

'THE SAGE'--JUNE 2011

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Our "[Mad Gardener](#)" Is Ready for Your Questions!

Klein's 3rd Annual Most Beautiful Garden Contest

[School Garden Movement](#) in Madison Takes Off

Favorite Seed , Bulb & Plant Sources

Learn about [Liquid Fence® Deer & Rabbit Repellant](#)

Foraging For Food in Madison

Our Favorite Rhubarb Recipes

[Notes from Rick's Garden Journal](#)-- from May 2011

--Virginia Bluebells

--An Unbelievably Late Spring

--A Bed of Sage

Plant of the Month: [Peonies](#)

[Recipes](#) of the Month

You Asked the Mad Gardener About [Dividing Rhubarb](#)

June in the Garden: [A Planner](#)

[Gardening Events](#) Around Town

Become a Fan of Klein's on [Facebook](#)

Join Klein's Blooming Plant or Fresh Flower Club

Delivery Information

The City of Madison Recycles Used Plastic Pots

Related [Resources and Websites](#)

[Plants](#) Harmful to Kids and Pets

KLEIN'S 3RD ANNUAL MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDEN CONTEST

Think you have the **Most Beautiful Garden**? Perhaps all of that hard work and creativity can literally pay off by entering our **Most Beautiful Garden Contest**. We invite you to submit photographs along with our entry form to Klein's via e-mail or snail mail by September 1. Winners are selected by our staff and will be announced on our website in early September. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places include gift cards for a Klein's shopping spree. We have a separate category for container gardens.

They say pictures say a thousand words and sometimes the most simple of designs says more than the most elaborate. Please visit our home page at www.kleinsfloral.com for details and entry information.

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.

[To Top](#)

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](tel:6082445661) or at 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.

JUNE STORE HOURS:

Through June 19:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-8:00

Saturday: 8:00-6:00

Sunday: 9:00-5:00

After Father's Day, June 19:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Open Monday, July 4: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Throughout June, visit Klein's and check out our specials on annuals, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets and containers. Specials and selection change weekly so give us a call for the most up-to-date information at [\(608\) 244-5661](tel:6082445661) or toll free at [888-244-5661](tel:8882445661). We pride ourselves in having the best cared for plants in even the hottest weather and throughout the month we'll continue to offer a full selection of annuals and perennials.

June 14--Flag Day

June 15--Full Moon

June 19--Father's Day

June 21--First Day of Summer

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

Big changes recently occurred in the floral department at Klein's. After well over a decade with Klein's, floral manager, Kathy Lehman, left Klein's for a major career change, taking a position assisting the elderly at Meadowmere Assisted Living. Kathy says that it was while attending to her dying father a few years back she felt she may have a more meaningful calling in life. She knew she was the kind of person who could do the job and do it well. She says she's planning on continuing her training in assisting the elderly and hopes to become fully certified in the years to come. Kathy says she finds her clients endearing and that after just weeks on the job she's found new people around who enrich her life.

Kathy's new position is just a few minutes commute from her rural Sun Prairies home and she finds her new schedule suits her life perfectly.

Kathy will be sorely missed by her friends/family at Klein's. She has left an indelible mark on the Klein's experience. Her storytelling and laughter were a daily part of coming to work each morning. Kathy's design experience and creativity are top notch. It will be difficult to replace her after so many years service. She says she already enjoys bringing fresh flowers from her own garden to work to brighten the lives of the residents. Kathy is a gardener so is sure to visit Klein's frequently in the years to come; not only to stay in touch, but to continue adding to her own garden.

We wish Kathy lots of love, joy and success. We'll miss you!
Her friends and family at Klein's

DID YOU KNOW...

... that there is a movement in our schools that brings gardening and food production into the curriculum?

Until not so many years ago, and until the agricultural program was cut from East High School, Klein's supplied a good percentage of the plants that students planted in the school gardens near Kennedy Elementary School on Madison's east side. But along with art and music, agriculture was seen as a non-necessity as school budgets were cut and belts tightened. Now there seems to be a resurgence in interest as we realize that kids need to get outside more and eat better. The following fascinating and optimistic article by Phil Busse comes to us from Isthmus, May 20, 2011:

School Garden Movement in Madison Takes Off

Planting a Seed

The springtime sky is moody. An inconsistent wind gusts from the south, blowing warmly across the wide-open field in east Madison. Gloomy storm clouds gather on the horizon.

"Look up at the sky," Megan Cain, the program manager for Community GroundWorks, tells a group of 40 kindergartners and first-graders. Cain wears a straw hat ringed with a bright turquoise ribbon, and stands with her feet planted in a wide stance like a benevolent drill sergeant. A few fat raindrops fall.

"Sometimes it gets a little windy," she tells the students from Kennedy Elementary. The school pulls students from the nearby middle-class neighborhood. It is a racially mixed group, split evenly between white and black students.

Cain continues, "Sometimes it gets a little rainy. And you may get dirty."

Like tiny soldiers, the students stand in two single-file rows at rapt attention, seemingly unfazed by the weather. This is their second season as part of a new outdoor education program.

Over the past several years, more than a dozen new gardens have sprung up in schoolyards across Madison. They are side projects for parents or teachers, and mostly unconnected to each other.

But taken as a whole, these gardens add up to what can decisively be called a movement — and already educators are crowing about seriously positive results.

"There are nascent garden projects everywhere in town," explains Rachel Martin, who manages the Schools Program for Sustain Dane, the local nonprofit at which I work. Martin helped start one of Madison's pioneering school gardens at Midvale School. "It is ready to explode."

The plot serving Kennedy Elementary sits at the curve of a residential road, an open space that breaks up a monotonous row of identical houses. Unlike most school gardens, this plot is managed by a nonprofit, Community GroundWorks, which also manages a rambling field near Mendota Mental Health Institute.

