

'THE SAGE'--SEPTEMBER 2012

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

HUGE SHIPMENT OF HOUSEPLANTS HAS ARRIVED!

Our "Mad Gardener" Is Ready for Your Questions

Check Out Our End of Season Savings

2013 Celebrates Klein's 100th Year in Business!!

[Cut Flower Care from Your Garden](#)

[Herb Lore and Natural Remedies](#)

Our Popular Woodwick® Candles Arrive

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

Our Favorite [Salsa Recipes](#)

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

--An Update on My 'New Garden Buddy'

--Growing Fresh Figs @ Home

--Rating New Plants

Plant of the Month: [Angelonia \(Summer Snapdragon\)](#)

You Asked the Mad Gardener About a [Native Plant Screen](#)

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

Gardening Events [Around Town](#)

Join Us on [Twitter](#)

Follow Us 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](#)

OUR 2012 SEMI-LOAD OF HOUSEPLANTS HAS ARRIVED! Quality and selection are now at their peak. Some of our more interesting items include a selection of air plants, staghorn fern plaques and unique succulents, in addition to indoor tropicals in all shapes and sizes.

Through September, get **20% OFF** all in-store houseplant purchases. Sale does not apply to items being delivered or in conjunction with other discounts or promotions. The sale applies only to green plants and not blooming plants, peace lilies or outdoor material.

ENJOY THESE END OF SEASON SAVINGS:

50% OFF all remaining Perennials, Shrubs, Hardy Vines & Potted Fruits.

50% OFF all remaining Garden Tropicals--Angel's Trumpets, Passion Vine, Banana Plants and more.

Buy One, Get One Free on all remaining Summer Annuals.

(Sales do not apply to fall annuals, vegetables, mums, asters or mixed mum containers)

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.

SEPTEMBER STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Open Labor Day, Monday, September 3: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Week of September 2--Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, alliums and much more arrive for fall planting. We suggest that you hold off planting spring bulbs until the weather cools in October. But shop early for best selection!

And a reminder that fall is the very best time to plant and divide iris and peonies. We carry an excellent selection of reblooming iris rhizomes and bareroot peonies.

September 3--Labor Day. **Special Store Hours: 10:00-4:00**

September 9--Grandparents' Day

September 17--Rosh Hashanah

September 22--Fall Begins

September 26--Yom Kippur

September 29--Full Moon

[To Top](#)

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

Cutting and Conditioning Flowers from Your Garden

Here are a few tips and pointers to lengthen the vase life of the garden flowers you've spent the entire summer pampering.

When to Cut Flowers

--For best results, collect cut flowers in the morning when their stems are fully turgid (filled with water).

--Avoid picking during warm and sunny conditions as the plants will be water-stressed. Wait at least until the evening when they have had a chance to recover.

--Place the stems straight into a bucket of water or as soon as possible after cutting

Stage of development:

--Most flowers are best picked when they are just starting to show color. Those in full bloom will go bad more quickly. However, the flowers of some plants, such as roses and dahlias, may not fully develop if picked in tight bud.

--Pick blooms in a spike arrangement, such as foxgloves and gladiolus, when the lowest flowers have just opened. However, wait until most flowers are open before cutting delphinium spires.

Frequency:

--Many annuals and some perennials will bloom over a longer period if picked regularly.

--Pick lightly and infrequently from slower-growing shrubs to avoid stressing the plant. Picking is a form of pruning, and heavy pruning may result in fewer flowers the following season.

Precaution: It is best to use gloves when picking and handling cut flowers. All parts of some flowers, such as monkshood (Aconitum), are poisonous; others can cause skin irritation.

Conditioning Plant Material

'Conditioning' is preparing the cut flowers to prolong their longevity in displays and ensure they look their best.

