for pests on plants brought in from the garden.

- \_\_\_ Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.
- \_\_\_ Repair and clean out birdhouses. Early arrivals will be here soon!
- \_\_\_ Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering or buying new ones.
- \_\_\_ Order seeds and plants.

#### A SEED STARTING PRIMER--

Starting your own plants from seed can be both rewarding and frustrating for the beginning gardener. From experience, it's best to start out slow. This eliminates some of the frustration. Experience will gain you knowledge and confidence. Before starting your seeds, read the packet and get a little basic information. Some seeds are best sown directly in the garden come spring and not started indoors. It's best to do a little research by going on-line or purchasing a good gardening book. The packets themselves will usually tell you whether to direct sow in the garden or how many weeks before our last frost date to sow indoors. Our last frost date is about May 10. Using a calendar, count back from May 10 and this will be your sow date.

One can start seeds on any sunny windowsill and in almost any container. Warmth and moisture are critical in getting most seeds to germinate. But a few pieces of basic and inexpensive equipment purchased at your garden center and/or hardware store will help you get started and make your seed starting experience a great success. Here is a shopping list:

- \*A heating mat--makes seeds germinate quickly and uniformly
- \*A few 10x20" trays without holes
- \*A few clear humidity domes
- \*A sterile seed starting mix
- \*A 4' shop lamp w/ 2 fluorescent bulbs (you don't need "gro-lights")  
or a seed growing rack if you'd like to make an investment
- \*A few 10x20" trays with holes
- \*A few sheets of empty cell packs, e.g. 4-packs or 6-packs
- \*A water mister
- \*A timer
- \*A soilless potting mix

All of the above items, except the timer, are available at Klein's.

Again, following package instructions, sow the seeds, as many as you want, in a very shallow, open container, filled with moistened seed starting mix. This container can be anything from very low or cut off dairy containers to disposable food storage containers. Per package instructions, cover or don't cover the seed. Some seeds require light for germination. Next place your seeded containers in a tray without holes, mist them till well watered and cover with a humidity dome. Place your covered tray on the plugged in heating mat under the shop light. Set your timer so the shop light is on for 13 hours (off for 11 hours).

In a few days, as your seeds begin to sprout, remove them from under the humidity dome and place in a well-lit, warm location. Keep your seeds and seedlings moist. Different seeds sprout at different rates so this can take from a few days to a few weeks. Once all your seeds have germinated, unplug your heating mat. You can now move all of your seedlings to under the shop light still set at 13 hours.

Once your seedlings have 2 sets of “real” leaves it’s time to “prick them out” (transplant them). Do this by placing a sheet of empty cell packs in a tray with holes. The holes now become necessary for proper drainage. Fill the cells with soilless potting mix and moisten well with the mister. Using a pen or pencil “dibble” a hole into each of the cells. This is where you’ll now place your seedling. Remove the seed starting mix and seedlings as a clump from their starting containers. Gently break apart this root ball, separating your seedlings. The pen or pencil will come in handy as an added tool to help separate the seedlings. Carefully place one seedling in each of the holes you put in the prepped cells. Gently firm in with your finger tips. Mist well to water thoroughly and place in a warm, well lit area. Using your shop light again makes this easy. The seedlings may seem weak and somewhat abused, but they’re very resilient and will pop back quickly. When watering, fertilize your new plants with a very dilute solution, rather than at full rate. By May 10 your flowers and vegetables should be ready to put in your garden and you can say that you did it yourself--beginning to end.

In addition to the Livingston, Olds & Northrup King available at Klein’s, check out the following seed sources:

All offer free print catalogs and easy on-line ordering. Seeds usually arrive within just a few days after an order is placed.

Some of our very favorite seed and plant sources include:

For seeds:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds @ [www.RareSeeds.com](http://www.RareSeeds.com) or 417/924-8887

Burpee @ [www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com) or 800/888-1447

Harris Seeds @ [www.harrisseed.com](http://www.harrisseed.com) or 800/514-4441

Johnny’s Select Seeds @ [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com) or 207/861-3901

Jung’s Seeds @ [www.jungseed.com](http://www.jungseed.com) or 800/247-5864

Park’s Seeds @ [www.parkseed.com](http://www.parkseed.com) or 800/845-3369

Seeds of Change @ [www.seedsofchange.com](http://www.seedsofchange.com) or 888/762-7333

Seed Savers @ [www.seed savers.org](http://www.seed savers.org) or 563/382-5990

Select Seeds @ [www.selectseeds.com](http://www.selectseeds.com) or 800/684-0395

Territorial Seeds @ [www.territorialseed.com](http://www.territorialseed.com) or 888/657-3131

Thompson & Morgan @ [www.thompson-morgan.com](http://www.thompson-morgan.com) or 800/274-7333

For bulbs:

Brent & Becky’s Bulbs @ [www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com](http://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com) or 877/661-2852

Colorblends @ [www.colorblends.com](http://www.colorblends.com) or 888/847-8637



John Scheeper's @ [www.johnscheepers.com](http://www.johnscheepers.com) or 860/567-0838  
McClure & Zimmerman @ [www.mzbulb.com](http://www.mzbulb.com) or 800/883-6998

For plants:

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

Note: To receive every possible seed, plant or garden supply catalog imaginable, check out Cyndi's Catalog of Garden Catalogs @ [www.gardenlist.com](http://www.gardenlist.com). Most catalogs are free and make for great winter reading!