Last year, Community GroundWorks hosted 200 students from three different schools at this site alone. Over the next two years, Cain believes that number will more than double.

[To Top](#)

Today is the students' first day back to the garden plots after the winter hiatus, and they are clearly excited to get to work.

"What does it take to grow plants?" Cain asks. Nearly every hand shoots up.

"Water," yells out a boy wearing a red Rangers jacket. "Sun," adds a towheaded first-grader with a bowl haircut.

The hands slowly lower; all but one. A blond girl bites her lip and extends her arm as far as she can. When Cain doesn't call on her, the girl finally blurts out, "Yesterday I planted zucchini at my house."

Cain smiles, nods her head and announces, "Today we are planting cabbage."

A surprisingly loud cheer goes up, as if it has just been announced that the Easter Bunny will make a special visit to the school. The boy in the Rangers jacket high-fives his buddy.

"We will grow about 1,600 heads of cabbage here," Cain informs her charges. "That's more than students at your school. And, they will grow as big as your head."

It is early in the growing season and the acre-wide field is mostly blank dirt, except two short rows of ankle-high spinach that another school group recently planted. Cain points to the small bushy green bundles and tells a girl wearing an immaculate white jacket and matching white stockings: "You can taste some, if you want."

The first-grader bends down gingerly, pulls off a spinach leaf and nibbles on it. When Cain turns her back to lead some of the students to a mulch pile, the girl bends over and grabs another clump. And then another. She smiles broadly, showing a missing front tooth.

"I just love spinach," she announces.

A Whole Movement

The statistics are as familiar as they are troubling. America's schoolchildren are inactive, eating poorly and getting fat. Diabetes rates are soaring, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that one-third of American children are obese.

Not unrelated, the National Restaurant Association reports that, on a typical day, about 30% of adolescents in the U.S. consume at least one meal from a fast-food joint.

But a small group of educators believe that school gardens — or, more broadly, outdoor education — may help fix these problems.

"A lot of funding has been going into anti-obesity efforts and creating better lifestyles for kids," says Martin. "School gardens have become a tool for that."

Martin, lean and tall, earned a graduate degree in Public Policy and Urban Planning from the UW-Madison, then stepped out of the workforce for several years to raise her son and daughter. During that

time, she teamed up with another parent to plot the school garden at Midvale, also recruiting a dad who owned a landscaping company.

"There's been a whole movement reconnecting students to active learning," Martin explains. "All these pieces are coming together."

Teachers everywhere are looking for new ways to actively engage students — and not only for obvious topics like botany and nutrition, but also science, basic economics and cultural sensitivities.

The garden at Midvale recently hosted a plant sale to finance garden expenses and is now adding a plot to represent foods from the various ethnic groups that make up its diverse student body, including southeast Asian, African American and Latino students.

Because school gardens are not managed directly by the Madison Metropolitan School District, there is no official count as to how many exist, but it is estimated there are now about 20 active school gardens, twice as many as two years ago. And proponents believe the acreage and kids served will double again in the next two years.

"There is just so much happening," says Martin. "Every day I hear more and more."

Good Food Makes Better Kids

School gardens are proven successes, in more ways than one.

During the 2009-10 school year, at Milwaukee's Harley Environmental Elementary — a school that centers its curriculum on gardening — third-graders performed considerably higher than the Milwaukee school district average on math and reading comprehension tests.

And studies in California, where schools have long integrated gardens into the curriculum, show long-term positive effects on eating habits, "significantly increasing" preference for vegetables, and "strong demonstrated improvements in knowledge and behavior."

There seems to be no single reason for the quick rise in popularity and prevalence of school gardens in Madison and across the country. But perhaps the most public proponent of school gardens is the nation's so-called mom-in-chief, Michelle Obama.

During her first year at the White House, Obama invited local elementary students to plant a garden. She's pushed to improve child nutrition, recruiting celebrities as varied as New York Yankees and Sesame Street characters, as well as Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Even so, federal policy remains largely unformed and unfunded, with the real work being done at the local level.

Take what's happening at Van Hise elementary, on Madison's near west side.

Just 10 feet from the school, five raised beds and another four plots fill in a stretch of turf directly adjacent to a sloping hill. At the far edge, a 10-foot windmill decorated like a sunflower turns steadily. Foot-high tree stumps are set out as stools.

All of this has happened since last May, when a parent approached principal Peg Keeler about creating a school garden. Though not a gardener herself, Keeler immediately embraced the idea.

"We just went with it," she says, seeing it as a way to help her school "go from good to great."

Van Hise fares well on test scores and serves families that tend to be well educated and financially stable — two factors often correlated with better health habits. But the garden has nonetheless been an added benefit.

"It has been great for our students who have trouble staying engaged," she says. "This becomes a place for kids to have their sensory breaks."

As if on cue, while Keeler and I are talking, a young boy storms around the corner. His face is red with anger and frustration. He just had a fight with his reading buddy. He stomps his feet.

[To Top](#)

Keeler walks calmly over to the boy, bends and whispers into his ear. "Would you like to dig in the dirt?" she asks, pointing toward a tall pile of mulch.

The boy calms down, nods and announces, "For 10 minutes." He picks up a plastic shovel and begins to load a small wheelbarrow. "I'd like it to be quiet," he requests.

Although the idea for the garden came from one parent, Keeler has gathered support from many people. The decision on what to plant is made by the students. A neighbor designed the sunflower windmill.

And Whole Foods and UW Health gave the school "seed money," says Keeler, who quickly apologizes for the garden-centric pun. She hesitates for a moment, then adds, "It really is a grassroots effort, though."

How To Serve Everyone

Ironically, the biggest challenge for school gardens is how to make them sustainable. Although the school district owns the land and signs off on school gardens, it doesn't provide active support.

