

## 'THE SAGE'--MAY 2012

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

### THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Our 2012 Spring Plant List Is Now Online!

Our "Mad Gardener" Is Ready for Your Questions

Plant Your Own Containers in Our "[Potting Shed](#)"

[A History of Mother's Day](#)

Freeze Warning Tonight? . . . It's Still Possible!

[All About Mulches](#)

Product Spotlight: [The Mighty 'Mato™ Grafted Tomato](#)

An Indoor Seed Starting Primer from A to Z

Klein's Favorite [Seed, Bulb & Plant Sources](#)

Our Very Favorite ['Veggie Burger' Recipes](#)

[Notes from Rick's Garden Journal](#)-- from April 2012

--My Cherished Lilac

--A Red Admiral Frenzy

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The City of Madison Recycles Used Plastic Pots

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**OUR 2012 SPRING PLANT LIST** can be viewed on-line @ [Spring Plants](#). This comprehensive listing contains every plant that Klein's will be offering for the 2012 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. BUT, PLEASE call ahead to make sure a desired plant is ready for sale or that we still have it in stock. Because we "grow our own", most supplies are limited.

### THE POTTING SHED

Bring in your own pots or purchase one of ours. Then, using our own famous potting soil, you'll be able to create your own masterpiece onsite! We'll simply charge you for the plants and the amount of soil you use (based on the pot size). We require, of course, that no plants be brought in from outside sources and it's always a good idea to call ahead to reserve a spot--especially during peak hours. Just contact Jen @ [jsimon@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:jsimon@kleinsfloral.com) or call (608) 244-5661 for more information. Our talented staff will be available to answer all questions, help pick out some plants and to get you started. We'll even deliver them for you for an added fee.

### THE MAD GARDENER

"Madison's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"

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

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

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

**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](mailto:rick@kleinsfloral.com) or Sue at [sue@kleinsfloral.com](mailto: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.

### **MAY STORE HOURS:**

**Again during the 2012 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, May 1, we opened 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 again for the 2012 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 Number 1.

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-8:00 (Open Tuesdays at 7:00)

Saturday: 8:00-6:00

Sunday: 9:00-5:00

**Open Memorial Day, May 28, 9:00-5:00**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**May 5--**Cinco de Mayo

**May 5--**Full Moon

**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 have a tendency to plant too early!

**May 13--**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 7 for prompt and efficient service. Visit [Klein's Delivery Info](#) for more details.

**May 28--**Memorial Day-the unofficial beginning of summer! Store Hours: 9-5:00

### **'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':**

#### **Mother's Day History**

Contrary to popular belief, Mother's Day was not conceived and fine-tuned in the boardroom of Hallmark. The earliest tributes to mothers date back to the annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to Rhea, the mother of many deities, and to the offerings ancient Romans made to their Great Mother of Gods, Cybele. Christians celebrated this festival on the fourth Sunday in Lent in honor of Mary, mother of Christ. In England this holiday was expanded to include all mothers and was called Mothering Sunday.

In the United States, Mother's Day started nearly 150 years ago, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community, a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it "Mother's Work Day."

Fifteen years later, Julia Ward Howe, a Boston poet, pacifist, suffragist, and author of the lyrics to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," organized a day encouraging mothers to rally for peace, since she believed they bore the loss of human life more harshly than anyone else.

In 1905 when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna, began a campaign to memorialize the life work of her mother. Legend has it that young Anna remembered a Sunday school lesson that her mother gave in which she said, "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers."

Anna began to lobby prominent businessmen like John Wannamaker, and politicians including Presidents Taft and Roosevelt to support her campaign to create a special day to honor mothers. At one of the first services organized to celebrate Anna's mother in 1908, at her church in West Virginia, Anna handed out her mother's favorite flower, the white carnation. Five years later, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for officials of the federal government to wear white carnations on Mother's Day. In 1914 Anna's hard work paid off when Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday.

At first, people observed Mother's Day by attending church, writing letters to their mothers, and eventually, by sending cards, presents, and flowers. With the increasing gift-giving activity associated with Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis became enraged. She believed that the day's sentiment was being sacrificed at the expense of greed and profit. In 1923 she filed a lawsuit to stop a Mother's Day festival, and was even arrested for disturbing the peace at a convention selling carnations for a war mother's group. Before her death in 1948, Jarvis is said to have confessed that she regretted ever starting the mother's day tradition.

Despite Jarvis's misgivings, Mother's Day has flourished in the United States. In fact, the second Sunday of May has become the most popular day of the year to dine out, and telephone lines record their highest traffic, as sons and daughters everywhere take advantage of this day to honor and to express appreciation of their mothers.

Source: [Mother's Day History](#)

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### **YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER . . .**

**I have a large perennial bed across the front of the house and beyond. I've been putting in annuals as a front border plant for the last few years. I'd like to switch to a perennial. Would dianthus work? I'd like to have blooming plants for most of the growing season. Or . . . should I stick with annuals to insure blooms throughout the season. I've been using impatiens, but, having removed a large tree, I now have better than half-day sunshine. Thanks. John**

Hi John,

Personally, I'd stick with the annuals--at least for this season. As you probably know, nearly all perennials have their individual blooming time, which usually lasts just a few weeks. Unless you plant a wide assortment of shorter perennials for the front of the border, I think you'd be disappointed by the results. Dianthus, for example, bloom only at the beginning of the season and are usually finished by June (although they may bloom again toward fall). During a cool summer they might rebloom sporadically, but one can't count on that.

