

## 'THE SAGE'--DECEMBER 2012

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

### THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

A Reminder to Redeem Your Klein's Cash!

Klein's Holiday Open House: Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2012

[10 Great Gift Ideas](#) from Klein's This Holiday Season

Our 'Mad Gardener' Is Ready for Your Questions

The Buy Local Effort of 'Independent We Stand'

[Organic Houseplant Care](#)

[The Rose Garden and Winter Protection](#)

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

Our [Favorite Pear Recipes](#)

Product Spotlight: [2013 Wisconsin Local Foods Journal](#)

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

--. . . It's Christmastime in the City

--'A Variation on Camelot'

--How To Save a Few Birdfeeding \$\$\$

Plant of the Month: [Ficus](#)

You Asked the Mad Gardener About [Overwintering Begonias and Geraniums](#)

[December 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](#)

### REDEEM YOUR KLEIN'S CASH DOLLARS

Remember that December is your last opportunity to cash in those Klein's Cash dollars earned last May and June. We heard from many of our shoppers (some of them regulars in the springtime) that they didn't even realize that Klein's is open year round. Imagine their surprise as they enter our Winter Wonderland filled with holiday plants and gift ideas--not to mention our thousands of homegrown and very well-pampered poinsettias. Shopping at Klein's during the holidays is truly a unique and warming experience on a cold winter day.

**Use your Klein's Cash for up to half off your purchases!** And a reminder that your **Klein's Cash** is valid only on in-store purchases and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts. Please refer to the back side of your **Klein's Cash** for further details.

### 10 Great Gift Ideas from Klein's this Holiday Season

1. One of our many windowsill herbs in a beautiful new pot chosen from our large selection of ceramic, glazed or resin pottery. Herb choices include lavender, rosemary, mint, thyme, sage and many, many more.
2. A naturally air purifying houseplant. Choose from our large selection of houseplants in all sizes and for any decor.
3. A Dane Buy Local Gift Card available at the Home Savings next to Klein's at 3762 E. Washington Ave. For more details, check out [danebuylocal.com](http://danebuylocal.com).
4. A gift subscription to one of the many great green gardening magazines on the market today including **Organic Gardening Magazine** ([organicgardening.com](http://organicgardening.com)) or **Mother Earth News** ([motherearthnews.com](http://motherearthnews.com)) or perhaps a book about growing things naturally.
5. Badger or Green Bay Packers themed flags, birdbaths, stepping stones, gazing balls or windchimes and so much more for the sports lover/gardener in your life.

6. A decorative ceramic birdfeeder or a lovely birdhouse to attract wildlife to the yard. Birds are nature's best means of pest control and wildlife in the garden is always enjoyable and fascinating for young and old alike.

7. The 2013 edition of the **Wisconsin Local Foods Journal**. This new journal ties together perfectly the current home gardening rage with sustainability and our buy local initiatives in addition to the "know your grower, know your food" movement and makes for the perfect garden journal for record keeping fanatics. For more info visit [wisconsinlocalfoodsjournal.com](http://wisconsinlocalfoodsjournal.com)

8. A yearly admission sticker to the Wisconsin's state parks. Share the beauty of our great state with family and friends. "The Wisconsin State Park System provides places for outdoor recreation and for learning about nature and conservation. The 99 state parks, forests, trails, and recreation areas report about 14 million visits a year. Come and join the fun!"

For more information on how to purchase a 2013 state park admission sticker, visit [www.dnr.state.wi.us/Org/land/parks/fees/#stickers](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/Org/land/parks/fees/#stickers).

9. Seed starting supplies such as seeds, grow lights, seed starting mixes, cell packs, and trays, peat or coir pots, plant tags and markers or a self-contained a growing kit. Seeds for spring aren't quite available at Klein's but are available through many mail order sources. Check out the following: **Cyndi's Catalog of Garden Catalogs** at [gardenlist.com](http://gardenlist.com).

10. Or, of course, a Klein's gift certificate. Order one from the comfort of your home or office by clicking on [kleinsfloral.com/gift.php](http://kleinsfloral.com/gift.php).

