

'THE SAGE'--APRIL 2011

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

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Our "Mad Gardener" Is Ready for Your Questions!

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OUR 2011 SPRING PLANT LIST can be viewed on-line beginning about April 15 by clicking on **SPRING PLANTS** on the left side of our home page. This comprehensive listing contains every plant that Klein's will be offering for the 2011 season and is extremely helpful for both the home gardener and landscaper alike. The list contains fun facts, cultural information and pot or pack size for each item and comes in very handy in planning your garden this spring.

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.

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

APRIL STORE HOURS:

Again during the 2011 spring season, Klein’s will open at 7:00 a.m. every Tuesday! Year long, Tuesday is Klein’s Senior Discount Day. On Tuesdays those 62 and over save an extra 10% off all regular priced items. Beginning Tuesday, April 26, we’ll open the doors an hour early. Avoid the lines and shop early! The extended Tuesday hours last through mid-June.

In addition, with the incredible success of our outdoor checkout located in our bedding plant area, we will be making this one of our primary checkout options for the 2011 spring season. Weather permitting, the outdoor register will be open daily 9:00-5:00. The outdoor checkout is located just outside our Potting Shed at the back of Showroom #1.

Early April Hours

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00
Saturday: 9:00-5:00
Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Easter Sunday, April 24, we will be open 10:00-4:00.

Extended Spring Hours Begin Monday, April 25.

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-8:00
Tuesdays: 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:00-6:00

Sunday: 9:00-5:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

April 1--April Fool's Day

April 16--First Farmers' Market on the Capitol Square, 6:00-2:00

April 17--Full Moon

April 19--Passover begins

April 22--Earth Day

April 22--Good Friday

April 24--Easter Sunday, Klein's will be open 10:00-4:00.

April 24--Beginning of **Administrative Professionals Week**. In appreciation to those people who make your life so much easier, have one of Klein's talented designers create for you that perfect 'Thank You.' Nothing displays your appreciation better than a lovely bouquet of spring flowers or a cheerful blooming plant. Order early. This is one of Klein's busiest delivery weeks.

April 25--First Day of Klein's Extended Spring Hours. The days are longer and there's lots to do in the garden. We make shopping easier to fit into your hectic schedule by offering extended retail hours from late April through much of June. Evenings are a great time to shop at Klein's. The greenhouses are cooler and the lines are short. It makes for a more relaxed shopping experience and our staff is more available to answer all your gardening questions. Look under **April Store Hours** above for more details.

April 27--Professional Secretaries' Day

April 29--Arbor Day

May 8--Mother's Day. Order early and shop early!!! Mother's Day is second only to Valentine's Day for deliveries and the Saturday before Mother's Day is traditionally our busiest day of the entire year. Extra drivers will be on the road Saturday, May 8 for prompt and efficient service. Click on **Delivery Information** on the left side of our home page for more details about Klein's delivery. **We will not be delivering on Mother's Day, Sunday May 9.**

May 10--This is Madison's average last frost date, but keep your eye on the weather before planting. Madison has a notorious reputation for late May frosts. Many local old-

time gardeners refuse to plant, especially their tomatoes, peppers, morning glories, etc. until Memorial Day weekend when the soil has warmed properly. Novice gardeners especially have a tendency to plant too early!

‘THE FLOWER SHOPPE’:

Some of the most frequently asked questions we receive at Klein’s are those relating to plant safety and pets. While we post a comprehensive listing of plants toxic to pets and humans at the end of each monthly newsletter, listed below are just a few of the more common plants found in many American homes that should be avoided when pets are in the house. Many of these plants are popular flower shop gift items and should, therefore, be considered in your own gift-giving.

Note: There are many, many pet-friendly plants. Some include: African violets, nearly all ferns, spider plants, wandering jews, prayer plants, peperomias, jade plants. For an extremely comprehensive listing of pet-friendly plants, please visit:

www.petfriendlyhouse.com/information/Plants/non_poisonous_plants.aspx

17 Poisonous Plants

From the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) website at www.aspca.org.

Lilies

Members of the *Lilium* spp. are considered to be highly toxic to cats. While the poisonous component has not yet been identified, it is clear that with even ingestions of very small amounts of the plant, severe kidney damage could result.

Marijuana

Ingestion of *Cannabis sativa* by companion animals can result in depression of the central nervous system and incoordination, as well as vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, increased heart rate, and even seizures and coma.

Sago Palm

All parts of *Cycas Revoluta* are poisonous, but the seeds or “nuts” contain the largest amount of toxin. The ingestion of just one or two seeds can result in very serious effects, which include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and liver failure.

Tulip/Narcissus Bulbs

The bulb portions of *Tulipa/Narcissus* spp. contain toxins that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

Azalea/Rhododendron

Members of the *Rhododendron* spp. contain substances known as grayantoxins, which can produce vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness and depression of the central nervous system in animals. Severe azalea poisoning could ultimately lead to coma and death from cardiovascular collapse.

Oleander

All parts of *Nerium oleander* are considered to be toxic, as they contain cardiac glycosides that have the potential to cause serious effects—including gastrointestinal tract irritation, abnormal heart function, hypothermia and even death.

Castor Bean

The poisonous principle in *Ricinus communis* is ricin, a highly toxic protein that can produce severe abdominal pain, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, weakness and loss of appetite. Severe cases of poisoning can result in dehydration, muscle twitching, tremors, seizures, coma and death.