The school district is understandably wary. Staff and teacher workloads are already heavy without adding garden caretaking to the jobs-to-be-done list. Moreover, the growing season stretches mainly over the summertime, when teachers and students are absent.

Some schools have recruited nearby neighbors to weed and water; at other schools, teachers and parents volunteer.

"[The school district] wanted to know how we will maintain the garden," explains Keeler. "Our goal, we told them, is to build ownership so it doesn't become an old weedy place."

Most school gardens consist of one or more plots on school grounds, with students and teachers managing the upkeep, funded by plant sales and small grants.

Another interesting model is Badger Rock Charter Middle School, scheduled to open this fall. This charter school takes the concept a giant leap forward, placing gardening and food at the center of the school curriculum.

"Most schools are big and the garden is small," says Mark Wagler, who chairs the school's curriculum committee. "This is the other way around."

The school will have an on-site gardener and a greenhouse for the winter months. Located at the intersection of Badger and Rimrock roads, a block south of the Beltline, it primarily will serve low-income families nearby. When applications were accepted in April, the 50 spots filled up quickly; there already is a waiting list.

In addition to the 20 school gardens located onsite, a few other models have been established. Most notably, Community GroundWorks maintains two multi-acre plots with year-round staff and volunteers. They serve 11 schools and nearly 1,000 students.

"We don't want to see school gardens competing with each other for funding and resources," says Nathan Larson, who runs Community GroundWorks' education programs. "Instead we are looking at all the children in Madison, and how can we create a foundation that serves everyone."

Toward that end, in July Community GroundWorks will host a weeklong training program for K-12 teachers, to help them to better integrate gardening into their lesson plans.

Also, earlier this spring, about two dozen educators and parents formed a loosely organized Garden Coalition. The group intends to provide a focal point for school gardens in Madison and create a platform to share successful models and lesson plans. In June, it will hold its second meeting and begin to formalize the organization.

One of the co-founders, Mary Michaud, is also the parent who brought the idea for a garden to Van Hise. In her professional capacity, Michaud works as a consultant for public health organizations. She acutely understands the importance of creating infrastructure. But she also has a more fundamental belief as to why school gardens will continue to prosper and increasingly become part of the school curriculum.

"Sure, I just happened to have 20 years of grant-writing experience," says Michaud, explaining why the Van Hise garden so quickly pulled together funding. "But what really makes it successful is that the kids are completely ape-shit about it. Even the wallflower kids get in there and pull out worms."

Michaud is sitting in the garden that she helped create. "People say, 'oh, it's a fad,'" she continues, looking around at the sunflower windmill, the garden plots and the pile of mulch waiting to be spread. "But kids will never grow tired of this."

<http://www.thedailypage.com/isthmus/article.php?article=33526>

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

ENTRY: MAY 3, 2011 (Virginia Bluebells)

Who cannot love Virginia bluebells? When in full bloom, a woodland field of their purest sky blue is a sight to behold.

Virginia bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*) is a native perennial and a member of the borage plant family. Plants appear, usually in deciduous woodlands, early in the spring and bloom from late April through May. They are native to nearly all of the eastern United States and north into southern Canada. Plants grow to 2 1/2' tall with substantial foliage and sky blue flowers with hints of pink. Pink and white forms exist. Plants tend to grow in large colonies and are a favorite for early spring pollinators.

In my own garden, Virginia bluebells fill the spaces where sun and shade overlap. They self-sow readily (if not vigorously), but the shallow rooted seedlings are easy to identify and pull as desired. Like spring bulbs, the foliage yellows and withers on its own. I simply tuck the yellowing leaves between the hostas and ferns that are replacing them. Once fully yellowed, the foliage can be removed. It's amazing to me that there are no signs of these once tall and rather substantial plants during the summer months.

ENTRY: MAY 22, 2011 (An Unbelievably Late Spring)

This has been one of the more fascinating springs in the garden that I can remember. Both April and May have been extremely cool. And though probably a few weeks behind, my garden is almost more beautiful than ever. Whereas the days have been cool, the nighttimes have been relatively mild. Though threatened, I've had no frost in my garden since mid-April. Plants whose bloom periods seldom overlap are now blooming simultaneously creating a stunning effect. The cool weather has allowed early spring blooms to last longer as the late spring bloomers are now beginning to open. The first peony just popped while tulips and bluebells are still putting on their show. The cool weather has kept plants shorter and more compact, helping them to stand up to winds and rain much better. My Globemaster, Gigantium and

Gladiator allium stalks are thick and stocky and the now-starting-to-bloom dame's rockets (*Hesperis matronalis*) are more than a foot shorter than normal. By the way, the alliums are all blooming together, rather than being staggered over a three week period. It's quite a show.

And just last Sunday the male wren in the yard began his early morning serenade. Without the male's song, I was beginning to wonder if a family was going to build in one of my houses this season. It would have been the first season in fifteen or more years without the song of a wren waking me up each morning. Thank goodness he finally decided to make his debut--nearly a month later than in 2010!

[To Top](#)

ENTRY: MAY 24, 2011 (A Bed of Sage)

Before my late shift at work today I had the chance to spend the entire morning in the garden catching up on this very late planting season. I tilled and planted the cut flower bed along the south side of the garage; filled with oodles of tall zinnias, cosmos, tithonia, sunflowers, tassel flower, annual coreopsis, calendula and tall cutting marigolds. I also had time to till and plant one of my favorite garden beds--the salvia bed. Because salvias/sages are some of my favorite flowers, I devote an entire bed to them in the front yard where just weeks ago over 150 pink tulips filled the space.