[To Top](#)

## **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.

## **DECEMBER STORE HOURS:**

### **Holiday Hours**

Monday thru Friday 8:00-7:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

**Holiday hours run through Sunday, December 23**

**Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24--Open 8:00-4:00**

### **Starting December 26:**

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

**\*Please note that we will be closed Sundays during January (including Sunday, December 30). Our first Sunday open will be February 3, 2013\***

**New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31--Open 8:00-4:00**

**Closed Christmas Day, December 25 & New Year's Day, January 1, 2013**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**November 30 thru December 2--KLEIN'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE.** Enter a winter wonderland filled with holiday plants and gift ideas. Let us inspire you with our extensive collection of gift ideas and ornaments for all your decorating needs. Free refreshments on hand.

And check out our famous painted poinsettias. Poinsettia Painting is one of the hottest trends in holiday decorating. The past few Christmases we couldn't keep our eye-popping creations on the shelves. Ever wanted a blue poinsettia? Green Bay Packer themed? Or how about something elegant, sprinkled in glitter? The possibilities are endless. Have one of our greenhouse associates design and paint a unique creation for your own home decor or to suit any taste.

**Early December--**Order your beautiful poinsettias, blooming plants, designer gift baskets or custom-made centerpieces now for holiday gift-giving and guaranteed delivery. Early ordering ensures you top quality product for your home decorating and holiday party needs.

**December 8--**Hanukkah Begins

**December 17 thru December 24--**Stop in and check-out our in-store specials for any last minute gift-giving ideas. We still have a fantastic selection of homegrown poinsettias, blooming plants, houseplants, decorations and more. Shop early for the best selection and we'll deliver anywhere in Madison or the surrounding communities thru noon on Dec. 24.

**December 21--**Winter Solstice

**December 25--**Christmas Day (Closed)

**December 26--**Kwanzaa Begins (runs through January 1)

**December 26--**The After Christmas Clearance Sale begins at 8:00! Everything 'holiday' must go! This is a great time to plan for this week's New Years Eve party or to pick up some excellent bargains for next year's decorating. Poinsettias are perfect for adding instant color to your late season holiday party and are gorgeous in fresh arrangements.

**December 26 thru December 31--**Order your New Years Eve centerpieces and custom designed arrangements early!

**December 28--**Full Moon

**January 1, 2013--**New Year's Day (Closed)

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

**Klein's is proud to continue in our support 'Dane Buy Local'.** We've joined hundreds of other area businesses and civic leaders who are encouraging you to **BUY LOCAL** this holiday season.

In addition, Klein's is the only local florist or garden center associated with **Independent We Stand.**

**Independent We Stand** is a movement of locally-owned businesses and people across the country dedicated to educating their communities about the importance - and strong economic benefits - of 'buying local.' **Independent We Stand** recognizes all socially responsible businesses, both large and small. The movement focuses on helping the little guys not just survive, but thrive...and all the while helping them to contribute to their community.

You can support the cause and help revive the local economy by shopping at your friends' and neighbors' local stores. Buy our products. Eat our food. Use our services. In turn, locally owned and operated businesses will continually pump your hard-earned dollars back into the local economy by way of taxes, payrolls and purchases.

**We encourage our readers to support local florists** by ordering your fresh flowers directly from us rather than from 1-800 sources, on-line or from chain stores. When you order directly from a local florist, you not only support a local business, **you're also guaranteed direct communication with a floral designer and top-notch service** with no middlemen involved and, therefore, a far greater chance of complete satisfaction on your part. Call Klein's direct at [608/244-5661](tel:6082445661) to speak to Laura, Sue, Kim or any of our Klein's design team when ordering your fresh floral arrangements for the holidays or anytime throughout the year.

For more information about **Independent We Stand**, please visit [independentwestand.org](http://independentwestand.org).