Cyclamen

Cyclamen species contain cyclamine, but the highest concentration of this toxic component is typically located in the root portion of the plant. If consumed, Cyclamen can produce significant gastrointestinal irritation, including intense vomiting. Fatalities have also been reported in some cases.

Kalanchoe

This plant contains components that can produce gastrointestinal irritation, as well as those that are toxic to the heart, and can seriously affect cardiac rhythm and rate.

Yew

Taxus spp. contains a toxic component known as taxine, which causes central nervous system effects such as trembling, incoordination, and difficulty breathing. It can also cause significant gastrointestinal irritation and cardiac failure, which can result in death.

Amaryllis

Amaryllis species contain toxins that can cause vomiting, depression, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hypersalivation, anorexia and tremors.

Autumn Crocus

Ingestion of *Colchicum autumnale* by pets can result in oral irritation, bloody vomiting, diarrhea, shock, multi-organ damage and bone marrow suppression.

Chrysanthemum

These popular blooms are part of the Compositae family, which contain pyrethrins that may produce gastrointestinal upset, including drooling, vomiting and diarrhea, if eaten. In certain cases depression and loss of coordination may also develop if enough of any part of the plant is consumed.

English Ivy

Also called branching ivy, glacier ivy, needlepoint ivy, sweetheart ivy and California ivy, *Hedera helix* contains triterpenoid saponins that, should pets ingest, can result in vomiting, abdominal pain, hypersalivation and diarrhea.

Peace Lily

Spathiphyllum contains calcium oxalate crystals that can cause oral irritation, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing and intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips and tongue in pets who ingest.

Pothos

Pothos (both *Scindapsus* and *Epipremnum*) belongs to the Araceae family. If chewed or ingested, this popular household plant can cause significant mechanical irritation and swelling of the oral tissues and other parts of the gastrointestinal tract.

Schefflera

Schefflera and *Brassaia actinophylla* contain calcium oxalate crystals that can cause oral irritation, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing and intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips and tongue in pets who ingest.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . that we grow nearly all of our spring annuals and vegetables onsite here at Klein's?

For you, the consumer, that means that if it seems we're low or sold out of something on the sales floor, we might actually have more of that item growing in one of our ten production houses out back.

Because we're so busy this time of the year, we may not have the opportunity to get every plant restocked in a timely manner. As you might guess, the restocking process is continuous. Therefore, if you don't see a plant in the retail showrooms, ask one of our helpful staff and we would be happy to see if we have more in stock. Need 10 flats of white impatiens and there are only 2 in the showroom? Just ask, and we'll head out back for the other 8. No waiting for next week's supply truck with no guarantee they'll even be on it.

But because we grow everything onsite, the term "while supplies last" is a bit more poignant. As the planting season wanes, we eventually allow ourselves to run out of annuals, vegetables, etc. But it never hurts to ask...who knows what we've stashed in those back greenhouses?

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

ENTRY: MARCH 3, 2011 (The Manufacturer's Instructions Do Not Include . . .)

Nowhere on my can of leaf shine do the instructions mention that this product offers excellent pest control. I've been using Pokon leaf shine for many years to rid my plants houseplants and overwintered garden plants of mealy bugs, whiteflies, spider mites, fungus gnats and especially aphids. When sprayed on the plants (per instructions) existing insects stick to the plants as the leaf shine dries. The leaf shine smothers the pests in all stages of development. That fact is especially noticeable on whiteflies. When used on mealy bugs, the insects never return. I've used it many times on our hoyo plants at work which are especially prone to mealy bug infestations. For fungus gnats, I lightly spray the soil surface. Doing so likely does a number of things. It probably makes the soil surface undesirable for the larvae that are developing there and it bonds the soil surface, thereby making it difficult for adults to escape or to lay eggs. Who knows? But for whatever the reason, it works!

It's important not to overuse the leaf shine because too much can damage a plant by blocking leaf pores. I use it only remedially rather than preventatively and only as a last resort. It's also not recommended for succulents, ferns, finicky plants or on plants with fuzzy leaves. And, by the way, one big can of Pokon leaf shine lasts for years.

ENTRY: MARCH 22, 2011 (A Cold Spell Grips the Garden)

Both customers and my coworker, Carly, have expressed concern in the past week that this current cold snap might hurt the bulbs sprouting in their gardens. And though it might damage the crocus, aconite and snowdrop blooms that have already appeared, this cold snap will have no lasting effect. With temperatures in the middle teens, we are no where near the record lows for these dates; all of which are still below zero.

Nearly all of the most common bulbs we grow in our gardens are reliably hardy to Zone 2 or at least 40° below zero. While existing flowers and flower buds could be damaged in extremely cold weather, the foliage is rarely damaged, except for perhaps some brown tips on the leaves. And though the damaged flowers will not bloom again this season, they'll certainly be fine in the upcoming years. Luckily this cold spell happened so early in the season. Hopefully the weather will warm to normal in the not too distant future so the growing season can proceed.

ENTRY: MARCH 27, 2011 (The City Mouse)

Just yesterday evening during dinner, Dave and I had a really fun time watching the cutest deer mouse visit the bird feeder just outside the patio doors, grab a seed and scamper away; only to return moments later for another morsel. He was very aware of our presence. If we made even the slightest move, he darted away. After a while, he'd very hesitantly reappear for another seed, hoping we wouldn't notice.

I've had many interesting experiences with mice over the years. Because I feed birds and, therefore, have a ton of food around, I probably have more than the average number of encounters of most home owners. Nearly every fall I find bird seed (brought

indoors from outside by mice) hidden in the oddest spots throughout our house. I've found safflower seed and/or millet stashed in the toes of shoes and boots in a closet and tucked in my work socks in a basement dresser. One time I awoke to find soil from a potted plant all over the surface of a table in the living room, only to find a cache of seeds buried inside the pot.