Why a bed of sage? My number one reason, of course, is the number of hummingbirds they draw to the garden. Whether red, blue, white or coral, there are few plants in the garden that lure in hummingbirds more than salvias. At times in late summer hummingbirds visit nearly nonstop, often fighting each other over the salvia nectar. As a child I used to enjoy that single drop of sweet nectar from the red salvia blooms that lined my grandmother's flower beds.

Secondly, I love the scented foliage. Each and every species of salvia has its own unique scent. A favorite, of course, is the pineapple sage. Its foliage truly smells like pineapple. I especially like the very showy 'Golden Delicious' pineapple sage whose chartreuse foliage is a standout in the salvia bed.

And finally, I like the salvias for their diversity in flower form, color and plant structure. *Salvia guaranitica* 'Purple Majesty' grows to over 5' feet and fills the back of the bed. *Salvia guaranitica* 'Argentine Skies' has blossoms of the purest cobalt blue. The loose appearance of *Salvia coccinea* 'Lady in Red' gives the bed an informal, wildflower feel. *Salvia coccinea* 'Brenthurst's peach and white blooms add a soothing color to the mix. And *Salvia splendens* 'Park's Lighthouse Whopper' adds that gaudy red that I remember from grandmother's garden of the 1960's--along with that delectable drop of nectar!

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

Late May and early June mark the arrival of rhubarb to the garden, farmers' markets and CSA shares. Rhubarb seems to be one of those love/hate tastes. Even among rhubarb lovers, there's disagreement over whether the red or green varieties taste better. Though the tart young stalks can be eaten raw, rhubarb is usually cooked in or later added cooked to sauces and desserts.

Rhubarb is a very hardy perennial here in southern Wisconsin. Clumps continue to grow larger as the years pass, but are most productive if, like all perennials, the clump is divided every few years. Rhubarb is a close relative of common dock. It probably originated in China thousands of years ago before making its way to Europe. Both potted and bareroot rhubarb are available at Klein's in the springtime.

RHUBARB PILAF--Yet another recipe from the indispensable *From Asparagus to Zucchini: A Guide to Farm-Fresh, Seasonal Produce*. Our employee reviews say, "Wonderful, easy and a deliciously sweet side dish."

1 cup uncooked bulgar
2 1/2 cups boiling water
1/2 cup chopped onion

1 TBS. oil
1 clove minced garlic
2 1/2 cups chopped rhubarb
7 dried apricots or peaches, chopped
1/4 cup apple juice
1 tsp. cinnamon
pinch of cayenne pepper
3 TBS. honey or brown rice syrup
1/2 tsp. tamari or soy sauce
1/4 cup slivered almonds
fresh mint

Place the bulgar in a medium bowl, stir in boiling water, cover and steep 30 minutes. In a large skillet, saute onion in oil until translucent. Stir in the garlic and rhubarb and saute 1 minute. Add the apricots, apple juice, cinnamon and cayenne. Cover and cook over medium heat until bubbly. Add the honey and tamari. Stir in the bulgar. Garnish with almonds and mint and serve warm. Serves 4.

RHUBARB CRUNCH--This super easy recipe is a family favorite that appeared in a St. Albert the Great church cookbook from a number of years ago. Wonderful served warm and with vanilla ice cream.

1 cup flour
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
3/4 cup oatmeal
1/2 cup melted butter
4 cups diced rhubarb
1 cup water
1 cup sugar
2 TBS. cornstarch
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix the flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, oatmeal and melted butter. Press 1/2 of the mix into the bottom of a 9x9" well-greased pan. Dump the rhubarb over the crust. Cook the water sugar and cornstarch until thick. Cool a bit and add the vanilla. Pour over the rhubarb and sprinkle the top with the rest of the crumb mix. Bake at 375° (or 350° in a glass pan) about 55 minutes or until bubbly and browning.

RHUBARB SOUR CREAM CAKE--This recipe comes to us from Vermont Valley Farm via one of our staff who is a CSA member.

1/4 cup butter
1 1/2 cups brown sugar
1 large egg
1 tsp. vanilla
2 1/3 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
4 cups rhubarb cut into 1/2" pcs.
1 cup sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350°. Cream together the butter and brown sugar. Beat in the egg and vanilla. Stir in the flour, baking soda and salt. Fold in the rhubarb and sour cream. Spoon the batter into a lightly greased 9x13" pan. Sprinkle with the sugar and nutmeg. Bake for 40 minutes. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

RHUBARB SAUCE--Serve this sauce warm with grilled chicken or pork or chilled with cheeses and sliced baguettes. This recipe comes to us from the June 2007 issue of Better Homes & Gardens magazine.

2 large red onions, coarsely chopped
1/3 cup vinegar
1/3 cup dried cherries or golden raisins
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup water
1 TBS. lime juice
1/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. ground ginger
3 cups rhubarb, fresh or frozen, cut into 1/2" pcs. (thawed & drained if frozen)

[To Top](#)

In a saucepan, combine all ingredients except the rhubarb. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat, cover and simmer 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the rhubarb, cover and continue to simmer 5 minutes to thicken (15 minutes if using frozen). Serve warm with meats or cold with cheese or baguettes. Makes 2 1/2 cups.

GINGERED RHUBARB FOR VANILLA ICE CREAM--From the Willie St. Co-op Reader of May 2002.

3 cups rhubarb, cut into 3/4" pcs.
1 TBS. fresh orange juice
1 TBS, minced fresh ginger
1/3 cup sugar
1 TBS. butter
vanilla ice cream

Combine everything in a saucepan and cook until tender, stirring. Serve warm with ice cream or cold as a compote. Makes 2 cups.

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

This month's spotlight features: Liquid Fence® Deer & Rabbit Repellent

The following comes from their website @ www.liquidfence.com.

Are Deer and Rabbits Destroying Your Flowers, Vegetables & Lawn?