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

**I bought a Dragonwing begonia and geranium at Klein's in the spring. What is the best way to winter them over? I had the begonia outside and the leaves are shriveling and falling off. I brought the geranium inside and have it in my basement and it is dying back. Thanks, Peggy**

Hi Peggy,

Begonias are very easy to over winter. It's best to treat them as a houseplant in a bright window and cut back drastically on the watering. Begonias should be allowed to dry out completely during the winter months, and then water thoroughly only once they have dried out. You may have to cut the plant back if it's gotten too large. Begonias lose a lot of leaves until they acclimate to their new environment--sometimes nearly all of them. This is completely normal. They'll flower much of the winter in a bright location.

Geraniums survive best if left potted to overwinter (vs. uprooted and bagged). In the basement they should have some light source; either a window or artificial lighting. They need to get bone dry between waterings. I water mine perhaps once a month during the dead of winter. They'll lose most leaves and any dead leaves should be cleaned up. You'll get new scraggly growth during the winter. Prune this growth back to about 6-8" around March 1 for increased branching. Begin increasing the watering about that time.

Thanks for your question,  
Klein's Mad Gardener

[To Top](#)

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

**. . . that December is the proper time to protect your roses from winter weather?**

This is one of the more commonly asked questions we receive this time of the year at Klein's and the tendency is for gardeners to protect their garden plants from winter weather a little too early. Protection for both perennial beds and shrubs (including roses) should be applied once the soil freezes (and stays frozen), once all pests are dormant and once all growth has ceased for the season. These conditions usually don't occur until the first weeks of December here in the Madison area; and sometimes even later if the temperatures stay above normal. Roses can be particularly susceptible to future problems if not 'winterized' properly.

The following comes to us from the University of Illinois Extension at [urbanext.illinois.edu](http://urbanext.illinois.edu)

### **Our Rose Garden--Winter Protection**

Many of the roses that are classified as old garden roses are extremely tolerant of cold temperatures, while others like hybrid teas experience considerable damage. Also, budded roses, if not properly planted, stand a greater chance of injury or death due to severe cold than do own-root roses. When selecting roses, always select cultivars that are able to tolerate the coldest temperatures in your area based on USDA hardiness zone maps. One of the ways to protect roses for the winter is to be sure they go completely dormant. To accomplish this, stop fertilizing early enough so growth slows down. No fertilizer should be applied after August 15 (August 1 here in Madison). To further encourage dormancy, stop dead-heading or cutting flowers after October 1 (mid-September here) and allow the plant to form hips.

There are many methods to provide winter protection for roses. The whole idea of winter protection is to keep the plant uniformly cold and frozen all winter and prevent the damaging effects of alternate freezing and thawing. Whatever method is chosen, don't begin covering plants too early. Wait until a hard killing frost has caused most of the leaves to fall. You may also want to wait until the temperature has dropped into the teens for several nights. Prior to covering, remove any foliage or other debris that might harbor disease for the next season.

Before covering, some tall roses may need minor pruning to reduce their height, and tying of the canes together to prevent wind whipping. Pruning, however, at this point should be kept to a minimum. The majority of the pruning will be done in the spring to remove dead and diseased canes.

The most common way to provide winter protection is to pile or "hill-up" a loose, well-drained soil/compost mix around and over the plant to a depth of about 10-12 inches. A variety of hilling materials can be used, but the key is to be sure that the material is well drained. Wet and cold is far more damaging than dry and cold. Also, the decisions that are made when preparing the site for roses really governs what kind of success you will have in winter survival. A rose that is planted in poorly drained soil will suffer and often not survive the winter when that same rose, planted in a well-drained site, will flourish.

Soil that is used to "hill-up" plants should be brought in from outside the rose garden. Scraping up soil from around the plant can cause root injury and lessen the plant's chance for survival.

After the soil mound has frozen, the mound can be covered with evergreen boughs, hardwood leaves, or straw to help insulate and keep the soil frozen.

The best way to protect roses in our area is to mound the base of each plant with 10-12 inches of soil. When the soil has frozen, another 10-12 inches of leaves, hay or evergreen branches should be applied.