With each and every oil change for my pickup truck the technician has to show me what he's discovered inside the air filter chamber. Without even looking, I tell him I already know what he's found--a perfect nest of fine grass, feathers and other soft materials, along with a few of those safflower seeds. My Toyota Tacoma has become a favorite hiding and nesting spot. After arriving at work on many a morning I'm greeted by that familiar smell of burning popcorn. The mice have again overnight stored seed somewhere in the exhaust system. It's only after I've driven the short distance to work that I'm made aware. And I'm sure that not many people have a cork plugging their snow thrower exhaust. A few years back a mouse wreaked havoc when he decided to store seed inside the engine of my brand new Toro. The cork became my solution after a costly repair. Now I'm hoping Dave doesn't forget to remove the cork when he needs to use it!!

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

Few vegetables say spring better than fresh locally grown asparagus. And though considered gourmet by many, asparagus plants are extremely long-lived and very easy to grow for any home gardener. When growing asparagus, the most important work is in preparing the beds correctly and then in the subsequent weedings. The plants themselves are very hardy in Wisconsin and require little care. In fact, asparagus can be found in many parts of the state in huge patches among roadside weeds.

Asparagus is an ancient vegetable and eaten in parts of the world. The word comes from the Persian 'Asparag' meaning sprout. After all, it's the delectable spears that we harvest early each spring as the poke through the soil. The foliage follows later. Asparagus is one of the earliest vegetables we're able to harvest from Wisconsin gardens.

To grow asparagus plant roots or potted plants in early to mid-spring. Asparagus likes a sunny or only partially shaded spot richly fertilized with compost or aged manure.

Set the crowns of bareroot asparagus 12-16" apart in a trench 6-8" below ground level. Lay out the roots flat and cover with 1-2" of soil. As the spears grow, gradually fill the trench with soil. Keep free of weeds and irrigate well. A marsh hay mulch may be applied mid-summer. The leaves feed the roots and must not be cut back until they die naturally in the fall. Apply additional manure or compost each fall and spring. Full

harvest will begin in the second season in mid-spring and thereafter for many years. Harvest by bending the spear until it snaps.

Asparagus is delicious both raw and cooked. Here in Wisconsin, asparagus is also commonly pickled and served as a garnish in Bloody Marys and Old-Fashioneds. When cooking asparagus it's crucial to avoid overcooking. Nero once said "Execute them faster than you cook asparagus." Roasting is a quick, easy and flavorful way to prepare this most treasured of spring treats.

At Kleins, we sell both bareroot and potted plants and both green and purple varieties.

BALSAMIC ROASTED ASPARAGUS-A fantastic and simple recipe from the pages of the January 2001 issue of Cooking Light magazine.

1 lb. asparagus
1 TBS. olive oil
1 TBS. balsamic vinegar
1/2 tsp. coarse salt
1/2 tsp. minced garlic
1/4 tsp. ground pepper

Preheat oven to 425°. Remove any tough ends from the asparagus, but leave the spears whole. Place the asparagus on a rimmed cookie sheet and drizzle with the oil and the vinegar. Sprinkle with salt, garlic and pepper and toss to coat. Bake 10 minutes, stirring once. Serves 4.

SPRINGTIME POTATO SALAD--This delightfully refreshing salad from the Wisconsin State Journal dated June 2001 can either be served chilled or at room temperature.

For the dressing:

6 TBS. red wine vinegar
1 TBS. sugar
1/4 cup fresh parsley, minced
1 TBS. dried basil
2 cloves minced garlic
salt and pepper to taste
2 TBS. minced green onion

For the salad:

1/1/2 lbs. small red potatoes, peels on
1 lb. asparagus
1 x 16 oz. can artichoke hearts, drained (not marinated)
12 cherry tomatoes.

Whisk together the vinegar, sugar, parsley, basil, garlic, salt and pepper. Add the onions and set aside. Cook the potatoes until just tender in simmering water, drain and cut in half. Cook the asparagus spears 1-2 minutes in a small amount of boiling water until barely tender. Drain and rinse in cold water. Cut the asparagus into 1" lengths. Slice

the artichokes into pieces. Place the potatoes, asparagus and artichokes in a large bowl and refrigerate. Just prior to serving, pour the dressing over the veggies and toss gently. Garnish with the cherry tomatoes. Serves 6.

ASPARAGUS LASAGNA--This award-winning recipe comes to us from the pages of the Wisconsin State Journal from July of 1995.

1 1/2 lbs. asparagus, cleaned and cut into 1" pcs.
3 cups sliced carrots
2 green onions, chopped
1 cup mushrooms, chopped
3 TBS. butter
1/4 cup flour
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. curry powder
2 1/4 cups milk
8 oz. lasagna noodles (9 noodles)
1 egg
8 oz. shredded provolone, mozzarella or Swiss
2 cups cottage cheese

Cook the carrots and asparagus until tender crisp and set aside. Saute the onions and mushrooms together in the butter. Add the flour, salt and curry powder. Stir gently while slowly adding the milk. Bring to a boil. Allow to thicken at a low boil and set aside. Mix together the slightly beaten egg, cottage cheese and the shredded cheese. Cook the noodles per package instructions. Grease a 9 x 13" pan and place half of the mushroom sauce in the bottom. Top with 3 noodles, then 1/3 of the veggies, 1/3 of the egg mixture and 1/3 of the remaining mushroom sauce. Add another layer of noodles, repeating the layers twice again (ending with the sauce). Bake about 45 minutes or until done at 325°. Let rest 15 minutes before cutting. Serves 8.