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

IN FEBRUARY:

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

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

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

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

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

---We take advantage of the warm and sunny rooms in our front range (the retail area) to do any touch up painting or construction to ready ourselves for the spring season.

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

---We continue to assess our needs for spring staffing and try to have the new people in place and trained by March 1. March and April are the busiest months behind the scenes in the greenhouse and we rely on a dedicated, hardworking team to have everything ready for the customer come May 1 and the spring onslaught.

#### EMPLOYEE PROFILE--NAOMI BOLDON

There are 50-piece puzzles and there are 1000-piece puzzles. Naomi Boldon is 1000-piece puzzle. The pieces of the puzzle that have shaped her life experience are not only numerous and colorful, but intricately shaped. Unlike most, this puzzle has no rigid, straightedged borders. Many of the pieces are abstract: healing, zen, beauty, peace, knowledge, passion, nature, energy, humility, spirituality. The puzzle is far from complete and Naomi's stint at Klein's is just a very small piece of the completed work.

Naomi Boldon moved to Madison just before 2000 after spending much of her growing up years in Necedah, WI and moving around a lot. Naomi says she had visited Madison in the past and liked its people and the "good energy" the city exudes. The move felt right. Up until that move, Naomi had been pursuing a master teaching degree in Usui Reiki in La Crosse.

"Reiki is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing. It is administered by "laying on hands" and is based on the idea that an unseen "life force energy" flows through us and is what causes us to be alive. If one's "life force energy" is low, then we are more likely to get sick or feel stress, and if it is high, we are more capable of being happy and healthy". ([www.reiki.org](http://www.reiki.org))

After 5 years of extensive study and training in Reiki, Naomi asked herself "what now?". How do I pass on what I've learned; making it easier for people to understand and more real and more tangible? How do I make a career out of this? This is when many of the pieces to the puzzle came together.

Naomi says she has an inherent and deep-seated interest in medicine and healing. She attended Western Wisconsin Technical College in La Crosse to pursue a degree in nursing. She says that after taking a hard and critical look at the practices of western medicine, she learned there are many more options available to patients than just the "norm". Training in Reiki therapy became an option and La Crosse happens to be a center in Reiki training. After training, Naomi had the rewarding opportunity to volunteer with cancer patients at Mayo Clinic on their Reiki team.

It was after moving to Madison, Naomi says, that she rediscovered the classic book *Back to Eden* (1939) by Jethro Kloss. Jethro Kloss (1863-1946), a Wisconsin native, was an early pioneer in natural self healing using herbs. It was while reading that book that Naomi found out about Dominion Herbal College in Burnaby, B.C., Canada near Vancouver. Dominion Herbal College is one of a handful of colleges in the world that trains in medical herbalism. Briefly, medical herbalism is a traditional medicine practice that uses plants and plant extracts for medicinal purposes.

Naomi says she had one of those “this is it” moments that many of us experience in life--a moment of enlightenment when we know the direction we need to go. Naomi’s “this is it” moment had arrived. She had life choices to make--money and stress versus happiness and fulfillment. The pieces of the puzzle fell logically into place.

Just recently, in 2010, Naomi received her 4-year degree from Dominion College with 500 clinic hours and in different parts of Canada. With her degree, Naomi not only wants to become involved in a patient's healing process, but also teach people about using plants as an integral part of that process and not as a “last resort” once all other treatments have failed. Her professional goals include opening her own apothecary or dispensary as a community herbalist where clients can connect with the very plants that heal them. Short term, Naomi is hoping to establish a clientele and to teach classes on herbal medicine here in Madison.

It was while pursuing her degree and making trips to Vancouver that Naomi joined Klein’s the spring of 2010. She says that each plant has its own medicinal use and rather than just working with the processed plant product, she feels a need to understand, familiarize and connect with the plants themselves. She says each plant has its own story. The one plant that surprised her most in how underutilized it is for its health benefits is the lowly dandelion.

For the moment, Naomi says that between work, school and family there has been little time for anything else. She says that some day she’s hoping to travel throughout the world and learn hands-on how indigenous cultures use the plants around them. She says that it’s equally important that her daughter, Samantha, travel and experience the world in ways she hasn’t had the chance to.

As Naomi talks about her passions and experiences one senses a ‘calm excitement’ about all things possible. One also senses an openheartedness and an open-mindedness to the world and people around her. Naomi says she enjoys working with people as is demonstrated when she works with customers in our retail area. She says she loves that Klein’s is a local and family owned business that nurtures a sense of community--a testimony to Naomi’s holistic view of the world.