A variation of the "hilling" method that may offer a bit more protection is one utilizing collars. An 18-inch-high circle of hardware cloth or chicken wire is placed around the plant. (We sell plastic rose collars at Klein's). The collar is filled with soil, allowed to freeze and then mulched with straw. The benefit of the collar is that it holds the soil in place all winter and prevents it from being washed or eroded away. Over the winter, this erosion can reduce the mound to a very ineffective level, exposing roses to possible winter damage.

Another popular method of winter protection for roses is the use of styrofoam rose cones. If these are used, they need to be used properly. First, don't cover the plants too early. Follow the timing guidelines as for other methods of covering roses. Second, cones need to be well ventilated to prevent heat build-up on the inside during sunny winter days. Cut four to five 1-inch holes around the top and bottom of the cone. These holes will aid in ventilation and keep the air inside the cone from heating up, causing the rose to break dormancy. It is also advisable to mound soil around the crown of the plant before putting the cone in place. For extremely tender varieties, some rose growers cut the top off the cone and stuff it full of straw for added protection. It is also a good idea to weight the cone down with a brick or stone to keep it from blowing away.

Climbing and rambler roses offer challenges with regard to winter protection. In very cold climates and for marginal varieties, climbers may need to be removed from their supports and bent to the ground, then covered with six inches of soil and mulched.

When laying climbers on the ground for covering, one needs to be very careful not to injure or crack the stems. As the weather gets colder their long stems are not as pliable, and they are easily cracked resulting in the loss of that cane.

Another method that can be used is to physically pack straw around the canes while they are still attached to the trellis or support. The straw is held in place with twine to keep it in place over the winter. Burlap can then be used to wrap the entire plant, providing protection as well as holding the straw in place.

Finally, always remember that healthy roses are much more likely to make it through severe winters than are roses weakened by disease, drought, insects, or nutrient deficiencies.

[To Top](#)

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

**ENTRY: NOVEMBER 10, 2012 (. . . It's Christmastime in the City)**

What an amazing day to work outside!! With a high today of 66° we missed the record by just 1°!! I spent most of the day today putting up the Christmas lights around the yard . . . in shorts!! And because of the warm and beautiful weather I was able to put up all of the lights in record time. It wasn't just the nice weather that saved so much time, but also the fact that I packed them away carefully and well-labeled last January when I took them down--time well spent.

Everyone who knows me knows I LOVE Christmas lights. You can't miss our house as you drive by--whether winter or summer. At work I'm the guy who lights up the greenhouses and makes sure the timers are all perfectly synced to go on almost simultaneously at exactly 3:00. There, the theme is generally all white lights with perhaps a splash of color here and there. At home, however, it's quite the opposite with nary a white light to be found on the premises.

As with the flowers in my gardens, I like a lot of color. And for that matter, I'm not a fan of white flowers either. Needless to say there's no place for one of those 'moon gardens' in my yard. I call my Christmas light display 'tastefully flamboyant' . . . much in the same way I call my summer garden 'organized chaos'--lots of bright colors and just shy of gaudy. You'll find no inflatable snowmen, lit Peanuts characters or animated sparkling twig deer in my yard. Nope! Just lights . . . many, many, many non-flashing multi-colored lights on anything that will hold them.

Come January, all of the lights get unplugged and nearly all of the lights get packed away until next year. However I keep a few sets up for next summer. In fact, I usually buy a few extra sets during the holiday season when they are cheap and readily available for use the following summer. I find that lights add a fantastical effect to the summer garden. I'll leave the lights unplugged from January until the first part of June and then turn them off again in early September. The months in between without Christmas lights in the yard gives the illusion that I've put up new lights for the summer and lets the neighbors at least hope that I'm not totally crazy.

#### **ENTRY: NOVEMBER 20, 2012 ('A Variation on Camelot')**

Today while reading the newest issue of **On Wisconsin** magazine ([onwisconsin.uwalumni.com](http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com)) I came across this beautifully written and emotional story and I felt compelled to share it (and save it). This article perfectly captures why I enjoy living in Wisconsin so much. It's so easy to complain about the weather as we put the garden to bed and as the cold sets in. Having grown up in Wisconsin, I too often take for granted the beauty that surrounds us.