Condition the cut stems by following these five simple steps:

- Strip all the leaves from the bottom half to two-thirds of each stem. As a general rule, any foliage below the water level should be removed to prevent it rotting in the water.
- For best results, re-cut all stems. Use a sharp knife to avoid crushing the stems and reducing their ability to take up water and nutrients.
- Cut the stems to length with a clean, angled cut without leaving jagged edges that could lead to decay.
- Place prepared stems in a bucket of clean water and leave in a cool place for at least two to three hours or, ideally, overnight. This will allow the flowers to drink before being brought into a warmer environment.
- Some plants with soft stems and heavy flower head, such as tulips and gerberas, are prone to bending. If left, the stem will remain in this position. To straighten the stems, wrap the bunch flowers in newspaper and stand them deeply in water for at least two hours – ideally over night.

Special requirements:

- Woody flower stems (roses) should have an additional vertical cut through the base of the stem to a length of about 2 inches.
- Hammering the bottom of woody stems is often suggested, but this may increase the rate of bacterial infection and is not usually necessary.
- Stems prone to drooping, such as poppy, euphorbia and hellebores can be sealed by dipping the bottom 1 inch of the stems into hot water (just off the boil) for 20-30 seconds. Always wear gloves when handling euphorbia to protect skin from its irritant milky sap.
- Try to revive drooping roses with the hot water treatment described above. Remember to re-cut the stems first.
- Condition the stems of plants with hollow stems such as delphinium, amaryllis and lupins by filling the stem with water. Plug the stem with cotton wool and tie a rubber band around the base to keep the plug in place and prevent the stem from splitting.

In the vase:

- Always use clean vases. If dirty, wash put thoroughly with detergent and a bottle brush
- Dissolve some cut-flower food in the water before placing the flowers in the vase. As well as feeding the flowers, this will also help keep the water clean as it contains an anti-bacterial treatment.
- Check the water level every couple of days and top up as necessary.
- Change the water and re-cut the base of the stems every two to four days, re-cutting a little off the bottom of the stem each time.
- Remove any dead or dying flowers to keep the arrangement looking fresh for longer.
- Position the vase in a cooler spot in the room away from source of heat such as radiators and fires.

Homemade plant food:

A homemade preservative is unlikely to be as effective as a store-bought one, but is simple and cheap to make.

Stir together 1 quart of water, 1 TBS. white vinegar, 1 tsp. sugar and 3-5 drops bleach.

Problems to Look Out For

- Drooping stems are likely to be a result of lack of water or poor water uptake. Top up water regularly. Re-cut the stems. Try treating the cut end with hot water. Check in literature or on website if any particular treatments are recommended.
- Flowers aging prematurely. Keep arrangements in a cool spot. Change water regularly. Feed the flowers and prevent bacteria build up by adding cut flower food in the water. Keep away from ripe fruit.
- Buds not opening due to being picked too early, especially roses. Pick in loose bud in the future.
- Water in the vase becoming murky or smelly. Change water more regularly and ensure vases are thoroughly cleaned before use.
- Earwigs can be troublesome, especially on dahlias and zinnias, damaging the flowers. They can be also brought into the house on the cut flower stems.

Source: The Royal Horticultural Society

[To Top](#)

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER . . .

We have a new road coming in just east of our property where only woods used to be. Unfortunately they have had to take down 35-40 large beautiful oaks to build it. We would like to plant some shrubs (up to

around 15' tall) for road blocking purposes and are wondering if you have any suggestions for that. Conifers would work best. I am not interested in arborvitae as this is a very natural area with some oaks, cherry and hickory on our side of the fence. I would like fast growing dense varieties if possible and native is best. Any suggestions are much appreciated! Thanks, Karen.

The only hemlock I'm aware of native to Wisconsin is the Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). They can have a lot of downfalls in the home landscape. First off, they don't transplant easily and are fussy about soil type; preferring cool, damp soil and some shade. They grow very slowly until they reach a certain height (many years after being planted) before they finally take off. They're very susceptible to winter dieback.

Similar in appearance are the yews. But they, too, are slow growing, susceptible to winter burn, a little rigid in structure and somewhat overused.

Another native conifer option is Eastern Juniper (Eastern Red Cedar). They are slow growing, but very showy and a favorite of birds. I know you didn't want to use arbor vitae (aka Eastern White Cedar), but they are native and come in a variety of forms and shapes and both tall and short. They're very attractive in a mix of shrubs rather than planted all in a row. Once established, the taller varieties are quick to take off. Personally, I'm very fond of arbor vitae when used correctly!