Most annuals, on the other hand, tend to bloom nonstop until frost and your choices are endless. You have the luxury of switching it up year to year. Needless to say, you'll have to tweak your choices now that the tree has been removed. But by removing the tree, you've drastically increased your possibilities.

My suggestion is to use this first season without the tree to experiment a bit, learn about the light and if you have your heart set on perennials, take the time to come up with a list of possibilities. I wouldn't go with all one plant, but a selection of plants that will give you a full season of bloom. My own garden is a hodge-podge of annuals and perennials--each has their place!

Thanks for your question,  
The Mad Gardener

### **DID YOU KNOW . . .**

**. . . that Madison's average last frost date is about May 10?**

With all the crazy warm weather this spring, gardeners sometimes forget that Madison's AVERAGE last frost date is May 10. **That means that in 50% of the years, Madison has a frost on or after May 10.** After the record-setting March weather, we've been reminded in the past few weeks (with just light frosts here in the city at least) that we have a few weeks to go before it's truly safe to plant most annuals and vegetables into the garden.

There are a few exceptions, however. Perennials, shrubs and trees can all be planted as soon as the soil can be worked. This year that happened in March. The problem was that few garden centers had product to sell. Generally, retailers have set schedules with their suppliers that varies little from year to year and, needless to say, garden centers nationwide were clamoring for product to sell. The nice thing about the warm weather, was that it pushed things along in our greenhouses. Pansies and violas, for example, were ready a full two weeks earlier than normal. April business was brisk!!

Another exception to the May 10 rule is knowing your own garden's microclimates. For example, the last frost date in downtown Madison is certainly a few weeks earlier than the 'official' last frost date at the low-lying and very exposed airport. If you live on the shore of Lake Mendota, you might be able to push the date even a few days earlier. And within each of our gardens, we have microclimates. Plants against south-facing walls and against home foundations can oftentimes be planted up to two weeks earlier than in an open garden. Tree cover and surrounding perennials and shrubs can also have an effect when temps get into the upper 20's.

But back to reality . . . **Madison's average last frost date in Madison is officially May 10.** Annuals and vegetables aren't guaranteed to survive until at least after that date. Old-timers can attest to killing freezes into early June in and around Madison and many times won't plant their tomatoes, peppers or morning glories until Memorial Day. Once summer heat kicks in, these plants make up the time very quickly.

But while a late freeze is bad news for the impatient Wisconsin gardener, they're good news for business at area garden centers!

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

### **ENTRY: APRIL 8, 2012 (My Cherished Lilac)**

Since childhood, lilacs have been my favorite flower. I have fond memories of the lilacs that lined one side of my grandmother's large perennial bed on the family farm. To this very day, it's hard for me to pass by a blooming lilac without stopping to enjoy its intoxicating fragrance. It causes me to breath slowly and deeply. It calms me. Anyone who knows me, also knows that is not an easy feat. It's said we all should stop and smell the roses . . . for me its lilacs.

Because of our extremely warm and record setting March, lilacs in the area bloomed about a month earlier than normal. In fact, the lilac tour at the UW Arboretum (which has one of the biggest collections in the world) is set for May 9. What are they to do? The lilacs are now at their peak. Personally, this early bloom is a blessing. In a normal year the lilacs bloom when we are at our absolute busiest at the greenhouse. There's no time to smell the 'roses' in early May for a garden center employee! However, this year the lilacs are blooming before our crazy busy time at Klein's. In addition, we're forecast to have cooler weather in the upcoming weeks; thereby prolonging their bloom period.

When we purchased our house in 1986 one of the things that attracted me most was the huge lilac bush (neah, tree!!) that graced the backyard just outside the bathroom window. On calm, warm spring days the fragrance filled both the yard and the entire house when the windows were open. The lilac was composed of huge trunks that had been pruned into tree form. The lilac was so big it shaded much of the yard. Many a summer day was spent (beer in hand) under its canopy and the shade garden I planted around it was one of my first gardening endeavors. A winding brick path beneath it connected the house with our screenhouse out back. I hung impatiens baskets and lanterns from its thick branches every summer. Holiday lights adorned it each winter. In fact, we chose lilac-patterned wallpaper for our TV room to bring the feeling of our garden indoors year round.

But as the years passed, my cherished lilac slowly deteriorated. The trunks became hollow and began rotting. They began breaking away during strong winds and heavy snows. I thought I'd let some of the suckers mature into a new

lilac bush, but the still thick foliage above allowed only spindly whips to grow. I couldn't bring myself to removing the healthy trunks in order to allow the suckers to flourish.

Finally, I removed my beloved lilac last fall. I waited for the leaves to drop so the visual impact on the yard wouldn't seem so drastic. I thought that as the winter passed, I'd 'get used to it' not being there. Spring is here and I miss my old friend.

On the up side, I anticipated the lilac's demise years back and planted three new bushes nearby to get a good start. The first of them bloomed this spring! A few years before that I had planted a 'Wedgewood Blue' lilac toward the back of the yard. It's now nearly ten feet tall and in full and spectacular bloom. I'll never be without lilacs in my yard.