#### **A Variation on Camelot**

by Jackie Reid Dettloff

Forty-three years ago, I came to the University of Wisconsin. I was a California girl who had come to study English in graduate school. Madison was like Berkeley, my friends told me, only people had more common sense. With a part-time job as a teaching assistant, I settled into a student house near State Street.

I knew nothing of cold when I arrived. Within my first month, I learned about days that were bright and clear, but could numb me by the time I arrived at the library. By winter, I marveled that people had babies in such a place. Seeing parents pushing strollers in the slushy streets made me think of Eskimos. How could human beings survive such killing cold?

But then came the spring, when I discovered the Arboretum. I would ride my bike there and wander among the lilac groves. "That is no country for old men," the poet Yeats wrote. "The young in one another's arms . . ." I was a lonely grad student, unwarmed by any other person's arms. Maybe because of that, I was moved to my soul by the intoxicating perfume of all those pale purple blooms.

Wisconsin wooed me all that first spring, softened me so that I fell hopelessly in love once the summer arrived. It was all so lush, such a burst of leafing, flowering, buzzing life. Green, green, green! I had never seen anything like the lushness of a Midwestern summer. It was like being in the tropics. The few times I was able to get out into the countryside surrounding Madison, I could smell the sweetness of clover alongside the roadway; I was stunned by the elegance of thistles and day lilies growing in the ditch.

And then came the fall, when I discovered the lakeside path to Picnic Point. Walking under the canopy of crimson maples, crunching in the rustle of coppery oak leaves, I experienced a whole new round of intoxication.

In the course of my first year in Madison, I fell in love with the place. I could sing the song of Lancelot in Lerner and Loewe's Camelot:

'If ever I would leave you, how could it be in spring-time?

Knowing how in spring, I'm bewitched by you so?

Oh, no! Not in spring-time! Summer, winter, or fall!

No, never could I leave you at all!

What I know now, that I didn't understand as a young, transplanted graduate student, is the deadness of long winters: the deprivation of light, the preponderance of darkness, the blighting of my spirit that comes from too much time spent indoors. Wisconsin winters are hard.

Yet here I am, glad to be living here still — facing the coming snowfall and soaking in this afternoon's sun. The leaves have just begun to turn. None of the plants in our garden have been withered yet by frost. It is glorious to be alive in this place on this September day. My relatives in California think I am crazy to have settled here after my studies in Madison. But they do not know the rhythms, they do not know the scope, they do not know the splendor of this Wisconsin place. I do know it. After forty-three turns through the seasons, I have set down roots in this place, and those roots sustain me.

#### **ENTRY: NOVEMBER 27, 2012 (How To Save a Few Birdfeeding \$\$\$)**

The following question and answer appeared in our newsletter a few years back and now that the weather has cooled and the birds are visiting my feeders en masse, I thought it a good time to share some birdfeeding advice:

**I really enjoy feeding the birds, but it's become a very expensive undertaking. Generally I buy the mixed bags of seed from either Walmart or Target, but the squirrels and sparrows seem to be eating most of it. Is there something I could be doing to make the seed go a little further?**

Mixed bags of seeds (those containing sunflower, both whole and shelled, millet, corn, safflower, etc.) attract the largest variety of birds. But as you've noticed they also attract the widest assortment of undesirables. Squirrels are especially attracted to the sunflower seed, but so are the cardinals, nuthatches, chickadees, house finches and many other favorites. Here are a few tips to make your bird feeding dollars stretch a bit further:

--Rather than buying small bags of seed as you need them, buy larger quantities in bulk at the beginning of the season. **Mounds Pet Food Warehouse** or **Wildbirds Unlimited** are excellent local sources for seed (and birdfeeding supplies) and carry the full spectrum of choices. Instead of buying prepared mixes, buy the individual seeds and feed them on their own or create your own mixes for the birds you're wanting to attract. To save a bit more money, don't buy seed that has already been shelled or seed chips. Birds are fully capable of doing their own shelling. Store your bulk seeds in metal containers or metal garbage cans in a cool and dry location. Rodents (mice, rats, chipmunks, squirrels and raccoons) will chew through plastic containers to get to the seed so make sure they are metal.