Fight back and protect your investment with Liquid Fence® Deer & Rabbit Repellent. Our eco-friendly repellent will stop deer and rabbits from eating your garden areas, flowers, shrubs, plants, trees, and vines.

Liquid Fence Deer & Rabbit Repellent is the environmentally safe and biodegradable solution to all your deer and rabbit problems. Best of all, this easy-to-use, long lasting spray is safe to use around your family and pets, so you can use it worry-free. And the cruelty-free solution won't hurt the deer or rabbits!

Safe to use on edible crops! One deer can eat up to ten pounds of food a day; imagine what a whole herd can do! So save your edible crops with Liquid Fence Deer & Rabbit Repellent, too! Just be sure to not apply immediately before harvest on above-ground crops.

NEW Granular Deer & Rabbit Repellent is perfect for your low-growing plants! Now the great repellency of our Deer & Rabbit Repellent comes in a granular form for low-growing plants. This unique biodegradable repellent is easy-to-apply on and around flower beds, vegetable gardens, ground cover, lawns; and it's safe for use on edible crops! Plants will love the diatomaceous earth-based

formula. Formed from fossils, diatomaceous earth improves drainage and can enhance air circulation around plant roots.

The new granular repellent comes in both 2 and 5 pound easy-to-use shaker bottles, so no spreader is needed. Just shake to apply! Apply Liquid Fence® Deer & Rabbit Repellent Granular evenly on and around low-growing plants. Vegetation will be protected up to 24 inches in height.

For protection of vegetation above the height of 24 inches, we recommend using Liquid Fence® Deer & Rabbit Repellent spray.

We're so confident that this product is effective; we back it up with a written 100% money-back guarantee. So try America's #1 selling deer and rabbit repellent today and watch your pest problems go away.

[To Top](#)

- Safe for use on edible crops
- Safe for your plants and family – Environmentally safe and biodegradable
- Proven effective at repelling deer and rabbits – USDA field tested
- Easy-to-use – Just spray or shake and your problems go away
- Long lasting and rain resistant – Finally, a hassle-free solution to deer and rabbit damage
- Worry-free deer and rabbit protection – Eco-friendly formula will not harm vegetation
- Guaranteed – 100% Money-back Guarantee
- Member tested and recommended by the National Home Gardening Club and American Rose Society!

NATURAL NEWS--

Last month a fun and fascinating article appeared in the 77 Square section of the Wisconsin State Journal that discussed foraging for plant foods (and weeds) that are available to all of us and spotlighting Madison's interest in planting fruit and nut trees from which all of us are free to harvest. We found it educational and inspirational and we thought we'd pass it on.

I Spy Currants on the Bike Trail and Mulberries by the Lake

By Lindsay Christians of the Capital Times

The first secret to discovering edible fruits, nuts, flowers and greens in nearly every corner of the city is simple. Slow down.

Percy Mather is a member of the Madison Fruits and Nuts organization (madisonfruitsandnuts.org) that has been pushing for more fruit trees in Madison parks. She spends a lot of time riding her bike "at kind of a slow pace" and has discovered patches of red raspberries, asparagus, garlic mustard and mushrooms growing out of logs or patches on the ground.

"It gives me a chance to scope out the surroundings," Mather said. "Now's a good time to spot blooming trees, because it's easier to identify (fruit trees) now than when they're all leafed out and all the trees look green."

Spring is a prime time for foraging food in south-central Wisconsin. Grab a copy of Euell Gibbons' classic "Stalking the Wild Asparagus" and ask two main questions: Is it edible? And can you recognize it?

Berries are a great place to start, but even some mushrooms — such as oyster or hen-of-the-woods, which do not have poisonous look-alikes — are pretty safe. Still, proceed with caution.

“Morel mushrooms are famously forageable,” Mather said.

Foraging is a growing hobby in Madison, with a “Weed Feed” in 2009 attracting families who turned the pulling of garlic mustard into an event with a cooking competition and music. One participant was Sean Gere, a local arborist and an enthusiastic forager who spends as much time as he can during the warmer months on edible treasure hunts.

“You can tap box elder and make really awesome maple syrup,” Gere said. “I tapped my walnut tree, and hickory and butternut (white walnut).”

Foraging can also help get rid of invasive species. Japanese knotweed, a pernicious plant, has a lemony flavor similar to rhubarb (which can also be foraged). Garlic mustard may be taking over the forests, but it also makes tasty pesto and filling for dumplings.

Gere recommends frying the unopened buds of day lilies as though they were squash blossoms; they also add a mucilaginous texture to Chinese hot and sour soup. Fiddlehead ferns can be delicious steamed. Mather said burdock root, which resembles a dandelion root or sunchoke, is good parboiled and batter-fried.

Sumac bushes, the seeds of which are dried and used as a Middle Eastern seasoning, turn bright red in fall.

“We have smooth sumac and staghorn sumac,” Gere said. “You can make a lemonade out of it, too, when the berries come out in summer. Steep them in water and put in a little honey or sugar.”

With foraged food, one challenge is knowing where to look. Berries thrive along railroad tracks and the Capitol City bike trail on the near east side. Rhubarb crops up on old homesteads, Mather said.

Many mushrooms thrive on trees; Gere has tried inoculating some trees in an old orchard near his home. Asparagus grows on shady hills and in ditches. Maps can help make foraging more efficient, and most people are willing to share their finds.

“The trick is scoping out the asparagus plants when they’re leafed out and blooming, and then remembering to go back there,” Mather said. “When the spears come up, you don’t want them to be too old.”

While plums and cherries in Madison parks are fair game — “there’s so much edible stuff in the parks already that people don’t even know about,” Gere said — amateur foragers should be careful not to trespass. Madison Fruits and Nuts has released a map of fruit trees with individual entries by members, including high-producing fruit trees on private property whose owners allow foraging.