#### **ENTRY: APRIL 20, 2012 (A Red Admiral Frenzy)**

The number of red admiral butterflies is crazy this spring! I remember the same thing happening a few years back and I'm wondering what causes such great fluctuations. This morning I saw an amazing sight when I showed up for work. One of my coworkers was watering one of the hoop houses and there were probably a hundred or more red admirals flying around him. They had become trapped inside when the walls were rolled down at the end of the day yesterday; lured into the hoop house by the petunias, calibrachos, verbenas, etc., blooming inside. Now, the house was warming up in the morning sunshine and the butterflies were incredibly active and waiting to be set free again.

Why the population explosion? Speculation is the mild winter nationwide. Doing a search on-line I found articles about the red admiral population being noticeably high all winter in Texas orchards. There was probably little die-off in their wintering grounds. Instead of a small population surviving the winter to make their trip north; nearly all of them survived! It's hard to drive down the highway this week and not hit dozens of red admirals. The following comes from [Wisconsin Butterflies](#) by Vanessa Atalanta.

"There is no verified explanation for these population explosions, and it's unlikely that a definitive answer will come anytime soon. Red admirals are one of the butterfly species that appear in early spring as migrant species from the south. An outbreak in Wisconsin in June would be the offspring of the first of these southern visitors, so it seems reasonable to conclude that weather conditions for overwintering red admirals to the south, combined with conditions during April and May when they are traveling, determine the number of butterflies we see here in Wisconsin in June." (Take note of the normal arrival times versus 2012 and our warm/hot spring!)

#### **ENTRY: APRIL 27, 2012 (Dealing with Bulb Foliage Dieback)**

It seems like nearly every entry in my garden journal this spring refers to the incredibly warm weather we've had and how fast the garden is progressing. Never before have I started dealing with spent bulb foliage in April!! The daffodils are completely finished and just today I pulled the tulips from the tulip bed (I plant new ones there each fall).

What to do with spent bulb foliage is one of the more common questions we're asked at Klein's in the upcoming weeks as gardeners are wanting to clean up their beds and plant their annuals. As the foliage begins yellowing many gardeners are tempted to cut off the foliage. However, doing so threatens the life of the bulb or future bloom. The foliage must remain in tact to supply the energy for next spring's growth and bloom. As for myself, I turn a blind eye for the few weeks it takes for the foliage to wither to the point it detaches from the bulb naturally. I plant spring annuals in and amongst the bulbs and tuck daffodil foliage close to the soil in and around the surrounding garden plants. As the weather warms and the surrounding plants grow, the yellowing foliage becomes hidden from sight.

As for tulips, it's a bit trickier in that the stems aren't flexible. The good thing is that tulip foliage withers and detaches quicker from the bulb than daffodils and many other spring bulbs.

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

Long popular here in Madison, non-meat 'veggie' burgers are becoming increasingly popular nationwide as concern about our meat sources grows and the public continues to focus on high fiber diets. We thought we'd take this opportunity to share some of Klein's very favorite homemade veggie burger recipes.

**TRIPLE GRAIN BURGERS**--This long time favorite comes to us from the March issue of Wisconsin Trails magazine. 1/2 cup bulgar

1/2 cup millet  
1/2 cup white (unroasted) buckwheat groats  
1 TBS. olive oil  
1/2 cup minced onion  
1/2 cut grated carrot  
1/4 cup tahini  
1/4 cup tamari  
2 TBS. Dijon mustard  
1 TBS. dried dill weed  
1 TBS. dried thyme  
1 1/2 tsp. curry powder  
salt and pepper to taste  
cornmeal

Place the bulgar, millet and groats in a heavy saucepan with 3 cups water. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat, cover and simmer on very low until the water is absorbed--about 15 minutes. Turn off the heat and let stand, covered, 5 minutes. Toss the grains with a fork and allow to cool. Heat the oil in a skillet. Add the onions and carrots and saute until tender. Add the tahini, tamari, mustard, dill, thyme and curry and mix well. Mix into the cooled grains, seasoning with salt and pepper as desired. With moistened hands, form the mixture into 8 bun-sized patties (unlike meat patties, they won't shrink when cooked). They may be refrigerated until ready to bake. Preheat the oven to 375°. Sprinkle a large, rimmed baking sheet with a little cornmeal. Place the patties on the sheet and bake 25-30 minutes. Delicious served with a mustard sauce of equal parts mayonnaise and mustard of choice, seasoned with dill weed. Makes 8 burgers.

**BLACK BEAN BURGERS**--A favorite from UW Hospital nutritionist Donna Weihofen. We saw this recipe prepared in 2008 on Channel 3's 'Live at Five'. Very easy and very yummy!

1 x 15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained  
1 egg  
1 tsp. ground cumin  
1/4 cup salsa of choice  
1 tsp. minced garlic  
1/4 cup chopped cilantro or parsley  
1/2 cup whole wheat bread crumbs  
salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a food processor and pulse until well combined. Spray a large, non-stick skillet with cooking spray. Shape the bean mixture into four bun-sized patties with a spatula on waxed paper (not by hand). Place the burgers in the prepped skillet and cook on medium heat until browned and heated through. Delicious served with guacamole, sour cream and additional salsa. Makes 8 delectable burgers.