Though not native, Austrian pines are another great pine choice. They look very much like our native red pines and tend to grow horizontally; filling in large spaces. Native white pines eventually get very tall, but can be pruned annually to remain short and full by nipping the tips off the candles (growing tips) in mid June. They are very quick to grow!

As for deciduous shrubs, I have a personal fondness for the colorful twigged dogwoods. They grow quickly, fill lots of space, and add winter interest. River birches could also look very nice in the mix of trees and shrubs. They look very natural and aren't as prone to birch borer as paper birches are. Branches can be allowed to grow close to the ground. They grow quickly and look beautiful in winter. Many of the willows also fill in space very quickly and are very attractive.

The native staghorn sumacs are another favorite of mine. Though they grow roadside, they are beautiful in mixed plantings. They spread nicely and any sprouts that pop up in the yard are easily mowed off. They're exactly the right height and nothing can match their color in the fall.

Witchhazel and serviceberry are other favorites of mine. (Karen already has some viburnum and aronia.)

And then there are the ornamentals such as crab apples, lilacs, plums, mock oranges, etc. All can look very natural in the right setting. Old, farmstead lilacs are especially quick to grow and fill in nicely. Patches of tall grasses could also be intermingled for a natural affect.

I hope I was of some help.
The Mad Gardener.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that in 2013 Klein's will be celebrating our 100th year in operation!?!?

Yes, since 1913 the Klein family has owned and operated Klein's Floral and Greenhouses at the same East Washington Ave. location, making us the oldest garden center in the greater Madison area and actually one of the oldest continuously operating businesses of any kind in the city of Madison. With so much experience under our belt, it's no wonder we continue to grow and thrive. And in all that time, there have been only three Klein owners!

The first was Frederick Klein who arrived to the United States from Germany in 1909. He married Susan and in 1913 they bought the farm and property on Sun Prairie Road (East Washington Ave.), where Klein's now operates. Back then, we were out in the country a few miles northeast of the city. The old house attached to the greenhouses is the original farmhouse. Today that house is used primarily for storage and office space and the basement is our design shop. Old photographs also show a barn and a water tower on the property.

In 1955, Oscar Klein and his wife, Joyce, purchased the business from his father. Together, they greatly expanded the already successful operation. Oscar focused his attention primarily on greenhouse production, while Joyce ran the flower shop and managed the retail area. Many of our customer's continue to talk about missing Joyce's bright eyes and welcoming smile as they entered the greenhouses. We also continue to hear how Oscar and Joyce's

commitment and strong work ethic has made Klein's what it is today. Both Oscar and Joyce passed away a number of years ago.

That brings us to their daughter, Sue Klein, who has solely owned Klein's Floral and Greenhouses since 1990. Under Sue's ownership, Klein's exposure in the Madison area continues to increase through community involvement and with increased advertising. She continues to modernize the facility and streamline operations; first and foremost offering our customers high quality and cutting edge products. But most importantly, Sue has invested in a top notch staff that is both knowledgeable and personable. Many Klein's employees have been here many years (some for decades); striving to make Klein's a premier garden center.

Beyond 2013 and our first 100 years?

Sue's four children are already very involved in the business. The oldest, Jim, is currently a sophomore at UW-Whitewater pursuing a degree in business. When home, Jim works in the retail area, the office and helps with floral deliveries. He says he wants to become increasingly involved with the behind-the-scenes working of the greenhouses. Next is Jon, who has also become involved with floral delivery during the past year. A computer whiz, Jon posts our monthly newsletter to our website, keeping it fresh and up-to-date. Then comes Michael, who has also just received his drivers license and has yet to become involved in floral delivery. Focused on sports, Michael helps out in the greenhouses whenever he can; planting seeds in the spring and helping maintain the property during the summer months and on weekends. And like Sue did as a child, daughter, Megan, has spent much of her childhood running around the greenhouses and helping out in the flower shop.