--Be selective in the type of seed you choose and the birds you want attract. The prepared seed mixes often times contain a lot of filler seed like millet, corn and flax. Safflower, on the other hand, served alone, is a favorite of cardinals, chickadees, house finches and mourning doves. Though they'll eat safflower if hungry, squirrels and sparrows would rather eat other seeds if made available. Squirrels find safflower seed to be rather bitter. Niger (thistle) seed is expensive. But a little goes a long way and attracts primarily goldfinches, juncoes and mourning doves. Squirrels will usually leave finch feeders alone. Shelled peanuts in squirrel proof feeders are a favorite of nuthatches, chickadees, cardinals, blue jays and all woodpeckers. Protecting a single feeder with more expensive seed, rather than all of them, is a far easier endeavor.

--Feed the squirrels and sparrows!! This may sound like odd advice, but it can save some money in the long haul. Offer them the "filler seeds" on their own and away from your feeding stations. Whole corn cobs secured on spikes or millet and cracked corn spread on the ground will, to some degree, keep your squirrels content and away from your feeders. Both millet and corn are relatively inexpensive, available in bulk and will also attract many of the ground feeders like juncoes and mourning doves. But on the other hand . . .

--Continue battling the squirrels for your birdfeeding dollars. Squirrels can eat a tremendous amount of seed and can cause a ton of damage to feeders and even structures in their attempts to get to feeders. It's wise to invest in squirrel proof feeders and baffles. Squirrels will chew through both wood and plastic feeders and baffles to reach their goal. The extra money spent up front on squirrel proof feeders will pay off over time. Keep feeders you want protected AT LEAST 20 ft. from any overhanging structures or limbs. Squirrels are unbelievably persistent in their attempts to reach a feeder. Once they've reached it once, they've already learned they'll be able to do it again and won't stop in their attempts until they do so or are ultimately outwitted by you. On the other hand, it can be very entertaining to watch squirrels trying to get to feeders and kind of fun trying to outfox them. There are also plenty of "squirrel feeders" on the market that are specifically designed to entertain us--ones that spin as the squirrel eats or others that require them to do antics before they receive their reward (usually an ear of corn).

**[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!!

During the past few months a Klein's associate says he's been getting oodles of pears in his Vermont Valley fruit share box and all kinds of pears are at their peak at local supermarkets. Though there's nothing better than a juicy ripe pear for eating on its own, we thought we'd share some of our favorite pear recipes from some of our own kitchens. Pears add a delightful sweetness to winter soups and baked dishes. Enjoy!

**BUTTERNUT SQUASH PEAR SOUP WITH SHERRY**--This wonderful and easy soup comes from UW nutritionist Donna Weihofen and [channel3000.com/entertainment/food](http://channel3000.com/entertainment/food). It's among the tastiest squash soups we've shared over the years.

1 TBS. canola oil  
2 cups chopped onions  
1/2 tsp. ground ginger  
8 cups fat-free chicken broth  
2 pears, cored, peeled and cubed  
2 large potatoes, peeled and cubed  
2 x 12 oz. packages frozen butternut squash or 3 cups peeled and diced fresh butternut  
1/2 tsp. white pepper (Donna's secret ingredient in many recipes)  
1/4 tsp. ground thyme  
4 tsp. brown sugar  
1 cup fat-free half and half or evaporated milk  
1/2 cup sherry  
salt and pepper to taste

Optional topping:

1 cup fat-free sour cream  
4 TBS. orange liqueur or orange juice  
2 tsp. honey

Heat the oil in a large soup pot or Dutch oven. Add the onions and ginger and cook until the onions are translucent. Add the broth, pear, potato and squash and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30-40 minutes or until the potatoes, pears and squash are tender. Add the white pepper, thyme, sugar, half and half and sherry. Using an immersion blender, blend the soup to the desired consistency. Heat through and season to taste. Serves 8 or about 16 cups.