**LENTIL WALNUT BURGERS**--From the March 2005 pages of Everyday Food magazine.

3/4 cup chopped walnuts, toasted in a 350° oven for 10 min.  
1/3 cup dry breadcrumbs  
3 cloves coarsely chopped garlic  
2 tsp. ground cumin  
2 tsp. ground coriander  
1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes (or to taste)  
salt and pepper to taste  
3/4 cup dry lentils, cooked, drained and cooled  
4 TBS. olive oil  
1 large egg

In a processor, combine the walnuts, crumbs, garlic, cumin, coriander, pepper flakes, 1 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper until finely ground. Add the lentils and 1 tsp. oil and pulse until coarsely chopped. Whisk the egg in a large bowl. Add the lentil mix and combine well. Divide the mixture into 4 equal parts and roll into balls. Flatten into 3/4" thick patties. Heat 3 TBS. oil in a large skillet. Add the burgers and cook on medium-low until crisp and browned, turning gently after 8-10 minutes. Cook 8-10 minutes more. Transfer to paper towels to drain the oil. Makes 8 burgers.

**JAMAICAN BLACK BEAN BURGERS**--A flavorful and simple recipe from Cooking Light magazine, August 2006.

4 tsp. canola oil, divided  
2 cups chopped onion

1 cup chopped red pepper  
2 tsp. minced fresh ginger  
3 cloves minced garlic  
3/4 tsp. allspice  
1/2 tsp. ground coriander  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. ground red pepper  
1 cup cooked white rice  
2/3 cup breadcrumbs, divided  
1 x 15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained  
1/4 cup mayo  
4 toasted buns  
lettuce and sliced onion

Heat 1 tsp. oil in a large skillet on medium heat. Add the onion, red pepper, ginger and garlic and saute till tender. Add the allspice, coriander, salt and ground red pepper. Cook 1 minute more, stirring. Place the onion mixture, rice, 1/3 cup breadcrumbs and beans in a food processor and pulse 15 times until finely chopped. Divide into 4 portions and form into 1" thick patties. Dredge the patties in 1/3 cup breadcrumbs. Heat the rest of the oil in the skillet on medium heat. Cook the burgers 3 minutes per side or until browned and crisp. Serve the burgers with mayo, lettuce and onion.

**EXCEPTIONALLY NUMMY VEGGIE BURGERS**--From the same issue of Cooking Light magazine mentioned above.

2 poblano chilies  
1 cup chopped onion  
2 cloves minced garlic  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1 x 15.5 oz. can pinto beans, rinsed and drained  
1 x 15 oz. can hominy, rinsed  
3/4 cup masa harina or cornmeal  
1 TBS. canola oil  
3/4 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
2 TBS. sour cream  
2 TBS. salsa  
4 toasted buns

Preheat the broiler. Place the peppers on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Broil 3" from the heat for 8 minutes until blackened and charred, turning once @ 6 minutes. Place the peppers in a heavy plastic bag, seal and allow to rest 15 minutes. Peel and cut the peppers into 8 long strips. Heat a large skillet on medium-high heat and coat with cooking spray. Saute the onions and garlic in the skillet until tender. Place the onions, salt, beans and hominy in a food processor and pulse until coarsely ground. Combine the bean mix and 1/2 cup cornmeal in a medium bowl. Form the mixture into 4 equal-sized 1/2" thick patties. Place the rest of the cornmeal in a shallow bowl and dredge the patties. Heat the oil in the skillet on medium. Add the patties and cook 5 minutes. Flip and top with cheese and cook 5 minutes more. Combine the sour cream and salsa and spread on the top half of each bun. Place the burgers on the bottom halves and top each with 2 strips of the poblano then cover with the top half.

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## **NATURAL NEWS--**

### **Mulches for Gardens and Landscapes**

Mulch is any natural or synthetic material used to cover topsoil in the garden or home landscape. Mulches serve a number of purposes including:

- reducing soil moisture evaporation,
- ensuring a more even soil moisture supply,
- reducing or preventing weed growth,
- insulating soil from extreme temperature changes,
- preventing mud from splashing on crop surfaces,
- reducing fruit rots (in melons, strawberries, and tomatoes),

- reducing soil crusting,
- reducing soil erosion,
- reducing soil compaction,
- protecting perennial plants from freezing, and
- improving neatness of the garden or landscape.

Organic mulches like grass clippings or compost also may serve as slow-release sources of nutrients for plant growth. Earthworms feeding on organic mulches not only will enrich the soil with their castings, but also will help aerate the soil. Organic mulches may, however, encourage some pests like sow bugs, snails, and slugs. Around fruit trees, avoid thick layers of organic mulches, which may shelter rodents.

### **Mulch Effects on Temperature**

The time of year to apply a mulch depends on the type of mulch you wish to apply and your objectives. Clear and black plastic mulches can be applied early in the spring to vegetable gardens to warm the soil. Black plastics are often preferred, as they will exclude light and discourage weed growth. Clear plastics are occasionally used to warm soils more rapidly and to solar-sterilize soils in the summer to kill weed seeds and disease organisms before planting.

Natural organic mulches and white plastic mulch applied in the summer will tend to cool soils. This is important for crops like strawberries, which do not tolerate extreme heat. Silver reflective mulches and aluminum foil not only cool soils, but also reflect light back under leaves, which tends to repel aphids.

Applying natural organic mulches in the garden in the fall before cold weather will help insulate the soil and extend the growing season. Potatoes, carrots, and parsnips can be stored in the ground during the fall and winter using a straw mulch to keep the soil from freezing. Straw placed around blackberry canes in the fall will help reduce winter kill problems.