Stay tuned as we make plans to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2013!!

[To Top](#)

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

ENTRY: AUGUST 4, 2012 (An Update on My 'New Garden Buddy')

Last month a new friend took up residence under the screenhouse in the backyard and I'm happy to share that I think I've taken care of the problem and it was easier than I expected.

By all accounts, I've heard this has been a banner woodchuck summer in area gardens. Because of the drought and brown, crisp conditions, woodchucks have been forced to find food wherever they can. And because people water their garden plants, the greenery makes for the perfect invitation. My garden was no exception. A woodchuck had dug under the fence between the neighbor and me and then burrowed under the screenhouse. Throughout late June and early July the woodchuck wreaked havoc on many of my garden plants; eating many completely to the ground. At first I tried cayenne pepper on the most desirable plants. After that didn't work I borrowed a couple of live traps from work, hoping to capture it. But after a couple of weeks I had no luck. Chipmunks were emptying the cage of the apples I was first using as bait and when I switched to cabbage and kohlrabi it seems as though the woodchuck learned to avoid the cage all together. It even moved the cage out of the way to get in and out of its burrow and then dug a second hole in a different spot to avoid the cage completely. I gave up on the cage.

Then at work I saw a product on the shelf by Bonide called Repels All with a woodchuck (among many other mammals) pictured on the label. It's a granular, natural product made from garlic and hot pepper oils, among other things. The granules act as an irritant which, in theory, prompt the animal to eventually move elsewhere. I thought I'd give it a try.

At first I was a little disappointed. The woodchuck simply pushed the Repels All granules away from the burrow entrance where I had sprinkled it. This went on for a few days. Then I went online to check out the product and see how best to use it. That's where I read that it can take a while for the animal to learn exactly what is causing the irritation to its skin, nose and mouth. Once it does learn that it's the Repels All, it avoids the area and moves on.

After about a week (or slightly more) the woodchuck appeared to have vacated the premises. I had sprinkled the product all around the screenhouse and around the house foundation where I had also seen some digging. I replaced all of the soil in the holes and burrow entrances, resprinkled the Repels All and have seen no further diggings anywhere in the yard.

According to the product label, Repels All is effective on nearly all problem mammals; including squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, etc. Though expensive, it was well worth the money and a little goes a long way.

ENTRY: AUGUST 14, 2012 (Growing Fresh Figs @ Home)

Until last summer I had never had a fresh fig before. Having received some in our Vermont Valley fruit share box, I'm hooked forever and am happy to say I now grow my own wonderful sweet figs right outside the kitchen door!

Stepping back in time, I became interested in figs two years ago when a customer asked me about the possibility of growing figs in his garden here in Madison. I did a bit of research and found a few fruiting fig varieties that are actually hardy to Zone 6; namely 'Chicago Hardy', which is reliably hardy in the Chicago area if given proper protection. Though we're Zone 5 here in Madison, I learned it is possible to grow 'Chicago Hardy' even here if grown in the proper microclimate.

It was while I was doing this research that I learned that edible figs are actually very easy to grow in large containers and make very attractive houseplants. At that point I still had never tasted a fresh fig but became intrigued at the possibility of growing yet another plant that was new to me. I knew that Logee's Greenhouses (one of my favorite tropical plant sources) out of Connecticut had a few figs listed in their catalog. I ordered a variety from them called 'Petite Negra' in the spring of 2011. Here is the description from the Logee's website:

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

Then late last summer we received those wonderful figs in the fruit share box. If you've never had a fresh fig, put it on your bucket list. When properly ripe, they are super sweet and super tender. The seeds inside turn some people off, but the fruit's buttery texture makes up for the abundant seeds . . . remember Fig Newtons and the seeds?