“So many people are growing up without an agricultural background,” Mather said. “People sort of forget that there’s food all around you — or there could be, if you planted the right species.

“It doesn’t mean you can’t harvest your own fruits and nuts if you live in a city. You just need to choose species carefully.”

Forageable Foods

Garlic mustard

Burdock root

Asparagus

Fiddlehead ferns

Japanese knotweed (in its early growth)

Dandelions (greens and blossoms)

Chicory

Sumac seeds

Mushrooms (use caution, some are poisonous)

Berries (wild strawberries, red and black raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, thimbleberries, serviceberries, etc.)

Rhubarb

Day lily

Purslane

Lamb’s quarters

[To Top](#)

JUNE’S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

PEONIES

Peonies are a common fixture in Wisconsin gardens during the month of June. Their showy and fragrant flowers are found in most perennial gardens. The shrub-like plants often act as a hedge, lining driveways and fencerows. Few perennials could be easier to grow or more trouble free. The blooms make for a great, long-stemmed and long-lasting cut flower.

The two most common peonies are the herbaceous peonies (*Paeonia lactiflora*), that die back to the ground each winter, and the tree peonies (*P. suffruticosa*), which are woody shrubs. Both are native to China. Most herbaceous peonies grow to about 3’ tall and more wide, especially as the clump matures. Flowers are either single or double and are available in shades of pink, red, purple, white, apricot and even yellow. There are many patterned hybrids and most flowers have a yellow center. The fragrance is intoxicating. Plants generally need some sort of support. Heavy rains are the peony flower’s greatest enemy. Water-soaked blooms flatten plants to the ground unless supported by a ‘peony cage’, found at nearly all garden centers and home improvement stores. Cages need to be placed around the plants before the foliage becomes too tall in the springtime. The cages hold the plants upright during bad weather and, therefore, lengthen the bloom time. Some people are put off by the myth that peony buds bring ants inside the home. This is simply not true. The ants are only attracted to the sweet sap that envelopes the forming flower buds. After blooming, plants should be deadheaded and will seem like a shrub for the rest of the growing season, adding height and texture to the perennial garden. Herbaceous peonies (like iris) are best divided and planted in the fall, rather than in the spring. Once brown, all foliage should be removed in the fall and destroyed to avoid certain fungal problems. Though usually harmless to the plants, peony leaf spot can be unsightly and can weaken plants if bad enough.

Tree peonies, on the other hand, are deciduous shrubs. They lose their leaves in the fall, but plants continue to grow on old woody growth. Plants tend to bloom slightly earlier in the spring than herbaceous types and the blooms are usually larger, frillier, more fragile and a bit less fragrant. Plants are less hardy in Wisconsin (though fully hardy here in Madison) and do best where a bit protected. As with all spring blooming shrubs, it's very important to do any pruning just after blooming has finished. Pruning in the fall will destroy the next season's flower buds. As with herbaceous peonies, colors range through the pink/red/white/purple shades, though yellows are also available.

Klehm's Song Sparrow Perennial Farm in Avalon, WI is a local, world renowned leader in peony production and development. They are a mail order only company who puts out an amazing catalog available at www.songsparrow.com.

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER. . .

Somebody told me to divide my rhubarb plants to get thicker stalks and more rhubarb. Do I really just take a shovel and chop it up? Should I have done it last month (question received May 7)? Does that mean I should wait until next year? Also, I have clumps of daffodils that need dividing. When should I dig them up? Thank you. Gail

Hi Gail,

Yes, rhubarb, like any perennial, should be divided after a while to reinvigorate the plants. But unlike most perennials, every 10 years or so is usually enough. Now is the time to do it, while the plants are still manageable in size. It's also early enough in the season for the clumps to reestablish themselves before hot summer weather sets in. You won't be able to harvest this year because the plants will need as much foliage as possible to get reestablished.

With a spade, you'll need to dig up the entire clump and then, again using the spade, slice the clump into smaller clumps. Replant no deeper than the original plant to avoid rotting. Pass on any unwanted clumps to friends and family. Established garden plants are usually more vigorous than potted ones found at garden centers.

As for the daffodils, you have a few choices:

You can dig, divide and them after they finish flowering and before the foliage withers away. If you divide them now, make sure to keep the foliage on the bulbs after replanting, allowing it to die back naturally. The foliage feeds the bulbs for next season.

You can mark the spots and dig and divide the bulbs in the fall.

A third choice is to dig the bulbs after the foliage withers, allow the bulbs to cure a bit, put them in a brown paper bag and store them in a refrigerator until the fall and replant them then. A lot of people use this method when they want to plant potted forced bulbs available around Eastertime.

I hope I was of some help and thanks for your question!

The Mad Gardener

[To Top](#)

AROUND TOWN:

For neighborhood events or garden tours that you would like posted in our monthly newsletter, please contact Rick at [\(608\) 244-5661](tel:6082445661) 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.

Northside Farmers Market

Sundays, May 1 through October 23, 8:30-12:30

In the Northside TownCenter at the intersection of N. Sherman Ave. and Northport Dr. across from Warner Park. Please note that Northport Dr. and Packers Ave. will be under construction during the 2011 season.

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

--Providing an abundant selection of high quality, locally grown foods.
The market accepts Quest, WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers.

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

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

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

Parking is always FREE!

For details visit www.northsidefarmersmarket.org

Dane County Farmer's Market

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

On the Capitol Square

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

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

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Olbrich 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](tel:6082464550) or www.olbrich.org for details

Hosta Sale

Sunday, June 5, 10:00-1:00 or until supplies last
Sponsored by the Wisconsin Hosta Society

Pick up some interesting hostas to add to your collection at the Wisconsin Hosta Society's Plant Sale. These shade-loving perennials, prized for their interesting foliage, come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. For more information call [608-835-3291](tel:6088353291).