Various rock mulches can be combined with underlying perforated plastics or landscape fabric (weed barrier) in landscapes. River rock and various colored lava and granite rock offer a number of color and texture options in the design of these landscapes. Reflected light from white rock under windows with western and southern exposures will help warm your house in the winter. Dark colored rock will retain heat in the landscape and may offer some frost protection (reradiated heat) for fruit trees in the spring (it also may encourage early breaking of dormancy).

### **Applying Mulch**

Most coarse, natural organic mulches like straw, bark, and wood chips should be applied 2-3 inches deep over the whole area to be mulched. Grass clippings should be allowed to dry out before applying them to keep them from matting. Do not apply grass clippings over 1-inch deep. Woody material should not be incorporated into the soil, as it will tend to tie up nitrogen in the soil making it unavailable for plant uptake. Do not allow moist organic mulches to come directly in contact with seedlings as they may cause seedling disease problems like "damping-off." Mulches are generally applied to most crops after they have emerged or around transplants.

Plastic mulches should be perforated to allow air and water movement into the soil. Holes cut in unperforated plastic for vegetable transplants should be large enough to accommodate air and water movement around the bases of the plants.

Soil levels should be 1-3 inches below the level of sidewalks in landscapes where rock mulches are applied to help keep rocks contained. New plants in the landscape will have better access to water if the underlying landscape fabrics are sloped slightly toward the plants.

### **Types of Mulches**

The selection of a specific mulch will depend on its availability, cost, the crop to be mulched, and the season of the year. Almost any material that insulates well yet permits gaseous exchange and moisture penetration will make a satisfactory mulch. A good mulch should not need frequent renewal and should be non-toxic to plants, easy to apply, free from disease and weed seed, and not be so absorbent that it can take moisture away from plants. It should not pack, blow, wash, ferment, or burn easily.

Many commercially available mulches fulfill most of these criteria. Quite a few are inexpensive. Decorative barks and rock may be used for aesthetic value. A coarse, heavy mulch may be needed on a windy, hillside site.

A soil surface can be covered with either synthetic or natural mulches. Natural organic mulches will decay over time mixing in with the topsoil. Such mulches will improve soil structure, improving both water and air penetration into the soil. Synthetic and rock mulches will last longer and often require less maintenance.

### **Natural Materials**



**Bark** - Bark offers outstanding effectiveness and appearance. It is available in fine, medium, and large sizes, although medium and coarse grades are best for mulch. Do not incorporate bark into the soil, as its high carbon content will cause nitrogen deficiency in plants.

**Coffee grounds** - This material has rich color and is high in nitrogen and some trace elements.

**Compost** - Use finished (well-cured) compost by itself or under other mulches. It can be mixed with soil before planting.

**Corn cobs** - Use medium ground, not fine, cobs. The cobs may be colored for special uses. Additional nitrogen may be necessary if corn cobs are mixed with soil.

**Cornstalks** - Cornstalks are very good shredded, or as whole stalks laid over other mulches in vegetable gardens. They are good for winter mulch.

**Cover crop** - Any crop, preferably a legume, that can be grown on spare land and cut can be used for mulch.

**Grass clippings** - Grass will mat and ferment if used fresh in a thick layer and alone, so only use it dry and in a thin layer. It is better mixed with other dry mulches. Do not use clippings if lawn has been treated with herbicides, and avoid grass like Bermuda that propagates easily.

**Gravel, marble chips, crushed stone** - Pea gravel or larger can be used over a weed barrier or alone. These mulches tend to warm the soil, so use them for heat-loving plants. Do not use marble around acid-soil loving plants.

**Hay and field grass** - Hay and field grass should be mowed before it goes to seed. Legume hays are rich in nitrogen. Loose hay will blow in wind and these mulches can carry weed seed.

**Leafmold** - This mulch is best placed around shrubs and on bare plots as leaves fall. Shred the leaves to keep them from packing.

**Manure** - Use well-rotted and strawy manure for best results, and watch out for weed seed. Use manure sparingly on vegetable gardens, roses, and other plants. Fresh manure can burn tender roots and can smell during the first couple of days after application.

**Peat moss** - Fine-textured types dry out and crust badly; instead use chunky peat (sphagnum). Peat moss is very expensive and hard to wet.

**Peanut hulls** - This is an excellent mulch and is very attractive. It blows in the wind unless partially cultivated into the soil.

**Pecan shells** - This long-lasting mulch has a nice color and good texture. However, birds and rodents may become a problem, and it blows in wind unless partially cultivated into the soil.

**Pine needles** - Pine needles are a very good mulch, especially for acid-soil-loving plants (such as strawberries). Pine needles are light, airy, and attractive but can be a fire hazard.

**Pomace (apple or grape)** - The odor may be somewhat heavy for the first couple of weeks. This mulch is good for heavy soil and it decomposes very slowly and releases some nutrients to soil.

**Sawdust (preferably decomposed)** - Apply sawdust 1-inch deep, but do not incorporate it into the soil as its high carbon content will cause nitrogen deficiency in plants.

**Straw** - This is a good general mulch used for winter protection and on paths between vegetable rows. It may carry weed seed.

**Wood chips** - This is a long lasting mulch. Apply it 2-4 inches deep. It decomposes slowly. Do not incorporate into the soil as its high carbon content will cause nitrogen deficiency in plants.

### **Synthetic Mulches**

**Cloth** - Burlap is sometimes used between rows in vegetable gardens.

Erosion-control netting and blankets - Use these materials for holding mulch and grass seedlings on steep slopes.