For the topping, combine the ingredients and place in a squeeze bottle. Squeeze a swirl design on the top of each served bowl of soup.

**PEAR SALAD WITH RASPBERRY VINAIGRETTE**--This recipe came from a gardening magazine from back in August of 1995 and remains a favorite. The raspberry vinaigrette is especially tasty!

4 cups mixed salad greens  
2 pears, cored and sliced  
1 cup seedless grapes of choice, halved  
1/4 cup chopped pecans

Vinaigrette ingredients:

1 cup fresh or frozen raspberries, thawed  
1/4 cup red wine vinegar  
1/4 cup salad oil  
1 1/2 TBS. sugar  
1/4 tsp. cinnamon

Prepare the dressing by combining the raspberries and vinegar in a blender and blending 30 seconds until pureed. Seed can be seived out if desired but not necessary. Transfer the mixture to a small bowl and whisk in the oil, sugar and cinnamon. Cover and chill at least one hour before serving.

For the salad, arrange the greens, pears and grapes in salad bowls and sprinkle with the nuts. Stir and pour some dressing over each salad. Serves 4.



**CELERY PEAR SOUP**--An especially easy soup recipe from the November 2010 pages of Bon Appetit magazine.

4 1/2 TBS. butter  
6 cups thinly slice celery plus the leaves, chopped (if any on the stalks)  
3 'generous' cups unpeeled Bartlett pears, diced  
1 1/2 cups chopped leeks  
3 bay leaves  
1/2 tsp. thyme  
1 1/2 TBS. flour  
3 plus cups chicken broth

Melt the butter in a soup pot on medium high heat. Add the celery, pear, leeks, bay and thyme. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally for 8 minutes. Add the flour, then stir in the broth. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce the heat and simmer until the celery is tender, about 20 minutes. Remove the bay leaves and puree with an immersion blender until smooth. Season to taste with salt and pepper and heat through. Serve, garnished with the reserved leaves. Serves 6.

**SQUASH, PEAR AND ONION AU GRATIN**--A delicious belly-warmer from the Better Homes and Gardens Cookbook.

1 1/2 lbs. peeled butternut squash in 1/2" thick slices  
1 large onion, sliced and separated into rings  
1 TBS. butter  
1 medium pear, peeled and thinly sliced  
3 TBS. fine dry bread crumbs  
3 slices, crisp-cooked, crumbled bacon  
2 TBS. chopped walnuts  
1 TBS. grated Romano or Parmesan cheese  
1 TBS. melted butter  
2 TBS. fresh parsley (optional)

Preheat the oven to 350°. Cook the onion rings in the 1 TBS. butter in a skillet until tender. Arrange half of the squash slices in the bottom of of an 8x8x2" baking dish. Top with half of the pear slices. Repeat with the rest of the squash and pears. Sprinkle lightly with salt. Cover with the cooked onions. Bake, covered, about 45 minutes until nearly tender. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine the bread crumbs, bacon, walnuts, cheese and melted butter. Sprinkle over the top of the vegetables and bake, uncovered, about 15 minutes more until tender. Top with parsley if desired. Serves 6.

**SPINACH PEAR SALAD WITH MUSTARD VINAIGRETTE**--From the November 2004 issue of Cooking Light magazine.

2 bosc pears, cored and thinly sliced  
1 x 6 oz. package spinach leaves  
3 TBS. water  
2 TBS. balsamic vinegar  
1 tsp. sugar  
5 tsp. olive oil  
1 1/2 tsp. stone ground mustard  
3/4 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
Parmesan

In a large bowl, toss together the pears and spinach. Whisk together the water, vinegar, sugar, oil, mustard, salt and pepper and drizzle over the salad. Toss to coat. Sprinkle with cheese and serve.