CREAM OF ASPARAGUS SOUP--This classic comes to us from the original Moosewood Cookbook--still considered by some as the bible of vegetarian cooking.

1 1/2 lbs. asparagus
6 TBS. butter
1 1/2 cups chopped onions
salt and pepper to taste
6 TBS. flour
2 cups water or soup stock
4 cups scalded milk
dill weed
a dash of tamari (Japanese soy sauce)

Discard the tough ends from any asparagus spears. Break off the tips of the asparagus and set aside. Chop the remaining stalks. Melt the butter in a soup pot, add the stalks and onions; salt lightly. Cook-8-10 minutes. Sprinkle in the flour and cook on very low 5-8 minutes. Add the water or stock, bring to a low boil and cook 8-10 minutes, stirring

until thickened. Puree, bit-by-bit with milk in a blender or in the pot using an emersion blender. Blend until smooth. If using a blender, return the puree to the pot. Add dill, salt, pepper and tamari to taste. Heat the soup gently--don't boil or cook it!. As the soup heats, steam the asparagus tips until tender, but still green. Stir into the soup and serve immediately. Serves 4-5.

SAUTEED ASPARAGUS WITH MUSHROOMS--Use your favorite fresh mushrooms for this recipe. This dish is also excellent served chilled.

1 lb. asparagus, trimmed
1 1/2 TBS. extra virgin olive oil
1/2 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced
1 tsp. fresh thyme, chopped, or 1/2 tsp. dried
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

In a large skillet, bring 2 inches of water to a boil with a teaspoon salt. Prepare a bowl of ice water and set aside. Add asparagus to the boiling water and cook 4 to 5 minutes or until barely tender but still firm. Using a slotted spoon or tongs, remove the spears to the ice water bath. Leave in ice water 5 minutes or until cool. Drain and set aside. Discard blanching water. Using the same skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms, asparagus, thyme and salt and pepper to taste. Sauté until mushrooms are wilted and the asparagus is just heated through, about 3 to 4 minutes. Serve warm or chilled. Yields 4 servings.

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: Products from Bonide®-- "Trusted Since 1926."

Klein's continues to expand our line of Bonide products for both home and garden.

New this in 2011, Klein's is very excited about **Bonide's Touch Screen Problem Solver** to help you with your pest control needs. The **Touch Screen Problem Solver** is an easy way for you to choose the right product for your specific needs. Consumer friendly and easy-to-use, the **Touch Screen Problem Solver** is there to answer your questions without having to wait in line waiting for one of our retail associates. The **Touch Screen Problem Solver** is located in the Bonide section of our retail area.

Family owned and operated, Bonide has been providing quality lawn and garden products since 1926. Continually developing new products and formulations, Bonide does not have to answer to an outside board of directors, investment group or some global corporation. Bonide Products are developed specifically for you, the home gardener.

Bonide has always been committed to providing the best possible solutions for Home, Lawn and Garden Pest Problems. This includes attractive, convenient, cost effective packaging and product selection second to none. Packaging and labels are color-coded (and likewise merchandised) for easy shopping.

Bonide is very proud of their line of Garden Naturals--effective, time tested solutions that Bonide has been marketing since long before it was "hip to be green".

For complete product detail, including label and product instructions, visit Bonide's website at www.bonide.com.

NATURAL NEWS--

Klein's Promotes Sustainability . . .

Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Though small in the global picture, we at Klein's make every attempt we can to contribute to this greater good.

--**Klein's continues to grow most of our plant product on site** and much of it from seed (including one of the largest selections of tomatoes, peppers and ethnic vegetables in the area), thereby reducing packing material and fuel needed to ship finished product.

--**Klein's uses our own homemade compost in our soil recipes.** In the fall, the city of Madison drops off truckloads of leaves in order to create our own rich compost. We are one of a handful of growers to use real soil in our potting mixes.

--**Klein's supports and promotes Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs)** via our monthly newsletter and by purchasing many of our seasonal cut flowers from local farmers each summer. Many on our staff are themselves CSA members or have worked on CSA farms.

--**Klein's is making every effort to protect our environment by using recycled paper and coir (coconut fiber) pots** to replace plastic pots and using renewable and biodegradable rice hulls in our soil mixes instead of perlite. Doing so not only helps the environment, but actually produces healthier and more vigorous plants.

--**Klein's has reduced our reliance on environmentally unfriendly growth regulators** on our plants in favor of proper spacing, regular pinching and growing our plants under cool conditions.

--**Klein's employs a large, stable and proudly diverse work force** who themselves pump dollars into the local economy. Many on our team have worked at Klein's for more than a decade. To learn more about the great people working at Klein's, click on "Our Staff" on the left side of our home page.

--**Klein's attempts, as much as is possible, to purchase product from Wisconsin-based companies**, including our weekly purchases of indoor blooming plants and all of our finished perennials in the springtime.

APRIL'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

SAVVY SUCCULENTS® FOR SUMMER CONTAINERS

Something new has entered the Madison gardening scene--and in a big way!

"Thanks to EuroAmerican Propagators' **Savvy Succulents** program, succulents quickly are moving beyond the houseplant category and into the great outdoors. With an expanded array of new and eye-catching colors, textures and shapes, **Savvy Succulents** are breaking the succulent stereotype and finding new uses for these easy-to-grow plants, including garden beds, borders and container gardens."