**Fiberglass matting** - This is a very effective mulch because it is permeable to air and water and its glass fibers may repel certain pests. Cover it with bark or similar organic mulch for better appearance.

**Newspaper** - Use three to six sheets thick and cover it with organic mulches for better appearance and to speed decomposition.

**Perlite, vermiculite** - Horticultural grades are useful around tiny seedlings or on plants in containers. It can blow badly.

**Plastic film** - These mulches are unattractive alone. For best results, plastic should be well perforated to allow aeration and moisture penetration. Clear plastic warms soil but permits weed growth, whereas black plastic warms soil and deters weed growth. White plastic cools soils and deters weed. Other colors are available and have various effects on plants. Silver reflective mulches (cool soil) reflect light, which tends to repel aphids (aluminum foil has a similar effect). Plastic is often used under rockscaping to discourage weed growth, but this is not recommended unless the plastic is perforated. Soil should be damp before applying plastic.

**Woven weed barrier** - This mulch allows moisture and oxygen to penetrate the soil, encouraging roots to penetrate more deeply. Use it in landscaping as a substitute for black plastic. It deters weed growth.

Originally written by Esteban Herrera, Extension Horticulturist, New Mexico State University. Source: [New Mexico State University](#)

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## **MAY'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:**

### **BACHELOR'S BUTTONS, Syn. Cornflower (Centaurea)**

Bachelor's Buttons are among our most beloved garden plants and are available at Klein's in both annual and perennial forms. Annual varieties are old-fashioned and their loose form lends beautifully to cottage and wild flower gardens. The perennial varieties are dependable favorites and are oftentimes treasured hand-me-downs. Both annual and perennial bachelor's buttons flower early in the season; before summer heat kicks in. Perennial varieties may reflower later in summer if cut back. Cutting them back, however, eliminates one of their most desired traits--their tendency to self-sow. Though bachelor's buttons can self-sow reliably in proper soil, they do so quite tamely--never becoming invasive.

Annual bachelor's buttons are a childhood favorite because they are so easy to grow from seed sown directly into the garden. All they need is a sunny and well-drained location to do well. Seeds are readily available at all garden centers.

Annual varieties (*Centaurea cyanus*) we grow as plants include:

**Boy Series**-- An excellent cut flower. Best grown in cool conditions. 30-36" tall, but tends to lay along the ground. Available in the classic blue.

**'Polka Dot Mix'**--A popular mix of all cornflower colors. The standard dwarf mix for bedding purposes. A lovely mix of blue, rose, white, lavender and pink with many bicolors. Extra-early bloomer. Grows 16-20".

The best known perennial bachelor's button is ***Centaurea montana*, or Mountain Bluet**. This native to Europe was brought to American gardens early in this country's history by European immigrants. The stunning and frilly flowers are the bluest of blue. The lovely foliage is slightly fuzzy and grayish in color--more so depending on the light exposure. Plants do best in morning full sun in well-drained soil and rarely grow taller than two feet. Plants self-sow easily, but never aggressively here in the north. One of our new favorite cultivars is 'Gold Bullion'. The brilliant blue blossoms really stand out against the plant's chartreuse foliage.

Another well-known perennial bachelor's button is ***Centaurea dealbata* (Persian Cornflower)**. Native to the Caucasus Mountains, this species is very tolerant of poor soil conditions and drought; preferring sandy and well-drained locations. Plants are a little taller than the Mountain Bluet. Flowers are a beautiful rosy pink with a cream center and are fuller in form than *C. montana*. Though Klein's carries the *C. dealbata* species, a favorite cultivar available at The Flower Factory or on-line is 'Steenbergii'. Plants are low growing and very dependable with oodles of deep pink flowers.

A lesser known perennial bachelor's button Klein's carries is the **Armenian Basketflower (*C. macrocephala*)**. Imagine a globe thistle (*Echinops*) with a ball of yellow blooms (instead of blue) on an upright stalk. This species can grow up to 4' tall. Well-drained soil is a must--as is full sun. Also called 'Bighead Knapweed', this *centaurea* blooms later than most (in mid-summer) and is great both fresh cut and dried.

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

### **Northside Farmers Market**

Sundays, May 6 through October 21, 8:30-12:30

In the Northside TownCenter at the intersection of N. Sherman Ave. and Northport Dr. across from Warner Park.

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

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

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

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

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

Parking is always FREE!

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

### **Dane County Farmer's Market**

Saturdays, April 21 thru November 10, 6:00-2:00  
On the Capitol Square

Wednesdays, April 25 thru November 7, 8:30-2:00  
In the 200 block of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

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

### **Olbrich Garden's Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Light Gaps**

April 7 thru July 15, 2012

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 \$2 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](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

### **Early Spring Flowering Woody Ornamentals**

Wednesday, May 2, 7:00 pm

In the Longenecker Gardens

This tour, led by Dr. Laura Jull, UW-Madison professor of horticulture, 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 or <http://uwarboretum.org/>

## **Olbrich Garden's Leaf Mulch Sale**

May 5 & May 19, 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](tel:6082464550) or [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

## **Dahlia Tuber Sale**

Sunday, May 6, 12:00-2:00

Dahlias are late summer bloomers popular for their extravagant blooms, diverse forms, and bright colors. They're subtropical annuals grown each year from tubers dug up in the fall and overwintered in a cool, dry environment. The sale is sponsored by the Badger State Dahlia Society. For more information call [608-577-1924](tel:6085771924).