Last summer my fig grew beautifully in a large container, but produced no fruit. The plant, with its large, lobed leaves was a very attractive specimen in the garden. Over winter I stored the fig plant at Klein's in a cool greenhouse. As expected, it lost all of its leaves but resprouted them immediately once the weather started warming. I brought the container home in late May and placed it in full sun along the south side of the house near the kitchen door. By mid-June the plant started producing an abundance of fruit. I began harvesting ripe fruit in early July and have been harvesting 6-8 fruits per week ever since!! The fruit is even sweeter than I remember from the fruit share box last summer. Although the Logee's catalog says 'Petite Negra' grows to 2-3' tall in a container, my fig in a 14" pot stands at least 8 feet tall (!) and is currently coated with still unripe figs.

ENTRY: AUGUST 23, 2012 (Rating New Plants)

Back in June I took note of some new items I planted in the garden for 2012. Now that the summer's nearly over, I thought I'd step back and see how these new-to-my-garden plants actually performed and decide whether I'll try them again in 2013. Granted this has been a summer of extremes with record heat and drought conditions. But with diligent watering, all of the following plants performed surprisingly well.

Calibrachoa 'Superbells Cherry Star' and 'Superbells Miss Lilac'--I was impressed with both of these newcomers. Though my calibrachoa blossoms were destroyed by earwigs early in the season, they have come around nicely and are all currently in full bloom. The Cherry Star is very compact and is nice on its own in a container, but gets lost in mixed plantings. The hot pink blooms with a bright yellow star are truly unique and eye-catching. Whereas Cherry Star is bold, Miss Lilac is anything but. The soft lavender-pink blooms are subtle and gorgeous. This is the only of my 6 calibrachoa varieties that bloomed profusely the entire summer; for some reason left untouched by the earwigs. These were both purchased at Klein's.

Kiss-Me-over-the-Garden-Gate 'Pink Tassels'--Though my non-variegated kiss-me-over-the-garden-gates have been blooming since June, I have yet to see a single blossom on 'Pink Tassels'. Having said that, I'm very impressed by the stocky growth habit of the plant and the beautiful, huge, white-splashed leaves. The plants themselves are healthier than my plain green plants with no signs of spider mite damage. I'm confident they'll bloom before frost and I'm looking forward to the full effect. (From Select Seeds)

Morning Glory 'La Vie en Rose'--Very nice!! I'm a sucker for pink morning glories and this mix of pink shades has lived up to the hype. Blooms are in all shades of pink; from the lightest of shell pinks to true pink and into the magentas and fuchsias. My plants were hit hard with Japanese beetle damage early on, but have rebounded nicely with no visible damage and are currently in full bloom. (From Park Seed)

Petunia 'Shock Wave Coral Crush'--The Shock Wave series of petunias have been a favorite of mine since their introduction nearly a decade ago. What their flowers lack in size they make up for with flower power!! Plants are coated all summer long 1 1/2" blooms on vigorous, cascading plants. Foliage stays greener all summer long than many petunia varieties. With regular fertilizing and a little 'haircut' now and again, plants look fantastic for the duration. Shock Wave Purple has appeared somewhere in my garden since the beginning. Shock Wave Coral Crush is a 2012 introduction. The color is unique and a little redder than I was hoping, but none-the-less beautiful and eye-catching. (From Jung's)

Salvia 'Wendy's Wish'--I collect salvias so am always thrilled when a new salvia becomes available. Wendy's Wish is a winner! It adds a salvia color and flower structure to the garden that is unique among salvias. And like all salvias, it's a hummingbird magnet. The hot pink tubular blooms are held on stalks over attractive foliage and bushy plants. This is a sure keeper for my salvia collection! (From Proven Winners)

Tomato 'Czech's Bush'--Seeing as I only grow tomatoes in containers, I'm always looking for a 'new' variety that is relatively disease resistant and productive. I've had a lot of hits and misses over the years, but the heirloom 'Czech's Bush' has, so far, leaned toward the winning side. My two containers with two plants in each are currently loaded with tomatoes and I've been harvesting for nearly a month. The foliage has remained a vibrant green with no sign of fungal problems. The plants are stocky and about 3 1/2' tall. On the downside, the tomatoes are a bit smaller than I was hoping for at about 1 1/2". However, the fruits are very firm and flavorful. (From Seed Savers Exchange)

[To Top](#)

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

Summer is salsa season!! These fresh relishes are not just for chips, but are delicious when served as a condiment alongside grilled meats, chicken or fish or to spice up soups and egg dishes. Salsas are best served fresh and with only the freshest ingredients. Make sure to chop ingredients about the same size and mix them up shortly before serving. The following are a few favorites shared by friends and family over the years.