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison
[608/246-4550](tel:6082464550) or www.olbrich.org for details

2011 Summer Concert Series at Olbrich Gardens

Let the beauty of Olbrich Botanical Gardens set the perfect stage for a night of music. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and spread out for a picnic surrounded by Olbrich's lush flowers. Or, purchase a brat or hot dog from the Madison East Kiwanis. Picnics are allowed in the Gardens for the Tuesday concerts only. In case of rain, concerts will be held indoors. A \$1 donation is suggested. Concerts are sponsored by the Olbrich Botanical Society.

Olbrich Concerts in the Gardens 2011 Schedule:
(All concerts are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.)

June 7

Wisconsin Philharmonic Orchestra--Orchestral Favorites

June 14

Elf Lettuce

June 21

Madison Municipal Band--Concert Band Favorites

June 28

The Bar--Afro/Cuban Jazz and World Music

July 5

Capitol City Band--Band Favorites

July 12

Peter & Lou Berryman--Folk Humor

July 19

Ladies Must Swing--Swing Music

July 26

Marcy and the Highlights

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison
[608/246-4550](tel:6082464550) or www.olbrich.org for details

Rhapsody in Bloom: Night in the Big Easy

Saturday, June 18, 5:00-10:00

One of Olbrich Gardens' biggest fundraisers.

For reservations call [608/246-5616](tel:6082465616)

Spend a Night in the Big Easy at Rhapsody in Bloom on Saturday, June 18! Guests will party the night away New Orleans style at Olbrich's premier garden gala. The evening begins with scrumptious butlered hors d'oeuvres prepared with southern soul and refreshing cocktails in the Gardens. Take a stroll through the beautiful gardens; a roaming beverage cart will ensure refreshments are always available. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. by Circolo Catering's professional wait staff under an elegant white tent on the Great Lawn. After a scrumptious dining affair, enjoy New Orleans style rhythm and blues by Johnny Chimes and the Bayou Beats.

A silent plant auction will deliver the adventure of bidding on amazing items for your garden. This year's auction will also showcase new garden related items, along with exotic and unusual plants, and container gardens designed by Olbrich's horticulture staff.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison
[608/246-4550](tel:6082464550) or www.olbrich.org for details

Madison Rose Society Rose Show

Sunday, June 19, 12:00-4:00

Free Admission

The Madison Rose Society hosts this indoor exhibit of cut roses and arrangements in all sizes and colors. Members of the Rose Society will be available to answer questions. Stroll through Olbrich's two acre Rose Garden. For more info call [608-845-6063](tel:6088456063)

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison
[608/246-4550](tel:6082464550) or www.olbrich.org for details

[To Top](#)

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

- By early June, finish planting all annuals and vegetables.
- By early June, move all houseplants out that spend the summer outdoors.
- In early June give all beds a thorough weeding for easier follow-up.
- June is a great month to plant perennials, trees and shrubs.
- Prune evergreens.
- Prune hard any spring flowering shrubs like forsythia, quince, etc.
- Mulch beds to conserve moisture and keep down weeds.
- Begin deadheading spent blooms as needed.
- Remove yellowed foliage of spring tulips, daffodils, etc.
- Begin staking and supporting tall plants as needed.
- Begin your fertilizing regimen. Regular fertilizing makes for healthy plants.
- Order spring bulbs from catalogs while your memory is still fresh.
- Keep an eye on the weather. Water as needed.
- Watch for pests and control as needed or desired.
- Begin seeding cole crops for fall harvest. Also sow pansies and wallflowers.
- Pinch hardy mums until July 4 for bushier less floppy plants.
- Visit Klein's---Watch for end of season savings on annuals and perennials.

Some of our very favorite seed and plant sources include:

For seeds:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds @ www.RareSeeds.com or [417/924-8887](tel:4179248887)
Burpee @ www.burpee.com or [800/888-1447](tel:8008881447)
Harris Seeds @ www.harrisseed.com or [800/514-4441](tel:8005144441)
Johnny's Select Seeds @ www.johnnyseeds.com or [207/861-3901](tel:2078613901)
Jung's Seeds @ www.jungseed.com or [800/247-5864](tel:8002475864)
Park's Seeds @ www.parkseed.com or [800/845-3369](tel:8008453369)
Seeds of Change @ www.seedsofchange.com or [888/762-7333](tel:8887627333)
Seed Savers @ www.seedsavers.org or [563/382-5990](tel:5633825990)
Select Seeds @ www.selectseeds.com or [800/684-0395](tel:8006840395)
Territorial Seeds @ www.territorialseed.com or [888/657-3131](tel:8886573131)
Thompson & Morgan @ www.thompson-morgan.com or [800/274-7333](tel:8002747333)

For bulbs:

Brent & Becky's Bulbs @ www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com or [877/661-2852](tel:8776612852)
Colorblends @ www.colorblends.com or [888/847-8637](tel:8888478637)
John Scheeper's @ www.johnscheepers.com or [860/567-0838](tel:8605670838)
McClure & Zimmerman @ www.mzbulb.com or [800/883-6998](tel:8008836998)

For plants:

Heronswood Nursery @ www.heronswood.com or [360/297-4172](tel:3602974172)
High Country Gardens @ www.highcountrygardens.com or [800/925-9387](tel:8009259387)

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 JUNE:

---The back greenhouses are nearly empty of product. We've had another successful season. This is the time to plan for next spring--while our memories are still fresh: How can we improve in 2012? Which plants did we run out of too early? How was staffing?