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

## **Flowering Crabapples and Lilacs**

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm

In the Longenecker Gardens

Emeritus Professor of Horticulture Ed Hasselkus, curator of the Longenecker Gardens, will concentrate on the Arboretum's excellent collection of flowering crabapples and present highlights in the Gardens' large lilac collection.

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

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## **Olbrich Garden's Plant Sale with the Pros**

Friday, May 11, 11:00-6:00

Saturday, May 12, 9:00-3:00

Enjoy one-stop shopping convenience during **Olbrich's Plant Sale with the Pros** at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Buy the same unique plants used in Olbrich's gardens. Olbrich's Plant Sale with the Pros will feature everything from annuals and perennials to ornamental grasses and shrubs.

The plant sale will feature the newest cultivars on the market including tropical plants that will fire up your garden, small-scale garden conifers, herbs, and butterfly plants along with hundreds of annuals and perennials. Shoppers will find rare shrubs and trees, including hardy shrub roses that thrive in the challenging Wisconsin climate.

### Expert Advice

Olbrich horticulturists and master gardeners will be on hand to answer any question and give expert advice. Olbrich's Schumacher Library will also be at the sale with reference books and garden information. Be inspired by plant combinations and displays developed by Olbrich's professional staff.

Take advantage of free container design and potting services at the [Plant Pro Potting Bench](#). Get help selecting the best plants for a stunning container garden or hanging basket...then let a professional plant them for you! Pots are available for purchase at the sale or bring your own containers!

Proceeds from the plant sale benefit Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Shop early since quantities are limited. Shoppers are encouraged to bring cartons, wagons, or boxes for carrying plants.

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

### **Spring Plant Sale**

Friday, May 11, 9:00-4:00 (RBG Friends Members only)  
Saturday, May 12, 9:00-4:00  
Sunday, May 13, 9:00-4:00  
Rotary Gardens Horticulture Center

Featuring vegetable plants including heirloom tomatoes, bell peppers, hot peppers, basil, miscellaneous herbs and beans. Thousands of daylily divisions from the gardens will also be available for purchase as will bagged mushroom compost

Rotary Botanical Gardens  
1455 Palmer Drive  
Janesville, WI,  
608/752-3885 or [www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)

### **Sundowners/Crosstown Violet Club Sale**

Saturday, May 12, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
This annual sale includes African violets, starter plants, blooming plants, leaves, gesneriads of all kinds, and potting soil and pots. Sponsored by the Sundowners and Crosstown African Violet clubs. For more information call 608/833-5552

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

### **Native Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 12, 9:00-2:00  
U.W.-Madison Arboretum Visitor Center

More than 100 species of quality prairie plants, woodland plants, shrubs, vines and trees are available for purchase under one tent. Experts will be on hand to answer questions. Proceeds support Arboretum projects.

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

### **Azaleas and Rhododendrons**

Wednesday, May 16, 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm  
In the Longenecker Gardens

Dr. Deb McCown, a specialist in woody ornamentals, will review the Gardens' collection of azaleas and rhododendrons and discuss the care of these plants in the Madison area.

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

### **Windsor Area Garden Club Plant Sale**

Thursday, May 17, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday, May 18, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

6596 Chestnut Cir., Windsor

As always we will have a wide variety of tried and true perennial plant divisions from our own gardens. We will also have a few annuals, vegetable, and misc. plants available. Come visit with our garden club members and receive help with general gardening questions in a welcoming environment. Master gardeners will also be available for more specific questions you may have. All proceeds will go to Gilda's Club.

Visit their website @ [www.windsorareagardenclub.org](http://www.windsorareagardenclub.org). for contact info.

### **Badger Bonsai Annual Show**

Saturday, May 19, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, May 20, 10:00-5:00

Marvel at these growing miniature landscapes. Sponsored by the Badger Bonsai Society. For more information call [262/438-8469](tel:2624388469).

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

[608/246-4550](tel:6082464550) or [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

### **Small Ornamental Trees**

Wednesday, May 23, 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm

In the Longenecker Gardens

Ed Lyon, Director of Allen Centennial Gardens, will highlight some of the Arboretum's interesting, and unusual, ornamental small trees.

University of WI Arboretum

1207 Seminole Hwy.

Madison, WI 53711

[608/263-7888](tel:6082637888) or [uwarboretum.org/events](http://uwarboretum.org/events)

### **Earth Partnership For Families**

#### **'Springtime Planting'**

Sunday, May 27, 12:30-3:30

Help us plant a native plant garden at the Arboretum. Garden planning, plant identification, planting, and learning to take care of a native plant garden will be taught. We will meet at the Seminole Highway entrance location. In case of bad weather, there will be inside activities at the Visitor Center.

University of WI Arboretum

1207 Seminole Hwy.

Madison, WI 53711

[608/263-7888](tel:6082637888) or [uwarboretum.org/events](http://uwarboretum.org/events)

### **Iris Show**

Sunday, June 3, 12:00-5:00

Sponsored by the Madison Iris Society

For details call [608/271-3607](tel:6082713607)

Cut irises in a rainbow of colors will be on display in the Evjue Commons.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

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

## Hosta Sale

Sunday, June 3, 10:00-2:00 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.

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

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## **MAY IN THE GARDEN**--A checklist of things to do this month.