CLASSIC TOMATO SALSA

2 medium tomatoes, diced
2 TBS. minced onion
1 TBS. minced jalapeno pepper
2 TBS. balsamic vinegar
2 TBS. minced fresh basil
1 TBS. olive oil
salt and pepper to taste

Combine ingredients, cover and chill.

SPICY CRANBERRY SALSA

3 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
1 orange, peeled and coarsely chopped
4 TBS. sugar
salt to taste
2-3 jalapenos, chopped (to taste)
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup green onions, minced
1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
1 TBS. finely minced fresh ginger

Chop the cranberries and orange in a food processor. Pulse to a coarse chop. In a mixing bowl combine the chopped cranberry/orange mix with the rest of the ingredients. Adjust seasoning. Chill.

MELON SALSA

1 small onion, chopped
2-3 jalapenos, finely chopped
1 cantaloupe, diced
1 1/2 cup chopped red pepper

1 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
1 1/2 cup chopped jicama
1/2 cup chopped cilantro
3 TBS. lime juice
3 TBS. vegetable oil
3 TBS. white vinegar
1/4 tsp. salt
honey to taste
salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and chill. Best if used up within a day.

SALSA MEXICANA

4 plum tomatoes cut into 1/4" dice
1 cup diced cantaloupe
1 cup diced watermelon
1 cup seeded, diced cucumber
1/3 cup chopped red onion
1 tsp. minced jalapeno
2 TBS. fresh lime juice
2 TBS. chopped cilantro

Combine all ingredients and chill. Excellent served with chicken or fish.

FIESTA SALSA

2 cups chopped cranberries
1 small apple, peeled and finely chopped
1 small pear, peeled and finely chopped
1 orange, sectioned and chopped
1 shallot, finely chopped
1 green onion, thinly sliced
1 jalapeno, seeded and minced
1/3 cup sugar
1 TBS. lime juice
1 TBS. white wine vinegar

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and chill at least 4 hours. Serve with pork or poultry.

NATURAL NEWS--

Herb Lore: Natural Remedies

We all know that herbs make great companions in the garden and kitchen. Herbs also have a long history as a natural remedy—and many other more unusual uses, too! Read on. . .

Anise--Romans paid taxes with anise, and it was used in cough drops.

Basil--Precious to lovers in Italy and considered sacred in India. Many years ago, Italian men wore a sprig of basil to indicate their intended marriage. A cup of basil tea after dinner helps digestion. Ease a headache by drinking tomato juice blended with fresh basil.

Borage--The Romans believed the herb to be an antidepressant, and ancient Celtic warriors took it for courage.

Caraway--Caraway was used to scent perfumes and soaps. The Greeks used it for upset stomachs.

Chervil--Eating a whole plant would cure hiccups; chervil was said to warm old and cold stomachs.

Chives--Bunches of chives hung in your home were used to drive away diseases and evil.

Dill--Romans made wreaths and garlands out of dill. Dill keeps witches away.

Fennel--Bunches of fennel were used to drive off witches. It was used in love potions and as an appetite suppressant.

Garlic--It was thought to give strength and courage. Aristotle noted garlic's use as a guard against the fear of water. It's also been widely used against evil powers.

Lovage--Chewing on a piece of the dried root will keep you awake. Lovage warms a cold stomach and help digestion. Added to bathwater, it was believed to relieve skin problems.

Marjoram--The Greeks believed it could revive the spirits of anyone who inhaled it. At weddings wreaths and garlands were made of marjoram.

Mint--It was believed to cure hiccups and counteract sea-serpent stings. The Romans wore peppermint wreaths on their heads. It was added to bathwater for its fragrance.

Oregano--Used for "sour humours" that plagued old farmers. Also used for scorpion and spider bites.