"Those at EuroAmerican saw that gardeners absolutely loved the combination of different succulents into one creative work of art. They used this to develop a line that would captivate customers to use the many different types of plants for eye-catching combination containers. EuroAmerican is also encouraging the use of **Savvy Succulents** in the landscape. While most varieties are hardy to Zone 9, treating these items as exotic annuals opens up all sorts of new opportunities for consumers to get creative in the garden." (Source: www.todaysgardencenter.com)

Here at Klein's we have expanded our Savvy Succulent program to include now over 3 dozen assorted plants--all very eye-catching and super-easy to grow. Choose from Klein's own stunning preplanted containers or the individual components to create your own. At summer's end, all choices make for superb and long-lived houseplants to be brought outdoors year after year. Choices include:

Aeonium--Large rosettes on tall stalks are the highlights of this North African native. From the Greek 'aionos' meaning immortal.

Agaves--This large family of sometimes large, long-lived and easy-to-grow plants is closely related to the aloes. Leaves are large, usually spiny and oftentimes beautifully

patterned. Most have one long spine on the tip of each leaf. Most are native to Mexico extending into the U.S. and South America.

Aloes--Another huge family of plants; this one from the African continent. Leaves are usually thick and fleshy and form a rosette. Many are very decorative and a favorite of collectors worldwide.

Cacti--Though not a part of the Savvy Succulent collection, Klein's continuously carry an assortment of cacti that add height and interest to any mixed succulent container.

Crassulas--An extremely large genus of succulent plants whose most famous member is the common jade plant. There are some native to most arid parts of the world, but most come from areas around South Africa. Some are upright, while others trail. The choices are many.

Dyckias--Though a succulent in many ways, dyckias are actually a bromeliad and, therefore, related to pineapples and air plants. They are native to dry areas of South America and are the most cold hardy of the bromeliads. Dyckias are very sought after among collectors.

Echeverias--So large and so varied is this group of plants that there are entire websites devoted to them. They are arguably the most beautiful of all succulents. Plants form a beautiful rosette and flower reliably at least once a year. Many are at their most beautiful in cooler weather. Echeverias are all native to the Americas.

Euphorbias--Choices from this large family of spurge/poinsettia relatives includes the brightly colored pencil cactus 'Fire Sticks' and a selection of uniquely large flowered crown-of-thorns. All Euphorbias have a sticky latex-like sap that easily identifies this group of plants. Most are native to Madagascar and East Africa, but there are some native to all parts of the world.

Haworthias--Native to South Africa, mostly with thick fleshy leaves filled with a translucent jelly and formed into a rosette. They vary greatly in size, color and form.

Kalanchoes--Most are profuse bloomers, especially during the cooler times of the year. Plant form varies greatly from upright to trailing and many have fuzzy leaves and stems.

Sedums--The word 'Sedum' comes from the Latin word 'sedo' meaning 'to sit'. This refers to their generally ground-covering nature. They vary greatly in height, color and flower shape.

Semperviviums--Common hens and chicks combine perfectly with other succulents at the edges of mixed containers forming neat little clusters with the chicks sometimes cascading over the edges. This hardy perennial is a favorite in rock gardens and rock walls.

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER . . .

I have two pear trees that will be 3 years old this spring and one of them is full of suckers. Shall I take them all off at once? Also, that same tree is very tall, which will make picking the pears off very hard. Can you cut off the main branch off like you would on an apple tree? And one last question. Last year I waited too long before I picked my pears as they were already pretty ripe. How do you tell when it's the perfect time to pick them. Thanks so much for the info. Your gardening friend, Jackie

Hi Jackie,

First off . . . the pruning. Yes, you can remove all of the suckers at once and, yes, you can lop off the leader. But growing trees laterally and pruning them correctly will entail more work down the road. Generally, fruit trees are allowed one strong leader. Removing the current leader will encourage heavy branching just below that leader, which is usually undesirable. If the top were removed, most people would then train a new leader, removing all side branches.

But, like apples and all members of the apple family (which a pear is), the trees can be trained laterally. If I were you, I'd go on line or get a good book on fruit tree pruning before going at your tree to decide which approach you'd like to take. Good pruning is very important and an investment in the future shape of your tree and will effect both its appearance and fruit production down the road. Fruit trees should be pruned in March here in southern Wisconsin; while the tree is still dormant. It is also the appropriate time to apply dormant oil as the first round of pest control.

And as for the ripening . . . Pears, unlike apples, ripen from the inside out. Therefore, when the fruit appears perfect on the outside, the insides are already overripe and sometimes mealy. Picking pears at the perfect state takes some practice. Pears are picked when they're "mature", but not ripe. Pears need to ripen off the tree. There is a narrow window when they are perfect to be picked--mature, but not underripe. They are ready to be picked just when they detach easily when pulled in a horizontal direction. If they don't detach easily, they are not ready for picking. Once picked, they need to be chilled for a period of time. Different pear varieties require different lengths of time in the chilled state (some days and some weeks). Without the chilling, pears usually fail to ripen and remain hard. Once the chilling period has passed, pears can be fully ripened on the counter or even quicker in a paper bag with apples or ripe bananas which release ethylene gas. Pears ripen very quickly, so they need to be watched closely. Pears are ripe when they become "thumb tender" just below the stem. If hard, they aren't ripe.

I hope this was of some help and if you have more questions, please feel free to ask.
Thanks much!!