- By May 1, cool weather items like pansies, cole crops, onion sets, etc. should already be planted.
- Sow successive crops of radishes and greens every 2 weeks.
- Mow your lawn frequently and at a high setting to control lawn weeds.
- Reseed bare spots in the lawn as needed.
- Begin hardening off your seedlings and overwintered plants. Move inside or cover nights. on cold
- Prep beds as soon as the soil is workable and not too wet.
- Till compost into beds.
- Perennials, shrubs and trees can now all be planted safely.
- Divide and propagate most perennials as desired (except peonies & iris)
- Plant strawberries and asparagus early in the month.
- Plant your leftover Easter Lily into the garden. They'll bloom each July in the garden.
- Be prepared to move plants indoors if a sudden cold spell (or snow) hits.
- After May 10, begin setting out all plants, but **KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEATHER!**
- Sow beans and corn after the last scheduled frost date.
- After May 20, begin planting warm weather items: tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, coleus, impatiens etc.
- Mulch beds as needed to cut down on weeds and watering.
- Begin a weeding as needed. The smaller the weed, the easier to remove.
- Prune spring blooming as desired AFTER they are done flowering.
- Wait until after the foliage has yellowed to cut back daffodils, tulips, etc.
- Begin pinching tall perennials like asters, goldenrod, phlox, etc. for shorter and bushier plants.
- Visit Klein's---**SPRING PLANTING IS FINALLY HERE!**

Some of our very favorite seed and plant sources include:

### **For seeds:**

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

**For bulbs:**

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

**For plants:**

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

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

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

**IN MAY:**

---Transplanting continues!! Early in the month we finish transplanting the seedlings for spring sales. But during mid-month we begin transplanting the seedlings for our summer "Jumbo-Pack" program. Customers continue to purchase bedding annuals through the summer months. Sometimes they're replacing plants that have succumbed to summer heat or heavy rains. Or maybe some quick color is needed for selling a house or having an outdoor party. Whatever the case, we can fill their needs.

---The spring onslaught is in full swing. The back greenhouses are filled floor to ceiling with plants awaiting purchase. Our outdoor space is a sea of color. Flats of plants waiting for sale fill most nooks and crannies of our property.

---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.

---Restocking is also constant. Cart loads of product are moved nearly continuously from our back greenhouses to the front showrooms.

---Believe it or not, but our fall mums arrive! The small plants are put into small pots now and then stepped into larger tubs later in the summer. They won't be available for sale until mid-August.

**PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT**--Each month we spotlight some 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.

**MIGHTY 'MATO™ GRAFTED TOMATOES**

**"Stronger! Faster! Fights Off Disease and Pests! Super Yields!"**

Grafted vegetables are created when the top part of one plant (the scion) is attached to the root system of a separate plant (the rootstock). The rootstock contributes vigor and disease resistance while the scion is chosen for fruit flavor or quality. Produce growers have found that this traditional technique can dramatically improve plant health and increase harvests naturally and economically. Now, Log House Plants is making these amazing plants available for the first time to home gardeners in the U.S. **and are available in limited quantities at Klein's this spring!**



Advantages of grafted vegetables include enhanced plant vigor, stronger disease resistance, tolerance of environmental stresses, and heavier crops that are produced over an extended harvest period.

All tomatoes can benefit from grafting, but heirlooms, which are generally less disease resistant, can increase yields dramatically when grafted on special rootstock.

For the 2012 spring season, Klein's will be carrying 'Cherokee Purple' and 'Early Girl' and due to their costs will only be available in 6" pots. Log House Plants says to be on the look out for grafted eggplants, peppers, melons, cucumber and squash in the near future.

Source: [Log House Plants](#)

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## **PERMANENT FEATURES-- KLEIN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

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

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

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

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

## **FACEBOOK**

Follow Klein's on [Facebook](#) where we post updates and photos on a regular basis.

## **TWITTER**

Join Klein's on [Twitter](#) where we post company updates and photos on a regular basis.

## **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.

## **RECYCLING POTS & TRAYS**

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

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

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

There's no easier way to give gorgeous blooming plants or fresh flower arrangements, month after month. Each month a seasonal blooming plant or fresh arrangement will arrive on yours or a loved one's doorstep. You choose the start date and we'll make your special delivery the very same day each month.

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

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

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

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

## **DELIVERY INFO**

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

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if requested: 53703, 53704, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, Marshall, McFarland, Monona, Sun Prairie, Waunakee and Windsor. We begin our delivery day at 8:00 a.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. Except during holidays, the following west-side zip codes and communities can be delivered only during the afternoon: 53705, 53706, 53711, 53713, 53717, 53719, 53726, Fitchburg, Middleton, Oregon, Shorewood Hills and Verona. During holidays (Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc.) we are able to make morning deliveries to all of the above areas. We are not able to take closely timed deliveries on any holiday due to the sheer volume of such requests. It's best to give us a range of time and we'll try our absolute hardest. Orders for same day delivery must be placed by 12:30 p.m. or by 2:30 p.m. for Madison zip codes 53704 and 53714. We do not deliver to Cambridge, Columbus, Deerfield or Stoughton.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **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  
<http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/>

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

Garden Catalogs (an extensive list with links)  
<http://www.gardenlist.com/>  
also <http://www.mailordergardening.com/>

Invasive Species  
<http://www.invasiveplants.net/>  
<http://www.ipaw.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://mamgawi.org/>

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.allencentennialgardens.org/>

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/>

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#### **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

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**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

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