PERMANENT FEATURES--  
KLEIN’S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Have our monthly newsletter e-mailed to you automatically by signing up on the right side of our home page. We'll offer monthly tips, greenhouse news and tidbits, specials and recipes. . .everything you need to know from your favorite Madison greenhouse. And tell your friends. It's easy to do.

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

Ask us your gardening questions by e-mailing us at [madgardener@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:madgardener@kleinsfloral.com). Klein's in-house Mad Gardener will e-mail you with an answer as promptly as we can. The link is posted on our home page and in all newsletters.

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

#### FACEBOOK

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

#### SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

We offer a 10% Off Senior Citizen Discount every Tuesday to those 62 and above. This discount is not in addition to other discounts or sales. Please mention that you are a senior before we ring up your purchases. Does not apply to wire out orders or services, i.e. delivery, potting, etc.

#### BUCKY BOOK COUPON

Klein's is again showing our proud support of community UW athletics and academics with advertising and coupons in the 2010 edition of the Bucky Book. We are also selling the 2010 edition in-store--the perfect gift. Visit [www.buckybook.com](http://www.buckybook.com) for more information and to order your copy.

#### RECYCLING POTS & TRAYS

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

#### KLEIN'S "BLOOMING PLANT OR FRESH FLOWER CLUB"

Send or receive 3 month's, 6 month's or a whole year's worth of seasonal blooming plants or fresh flower arrangements and SAVE!!

There's no easier way to give gorgeous blooming plants or fresh flower arrangements, month after month. Each month a seasonal blooming plant or fresh arrangement will arrive on yours or

a loved one's doorstep. You choose the start date and we'll make your special delivery the very same day each month.

For just \$75, \$150 or \$300, respectively, we'll send 3 month's, 6 month's or a year's worth of seasonal blooming plants--perhaps a bulb garden or azalea in the spring, one of our famous large geraniums or a tropical hibiscus in the summer, a chrysanthemum or Thanksgiving cactus in the fall or one of our homegrown poinsettias or cyclamen for the holidays and winter months. Selection of the blooming plant will be based on availability.

And for just \$90, \$175 or \$350, respectively, receive one of Klein's lovely fresh floral arrangements. All arrangements will be seasonal and will contain only the freshest flowers. All arrangements are Designer's Choice, but are sure to satisfy the most discerning lover of fresh flowers.

Prices include delivery within our delivery area. Enclosure cards will accompany each delivery if desired. For delivery details visit the "Permanent Features" section of our newsletter below. If your chosen delivery date happens to fall on a Sunday or holiday, we will deliver it on the next available delivery day. All regular delivery conditions apply.

Join our Blooming Plant or Fresh Flower Club by calling Klein's at 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661 or by stopping in. We request that payment be made in full before the first delivery and prices do not include sales tax.

#### DELIVERY INFO

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses delivers daily, except Sundays, throughout all of Madison and much of Dane County including: Cottage Grove, DeForest, Fitchburg, Maple Bluff, Marshall, McFarland, Middleton, Monona, Oregon, Shorewood Hills, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee and Windsor. Current delivery rate on 1-4 items is \$6.95 for Madison, Maple Bluff, Monona and Shorewood Hills, slightly more to the surrounding communities and for more than 4 items. We not only deliver our fabulous fresh flowers, but also houseplants, bedding plants and sundries. A minimum order of \$25.00 is required for delivery. Delivery to the Madison hospitals is \$4.95. Deliveries to the four Madison hospitals are made during the early afternoon. There is no delivery charge to funeral homes in the city of Madison, although regular rates apply for morning funeral deliveries to Madison's west side. Regular rates also apply for funeral deliveries in the surrounding communities.

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if requested: 53703, 53704, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, Marshall, McFarland, Monona, Sun Prairie, Waunakee and Windsor. We begin our delivery day at 8:00 a.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. Except during holidays, the following west-side zip codes and communities can be delivered only during the afternoon: 53705, 53706, 53711, 53713, 53717, 53719, 53726, Fitchburg, Middleton, Oregon, Shorewood Hills and Verona.

During holidays (Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc.) we are able to make morning deliveries to all of the above areas. We are not able to take closely timed deliveries on any holiday due to the sheer volume of such requests. It's best to give us a range of time and we'll try our absolute hardest. Orders for same day delivery must be placed by 12:30 p.m. or by 2:30 p.m. for Madison zip codes 53704 and 53714. We do not deliver to Cambridge, Columbus, Deerfield or Stoughton.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Please refer all questions, concerns or feedback in the following departments to their appropriate supervisor.

Phone: 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661

Floral Department Manager--Kathy Lehman [kathy@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:kathy@kleinsfloral.com)

Grower, General Manager --Jamie VandenWymelenberg [jamie@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:jamie@kleinsfloral.com)

Assistant Manager--Jennifer Simon [jsimon@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:jsimon@kleinsfloral.com)

House Accounts & Billing--Barbara Foulk [barb@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:barb@kleinsfloral.com)

Delivery Supervisor--Rick Halbach [rick@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:rick@kleinsfloral.com)

Owner & Manager--Sue Klein [sue@kleinsfloral.com](mailto: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/allcentennialgardens/>

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