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

Dane County Winter Farmer's Market

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

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Dane County Farmer's Market

Saturdays, April 16 thru November 6-5, 6:00-2:00
On the Capitol Square

Wednesdays, April 20 thru November 2, 8:30-2:00
In the 200 block of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Olbrich Garden's

Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Light Gaps

April 2 thru July 10, 2011
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00
In the Bolz Conservatory

The trees are trimmed and the bushes are pruned during annual maintenance in the Bolz Conservatory...now it's time to see the light in the forest! Learn about light and how plants develop and change in the forest as light fluctuates. With more than 650 plants in the Bolz Conservatory, the tropical plants compete for every sunbeam that radiates through the glass pyramid. When a gap in the forest canopy is created naturally, or by a clipping from Olbrich's Conservatory staff, new growth develops at an exceptional rate. Admission is \$1 for the general public. Admission is always free for Olbrich Botanical Society members and children 5 and under, and is free for the general public on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon.

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

Outdoor Living Extravaganza: a Retreat & Seminar with Proven Winners

Friday, April 8, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Peck Center at the Milwaukee Zoo
10001 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee

Cost: \$80/person

Registration includes the seminar, a catered lunch, snacks throughout the day, raffle prizes, and a gift bag filled with fun and useful gardening items.

You'll learn from our experts about creative new ways to use color, the easiest ways to grow plant varieties, how to put together exceptional containers, and much more.

Speakers include:

Kerry Meyer--PW Program Manager, "Only the Best for Your Garden"

Melinda Myers--Gardening Expert & TV Host, "Small Space Gardens"

Tim Wood of Spring Meadow Nursery, "The Hunt for New Plants"

P. Allen Smith--Gardening Expert & TV Host, "Creating Beauty: Stunning Solutions for Every Garden"

To register, visit www.provenwinners.com or call 877-865-5818

Olbrich Garden's Leaf Mulch Sale

Thursday, April 14, 2:00-5:00 (Members Only)

Friday, April 15, 2:00-5:00

Saturday, April 16, 9:00-12:00

Saturday, April 16, 12:00-4:00 (Load-Your-Own)

April 17-Until Supplies Last, 9:00-4:00 (Load-Your-Own)

April 21, April 28, 9:00-5:00 (Bulk Available)

April 23 and April 30, 9:00-1:00 (Bulk Available)

Buy the same leaf mulch used in Olbrich's gardens for your home garden. Leaf mulch cuts down on watering and weeding, recycles local leaves, and is credited for Olbrich's healthy looking gardens. Bags are \$6.50 each and \$40 for a tractor scoop (8-10 bags).

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

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

Isthmus Green Day

Saturday, April 16, 9:00-5:00

At the Monona Terrace

Isthmus Green Day is a half expo, half eco-celebration designed to help people in our community — no matter what their circumstances — become a little greener and to have fun doing it! Isthmus Green Day features more than 100 exhibitors, all ready and willing to help you...

- * Safeguard your part of the planet
- * Wow your taste buds
- * Stimulate your mind
- * Improve your health
- * And so much more . . .

Fun and informational presentations:

- * An amazing line-up of speakers talk about shortening the distance from farm to table.
- * The Fabulous Beekman Boys from Discovery's Planet Green reality show share adventures from their urban-to-rural life with goats, chickens, pigs, and one diva of a llama.
- * A townhall discussion on healthy food in schools features farmers, students, parents and school representatives.

Tickets cost \$5. Those who bike or bus to the event will get in free. Children under 12 will also receive free admittance.

Visit www.thedailypage.com/green for details

Woodland Wildflowers

Sunday, April 17, April 24 & May 1 • 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Walks from the Visitor Center

April 17: Spring ephemerals carpet the woodland floor. We may see bloodroot, toothwort, spring beauty and others along the trails in Gallistel Woods.

April 24: This can be a peak time for spring ephemerals such as trout lily and wood anemone. It is also time to look for returning migrant birds such as house wrens, brown thrashers and kingbirds.

May 1: What better way to spend a May day? Take a walk with naturalists through the woodland wildflower restorations near the Visitor Center.

University of WI Arboretum
1207 Seminole Hwy.
Madison, WI 53711
[608/263-7888](tel:6082637888) or uwarboretum.org/events

Olbrich Garden's Spring Pansy Sale

Saturday, April 23, 2011
From 10:00-Supplies Last

Celebrate spring with a cheery pansy, pansy, or viola grown in Olbrich's own greenhouses. Pots of pansies are \$6 each, with three plants per pot. Decorative containers are extra. Proceeds benefit Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

Pansies are cool weather plants that do best if planted in the ground. However, they also look great in a container, and make wonderful springtime gifts. Not only decorative, pansies are also edible and add a flash of color to dishes as a garnish. Or, try planting colorful pansies in a container with lettuce - it's an entire salad in one pot!

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

Orchid Sale

Saturday, April 23, 2011
From 10:00-2:30 or while supplies last

Celebrate spring with a blooming orchid plant. Sponsored by the Orchid Growers Guild. Orchid Growers Guild members will be available to answer questions. A portion of the proceeds benefits Olbrich Gardens. For information call 608-235-4450.

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

The Wisconsin Gardener "Bees, Trees & Pears Please"

Thursday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.
on Wisconsin Public Television
Check local listings for the station nearest you.

At Olbrich Gardens, Jeff Epping shows us the ancient art of Espalier. It's a great way to grow apples, pears and many other trees in a small space. At the Vinery in Madison we'll learn how to make a mosaic garden stake out where the sun will shine right through it. You don't have to water it or even fertilize it. In Union Grove we see therapeutic horticulture in action with the Green Works training program. UW-Extension Entomologist Phil Pellitteri shows why bees and other pollinators are declining and what we can do to help. Without pollinators, some crops will be unable to bear fruit.