Parsley--Used for wreaths and in funeral ceremonies. Believed to repel head lice and attract rabbits.

Rosemary--Rosemary in your hair will improve your memory. It will protect you from evil spirits if you put a sprig under your pillow.

Sage--Thought to promote strength and longevity and believed to cure warts. American Indians used it as a toothbrush.

Summer Savory--It was believed to be an aphrodisiac. Some thought it was a cure for deafness.

Tarragon--Put in shoes before long walking trips to give strength. It has been used to relieve toothache and as an antifungal.

Thyme--Burning thyme gets rid of insects in your house. A bed of thyme was thought to be a home for fairies.

Source: The Farmer's Almanac

SEPTEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Angelonia (Summer Snapdragon)

Until not that many years ago, this plant didn't appear in any gardening books. Just 20 years ago angelonia was unheard of. That seems hard to believe nowadays in that there are few easier to grow annuals that relish Wisconsin's summer heat. Today, angelonia is available at nearly all garden centers and has become a commonplace annual in area gardens. These sturdy, upright and very fragrant plants appear in shades of blue, purple, pink white and bicolors. Cascading varieties have become available for hanging baskets and window boxes and a variety grown from seed appeared on the market about five years back.

The first angelonias sold at garden centers in the late 1990's were rather unreliable. They were susceptible to fungal problems when conditions were wet and humid. Once breeding breakthroughs lessened that problem and vegetatively propagated plants became available sales skyrocketed. Angelonias are bothered by few insect pests and are attractive to bees and beneficial insects.

Angelonias are native to Mexico and the West Indies. They are distantly related to snapdragons and diascia. The most commonly available varieties include AngelMist, Angelface and Serena (the seed grown variety). Anglonias perform well in beds and containers alike and thrive in full sun. They do not need to be deadheaded and plants remain tidy all summer long with minimal care. Once established, angelonia is extremely drought tolerant. Plants grow to 1-2' and are very frost sensitive.

[**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 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.

Olbrich Garden's Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Integrated Pest Management

August 13 thru October 28, 2012

Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00

In the Bolz Conservatory

Beneficial insects have been used in the Conservatory since it opened in 1991. These bugs provide control of plant-damaging insects, minimizing the need of more dangerous traditional insecticides. These controls, along with several others, are part of the Conservatory's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. This widely accepted program strives to use the least toxic method of insect and disease control to be more environmentally sensitive. Learn about Olbrich's environmentally friendly pest control methods and get ideas you can use to reduce or eliminate pesticide use at home.

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

14th Annual Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, September 8, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 9, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

At the Horticulture Center

Featuring:

- Hundreds of varieties of perennials for all garden situations
- Huge garden mums
- Spring blooming bulbs
- Shrubs
- Roses
- Bagged Compost

Rotary Botanical Gardens
1455 Palmer Drive
Janesville, WI 53545
[608/752-3885](tel:6087523885) or www.rotarygardens.org for details

Olbrich's Garden's Bulk Mulch Sale

Saturday, September 22, 9:00-1:00

Saturday, September 29, 9:00-1:00

Buy leaf mulch in bulk and save money during Olbrich's Fall bulk Mulch sale! The shredded, composted leaves enrich soil and provide nourishment and protection for your gardens, shrubs, and trees. While applying mulch to gardens in the spring is most common, applying leaf mulch in the fall helps regulate soil temperatures during the winter, and gives the garden a head start in the spring. Bulk mulch is loose and is loaded with a tractor. Bring your own truck or trailer and Olbrich will load bulk scoops for you. Each scoop is \$40 and covers approximately 350-square feet at a 3-inch depth.