---Watering is a nonstop endeavor. On hot, windy days, we no sooner finish the first round, when we have to start all over again. Some plants in our retail areas may need watering 3 or 4 times in a single day! You wouldn't do this at home, but customers don't like to see wilted plants. It's not harmful for us to let them wilt a bit, but it makes for bad presentation.

---We continue to plant some annuals, hanging baskets and containers for summer sales. Our summer "Jumbo Pack" program is under way.

---Fall mums and asters are stepped up into larger tubs and containers for fall sales.

---We begin prepping some of the back greenhouses for the arrival of poinsettia plugs in just a few weeks.

---Our employees breathe a sigh of relief and spend some much needed downtime with family and friends.

[To Top](#)

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--AMY KITTLESON

Amy Kittleson was "unofficially hired" the moment she dropped off her application in late winter of early 2010. Of the hundreds of applications we see each spring, we knew we didn't want to let this one slip through our fingers. She even received the special "behind the scenes tour" that day--a privilege usually reserved for an employee's first day of work. Amy showed confidence, determination and excitement about the prospect of working at the greenhouse. It was love at first sight for us.

The feeling was mutual for Amy . . . it was love at **FIRST** sight! Amy was probably three or four when that happened. She was excited about any prospect of visiting the greenhouse with her parents so she could play with the kittens. Maybe she even told her parents she wanted to work at the greenhouse someday when she grew up. Regardless, she **KNEW** she loved being at the greenhouse. Decades later, Amy tells her husband while visiting our booths at the WPT Garden Expo, "I need to work at Klein's!" The rest is history:

Like many of us, Amy is an east sider through and through. As with many east siders, and with few places to shop, Klein's was THE place to buy plants in the springtime. Amy says that sometimes her family would come to Klein's "just for the fun of it." For a child, coming to Klein's left an indelible impression. There were miles and miles of paths through the dense jungle and those kittens could be hiding anywhere.

Amy grew up a very short distance south of Klein's in the Burke Heights neighborhood. She says that her father was the gardener in her family. Trips to Klein's were frequent. She says her father had a beautiful garden in the backyard filled with colorful annuals, some perennials and raspberries. Picking raspberries is one of her fondest gardening memories. Amy says historically that it was the men in her family who were the gardeners, yet she and her two sisters are the gardeners in her own generation and that her brother has little interest.

Amy went to Holy Cross on Milwaukee St. for grade school and then on to East High School (where she and owner, Sue Klein, were just a year apart). After graduating from high school, Amy says she set out on her own, hung out and worked assorted retail jobs before meeting her husband, Dennis. They married, settled down in Dennis' home town of Stoughton and started their family. She decided to be a stay-at-home mom while her kids, Chelsea and Kolten, were small and ran an in-home daycare during those years. Dennis' business, Inkworks (www.inkworkswi.com) was getting off the ground. Life was good.

Then, Amy says, she needed a change. She went back to school where she received a nursing degree from MATC (Madison Area Technical College) in Fort Atkinson. Upon graduation, Amy worked for a few years at a nursing home. She says that with small children, she needed to have the best possible work schedule for them. Once they were both in school, Amy took a position as a full-time pediatric nurse with Dean Clinic on Madison's east side--a position she holds to this day. We asked her how she juggles it all--a full-time job, family and then three shifts at Klein's each week. Amy says that working at Klein's is a pleasure and very therapeutic. It gives her energy, makes her happy and fills a social need. She looks forward to her shifts at Klein's. Amy's face lights up as she speaks.

Amy says she loves her Stoughton home and the gardens that have evolved all around it. She says that before her house was built, she and Dennis would take walks past a piece of undeveloped wooded property. She says that she felt connected to its beauty and "just had to have it." And like her job at Klein's, that dream was ultimately hers to be had. She says she feels especially connected to her gardens because she and Dennis have done all of the work themselves; from building retaining walls, a patio, a deck and a shed to planting "every blade of grass" and plant that fills their amazing yard. She says they've left areas of the yard as it was when they fell in love with it--filled with trillium, ferns, jack-in-the-pulpit and lily-of-the-valley under the canopy of their gorgeous trees. She says shade from the many trees have been a challenge, but she's utilized every sunny nook she can for more sun-loving perennials.

Amy says she uses her job at Klein's to learn everything she possibly can about plants. She says she's always wanting to learn. For that very reason, Amy has become a Certified Master

Gardener. When asked about other interests, Amy responds, "Purely gardening! I spend winter days reading about gardening." Amy says that working at Klein's fills a need in her life and gives her a connection to her fond childhood memories and growing up on Madison's east side.

[To Top](#)

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](tel:6082445661) or [888/244-5661](tel:8882445661)

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

[To Top](#)

RELATED RESOURCES AND WEB SITES

University of Wisconsin Extension

1 Fen Oak Ct. #138

Madison, WI 53718

[608/224-3700](tel:6082243700)

<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](tel:6082624364)

<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](tel:6082400409)

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

Community Gardens Division (Madison area)

Community Action Coalition

1717 N. Stoughton Rd.

Madison, WI 53704

[608/246-4730](tel:6082464730)

<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](tel:6082654504)

<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](tel:6082628406)

<http://www.horticulture.wisc.edu/allencentennialgardens/>

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave.

Madison, WI 53704

[608/246-4550](tel:6082464550)

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

Rotary Gardens

1455 Palmer Dr.

Janesville, WI 53545

[608/752-3885](tel:6087523885)

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

University of WI Arboretum

1207 Seminole Hwy.

Madison, WI 53711

[608/263-7888](tel:6082637888)

<http://uwarboretum.org/>

University of Wisconsin-West Madison

Agricultural Research Center

8502 Mineral Point Rd.

Verona, WI 53593

[608/262-2257](tel:6082622257)

<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/>

[To Top](#)

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

[To Top](#)

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

[To Top](#)