For more information, visit www.wpt.org/garden

Flowering Woody Ornamentals

Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm
In the Longenecker Gardens

This tour, led by Dr. Ed Hasselkus, will include the yellow and little girl series magnolias, early lilacs and rhododendrons, and other spring flowering plants.

University of WI Arboretum
1207 Seminole Hwy.
Madison, WI 53711
[608/263-7888](tel:6082637888) or uwarboretum.org/events

The Wisconsin Gardener “Mistakes We have Made”

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.
on Wisconsin Public Television
Check local listings for the station nearest you.

Host Shelley Ryan takes a lighthearted look at gardening mistakes we have all made. At Mayflower Greenhouse in Hobart, Jan Wos helps correct common mistakes made to container plantings including underwatering, overwatering and poor pruning. In Egg Harbor, visit a shopping mall where the trees and shrubs were planted too close to the road and buildings. The site is currently in the process of being re-landscaped. UW-Extension Plant Pathologist Brian Hudelson fesses up to drowning his own tree and shares some other common tree planting mistakes including strangulation. The program ends with a pruning nightmare and luckily some advice on how to fix it.

For more information, visit www.wpt.org/garden

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

___ Continue bringing out your cooled forced bulbs for indoor enjoyment.

___ Early in the month, pot up cannas and dahlias for early growth.

- ___ Begin removing, cleaning and storing winter bird feeders.
- ___ Begin your summer bird feeding regimen.
- ___ Keep birdbaths full and clean.
- ___ Repair and put out birdhouses. Put out nesting material like pet hair & fibers.
- ___ Seed starting is in full swing and even winding down by the end of April.
- ___ Sterilize seed starting equipment and pots with a 1:16 bleach solution.
- ___ Shop for summer bulbs like gladiolas, lilies and dahlias.
- ___ Prune late summer and fall blooming shrubs.
- ___ Do not prune spring blooming shrubs like lilacs, forsythia or viburnum.
- ___ Continue bringing in branches for forcing: pussy willow, forsythia, quince, etc.
- ___ Increase fertilizer to full strength by month's end (houseplants).
- ___ Ready the lawn mower if you haven't done so already.
- ___ Start weeding your beds. It's easier while weeds are small & the soil moist.
- ___ Remove all winter mulch from beds.
- ___ Remove the soil mound from around roses and mums.
- ___ Lay soaker hoses in beds. It's easy now without plants in the way.
- ___ Cut back all remaining perennials and ornamental grasses left from fall.
- ___ Begin sowing seeds of larkspur, poppies and hardy annuals in the garden.
- ___ Plant pansies, violas and calendula into the garden and containers.
- ___ Harden off your seedlings and wintered over potted geraniums.
- ___ Repair lawns by sowing grass seed. Rake the lawn.
- ___ Move cole crop transplants to the garden; broccoli, kohlrabi, cabbage, etc.
- ___ Plant onion sets and early spring crops like lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets
- ___ Begin planting perennials. Plant shrubs and trees.
- ___ Visit Klein's---the showrooms are filled with spring annuals.

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 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.seedsavers.org or 563/382-5990
Select Seeds @ www.selectseeds.com or 800/684-0395
Territorial Seeds @ www.territoralseed.com or 888/657-3131
Thompson & Morgan @ www.thompson-morgan.com or 800/274-7333

For bulbs:

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

For plants:

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

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

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

IN APRIL:

---Transplanting is in full swing on the transplanting line in our back greenhouses.

Employees work 8-10 hour shifts planting thousands of plugs and tiny seedlings into the cell packs you purchase in the spring. Once planted, the flats move by conveyor and then monorail into the various greenhouses, all kept at different temperatures depending on the plant.

---The greenhouses and showrooms are filling fast with thousands of hanging and potted plants. We're constantly moving product around, trying to make the best use of our limited space.

---Retail items are arriving nonstop for unpacking and pricing, everything from garden ornaments and pottery to pesticides and fertilizers.

---Employees are readying the thousands of lilies, hydrangeas, azaleas, mums and spring bulbs that we deliver to the many area churches each Easter. We look forward to this time when the greenhouses are emptied to make room for our bulging spring crop.

---Product is moved from the warmth of the greenhouses to the outdoors for the hardening off process. Plants are pinched back and moved outside so they can be acclimated for spring planting in your garden. Plants that have not been properly acclimated can find the transition to full sun and temperature extremes quite difficult. You've probably noticed that many garden centers do not harden off their plants properly. Symptoms include leaf burn and root rot.

---We're readying the showrooms for the spring onslaught. Tables become fully stocked. Spring info and price signs are put into place. The last week of April is an amazing time to visit Klein's. The showrooms are jam-packed, bursting with color, awaiting the spring rush which usually begins about May 1.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--SUE KLEIN (Owner & Manager)

After years of raising her family and remaining behind the scenes, Klein's Floral and Greenhouses owner and manager, Sue Klein, has again fully immersed herself in the day to day operations of her family business. The kids have grown up, the business is growing and the time has come to move us to the next levels. Klein's evolution into a well-respected and modern greenhouse facility is a direct result of Sue's insight and leadership. Under Sue, Klein's exposure in the community continues to grow. Klein's is becoming increasingly visible in the Madison community through involvement and sponsorship. Our visibility has blossomed dramatically as we increase advertising and through Sue's involvement with Downtown Madison Inc., Dane Buy Local and many other community groups. Under Sue, Klein's continues to modernize the facility and offer the customer high quality and cutting edge product they've come to expect.