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

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

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

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

- Continue sowing lettuce, endive, escarole and spinach.
- Plant garlic now! This is the best time in Wisconsin.
- Plant bearded iris rhizomes and transplant peonies.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash.
- Apply a systemic pesticide to plants to be wintered over indoors.
- Continue planting shrubs and trees.
- Plant grass seed. September is one of the best times as nights cool.
- Aerate your lawn.
- Divide and plant perennials as desired.
- Stop deadheading perennials for winter interest, i.e. sedums, grasses, etc.
- Dig tender bulbs as the foliage yellows.
- Give the garden at least 1" of moisture per week.
- Collect seeds for next year's garden.
- Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- Take pictures of your garden for record keeping.
- Keep and eye on the weather. Water as needed.
- Shop for spring bulbs, mums and pansies.
- Bring dormant amaryllis bulb indoors for 3 mo. of rest.
- Begin checking out the garden centers for spring bulb selection.
- Take cuttings of geraniums, coleus and other plants to winter over.
- Late in the month, begin planting spring bulbs, but wait as long as possible.
- Begin moving houseplants back indoors.
- Visit Klein's---Great selection of mums, kales, cabbages, pansies & more!

[To Top](#)

Some of our very favorite seed and plant sources include:

For seeds:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds @ www.RareSeeds.com or 417/924-8887

Burpee @ www.burpee.com or 800/888-1447

Harris Seeds @ www.harriseseeds.com or 800/514-4441

Johnny's Select Seeds @ www.johnnyseeds.com or 207/861-3901

Jung's Seeds @ www.jungseed.com or 800/247-5864

Park's Seeds @ www.parkseed.com or 800/845-3369

Seeds of Change @ www.seedsofchange.com or 888/762-7333

Seed Savers @ www.seedsavers.org or 563/382-5990

Select Seeds @ www.selectseeds.com or 800/684-0395

Territorial Seeds @ www.territoriaalseed.com or 888/657-3131

Thompson & Morgan @ www.thompson-morgan.com or 800/274-7333

For bulbs:

Brent & Becky's Bulbs @ www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com or 877/661-2852

Colorblends @ www.colorblends.com or 888/847-8637

John Scheeper's @ www.johnscheepers.com or 860/567-0838

McClure & Zimmerman @ www.mzbulb.com or 800/883-6998

For plants:

Heronwood Nursery @ www.heronwood.com or 360/297-4172

High Country Gardens @ www.highcountrygardens.com or 800/925-9387

Logee's Greenhouses @ www.logees.com or 888/330-8038

Plant Delights Nursery @ www.plantdelights.com or 912/772-4794

Roots and Rhizomes @ www.rootsrhizomes.com or 800/374-5035

Wayside Gardens @ www.waysidegardens.com or 800/213-0379

White Flower Farm @ www.whiteflowerfarm.com or 800/503-9624

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

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

IN SEPTEMBER:

---The poinsettias continue grow and thrive in our back greenhouses. They're almost ready to bring into our retail greenhouses before the weather gets too cold.

---Crops arrive for winter sales: cyclamen, azaleas.

---We begin weatherizing the greenhouses for winter.

---All remaining perennials are cut back, cleaned up and put into winter storage.

---We continue stocking fall mums as they go into bloom. We'll continue to have a good selection into November.

---Ordering plants for spring 2013 is going on fast and furious. Our growers order early to ensure best selection. They pore over stacks of catalogs containing the newest plant material for 2013.

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.

Woodwick Candles® from Virginia Candle Company **Premium Candles and Home Fragrances**

Old World craftsmanship meets the best of modern methods to offer you truly unique candles with amazing fragrances from the first inch to the last! Using only a high quality soy wax blend and premium fragrance, each WoodWick® candle is carefully crafted by experienced candle-makers passionate about creating the best candles possible. The WoodWick® candle features a natural wick made from organic wood to create the soothing sound of a crackling fire with exceptional fragrance!

Klein's fall and winter Woodwick candle selection is trickling in! These are not your ordinary candles! A single candle will last for weeks if burned properly--even if lit daily. The fragrance choices range from woody and earthy to floral or fruity. The seasonal scents are a perennial favorite. Woodwick® candles are not meant to be burned for their light, but rather their intoxicating fragrances. For best performance, candles must be allowed to burn a minimum of 3 hours at a time and never pour off the wax. The flame should be a low, smoldering glow. Take it from personal experience and those who know that these are among the most rewarding and dependable candles on the market.

[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

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

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 all gift deliveries 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

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

<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/>

[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

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](#)