Sue, quite literally, grew up in the greenhouse. She and her parents lived in the farmhouse attached to the greenhouses along East Washington Avenue until they moved into their new home just around the corner on Mendota St. Sue has very fond

memories of growing up in her greenhouse setting. From a very early age she helped her mother in the flower shop with arrangements and corsages. During her free time, Sue says she enjoyed curling up with a book and the greenhouse cats atop the pile of marsh hay out back.

After graduating from Madison East High School in 1983, Sue attended the University of Wisconsin, receiving a B.S. in Floriculture in 1987. It was during her time at the university that Sue met Klein's current head grower, Jamie Vanden Wymelenberg.

After graduation, Sue attended the American Floral Art School in downtown Chicago, where she received training at one of the world's leading institutes for floral design. Shortly thereafter, in 1990, ownership of Klein's Floral & Greenhouses was passed on to Sue from her parents and the changes at Klein's began. Currently, Sue's roles encompass all financial matters, marketing and advertising, payroll and long-term planning, along with some purchasing and human resources. But it's floral design and customer service that remain Sue's biggest passions.

A certified Master Gardener, Sue says that in her own Waunakee garden, she especially enjoys container gardening and raising vegetables with her children. Sue hopes that some day, one or more of her kids shows interest in taking over the family business. Passing on to them her own fond memories of growing up in the greenhouse makes that far more likely. Jim (the mechanic and businessman), Jon (the plantsman) and Michael (the salesman) already help out as much as possible between school and sports. And daughter, Megan (the artist), has already spent much of her young life running through the greenhouses or "helping out" in the flower shop or at the counter-- just like mom did. The next Klein generation is at the doorstep so stay tuned!

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 rick@kleinsfloral.com

Owner & Manager--Sue Klein sue@kleinsfloral.com

RELATED RESOURCES AND WEB SITES

University of Wisconsin Extension
1 Fen Oak Ct. #138
Madison, WI 53718
608/224-3700

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

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic
Dept. of Plant Pathology
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

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

Insect Diagnostic Lab
240 Russell Labs
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

<http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/>

U.W. Soil and Plant Analysis Lab
8452 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-4364

<http://uwlabs.soils.wisc.edu/>

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

Garden Catalogs (an extensive list with links)

<http://www.gardenlist.com/>
also <http://www.mailordergardening.com/>

Invasive Species

<http://www.invasive.org/>

Friends of Troy Gardens
Rm. 171, Bldg. 14
3601 Memorial Dr.
Madison, WI 53704
608/240-0409

<http://www.troygardens.org/>

Community Gardens Division (Madison area)

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

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)
<http://www.madison.com/communities/mamga/>

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Program
Department of Horticulture
1575 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Madison, WI 53706
608/265-4504
<http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>

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

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

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

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

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

University of Wisconsin-West Madison
Agricultural Research Center

8502 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-2257
<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/>

PLANTS POISONOUS TO CHILDREN:

Children may find the bright colors and different textures of plants irresistible, but some plants can be poisonous if touched or eaten. If you're in doubt about whether or not a plant is poisonous, don't keep it in your home. The risk is not worth it. The following list is not comprehensive, so be sure to seek out safety information on the plants in your home to be safe.

- Bird of paradise
- Bull nettle
- Castor bean
- Chinaberry tree
- Crocus
- Daffodil
- Deadly nightshade
- Dieffenbachia (dumb cane)
- Foxglove
- Glory lily
- Hemlock
- Holly berry
- Indian tobacco
- Iris
- Jimsonweed
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Lily of the valley
- Marijuana
- Mescal bean
- Mexicanes
- Mistletoe
- Morning glory
- Mountain laurel
- Night-blooming jasmine
- Nutmeg
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Poison ivy
- Poison sumac
- Pokeweed
- Poppy
- Potato
- Privet

- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Water hemlock
- Wisteria

PLANTS POISONOUS TO PETS:

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

- Aconite
- Apple
- Arrowgrasses
- Autumn Crocus
- Azaleas
- Baneberry
- Bird-of-Paradise
- Black locust
- Bloodroot
- Box
- Buckeye
- Buttercup
- Caladium
- Carolina jessamine
- Castor bean
- Chinaberry tree
- Chockcherries
- Christmas berry
- Christmas Rose
- Common privet
- Corn cockle
- Cowbane
- Cow cockle
- Cowsliprb
- Daffodil
- Daphne
- Day lily
- Delphinium (Larkspur)
- Dumbcane
- Dutchman's breeches
- Easter lily
- Elderberry
- Elephant's ear
- English Ivy
- European Bittersweet
- Field peppergrass

- Foxglove
- Holly
- Horsechestnut
- Horse nettle
- Hyacinth
- Iris
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Jimsonweed
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Laurels
- Lily of the valley
- Lupines
- Mayapple
- Milk vetch
- Mistletoe
- Monkshood
- Morning glory
- Mustards
- Narcissus
- Nicotiana
- Nightshade
- Oaks
- Oleander
- Philodendrons
- Pokeweed
- Poinsettia
- Poison hemlock
- Potato
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Rosary pea
- Sago palm
- Skunk cabbage
- Smartweeds
- Snow-on-the-mountain
- Sorghum
- Star of Bethlehem
- Wild black cherry
- Wild radish
- Wisteria
- Yellow jessamine
- Yew