[To Top](#)

## **NATURAL NEWS--**

### **Organic Houseplant Care**

**Growing Potted Plants Inside with the Same Safe, and Effective Techniques You Use in Your Garden**

Successful organic gardeners know that if you choose the right plants for your conditions, plant them in healthy soil, give them fertilizer and water judiciously, and react sensibly to problems, your garden will be beautiful, productive, and undemanding. The same holds true of houseplants. Here's what you need to know to care for potted plants the right way—that is, organically.

### **The Right Light**

Begin by observing the places where you want to put houseplants. Knowing how much light each spot gets will help you determine the right plants for that spot. "High" light is found directly in front of most south-facing windows, and large unobstructed east or west windows. Smaller unobstructed east or west windows yield "medium" light. North windows and those that are shaded offer only "low" light. Your plants will get only low light if they are more than a couple of feet from a window facing in any direction.

### **Buying Smart**

Carefully read plant tags before you buy to identify suitable choices for each spot in your home. As a rule of thumb, flowering plants require high light, while many foliage plants thrive in low light.

Shop around for houseplants—prices and quality can vary widely. Garden centers, home centers, florists and even supermarkets sell potted plants. When you find a plant you want, choose a balanced, evenly shaped specimen. If you've decided on a flowering houseplant, look for one that has plenty of buds, with just a few flowers beginning to open.

Finally, inspect each plant thoroughly to be sure it does not have disease or pest problems. Gently tug on the leaves to be sure they don't pull off too easily—a sign of an unhealthy plant.

### **Water Wisely**

Houseplants suffer as much from overwatering as they do from underwatering. To determine if your plants need water, push your finger about an inch or so into the pot's soil. If the soil feels damp, check again in a few days. When the top layer of soil is dry, water the plant.

Bear in mind that plants growing in clay pots dry out faster than those in plastic pots. Also, plants growing in "high" light need water more frequently than those in "low" light. And, plants use much more water during the long, warm days of summer when they are actively growing than in the short and cool days of winter.

When you do water houseplants, give them a thorough soaking so that a little water runs out of the pot's drainage hole and into the saucer. This flow of water through the soil is beneficial because it pushes out used air and allows fresh air to move into the spaces between soil particles. Plants' roots need air as well as water.

If water goes straight through the pot and out the bottom, the potting soil has become so dry that it has contracted and left space where the water can run through. To water dried-out soil, set the entire pot in a bowl or sink full of water to the pot's rim and let the soil slowly absorb the water. After the soil is wet, let it drain and then return it to its saucer.

### **Feed Right**

The temptation to overfeed is almost as strong as the urge to overwater. But overfeeding makes the plant weak and susceptible to disease. As with water, plants that get a lot of light need more fertilizer than those in dimmer sites. And unless a plant is actively growing in winter, don't feed it all during the dormant season.

What should you use to fertilize houseplants? Not the blue crystals you mix in water—they're a synthetic that stimulate unhealthy growth. Instead, use a weak dilution of fish and seaweed fertilizer in convenient liquid form.

Balanced fertilizers—that is, with an equal ratio of the three main nutrients, nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K)—are best for houseplants. Frequent weak applications of fertilizer are better than infrequent heavy applications for houseplants.

### **Potting and Repotting**

Eventually, all houseplants need to be repotted either because they've grown too big for their pots or because they need to move into fresh potting mix. Generally, you should repot your plants about once every other year. Do it in the spring or summer when the plants are actively growing.

When you remove the plant from its pot, shake away as much of the old soil from the roots as possible. If the plant's rootball is so dense and tangled that the old soil won't shake loose, use a large knife to slice away an inch or two of the rootball on all sides and the bottom. Add fresh soil to the bottom of the pot, then set the root-trimmed plant back in

and add fresh soil in the space you created around the sides.

You can use any commercial potting soil for most houseplants (avoid those that have fertilizer blended in). Your houseplants will be healthier and grow much better if you mix compost in with the potting mix. Be aware that certain plants prefer special soil mixes. Cactuses, for example, need extra sand for great drainage. Orchids generally prefer a very loose, bark-based mix. Again, check plant tags for any special needs the plant may have.

### **Pest and Disease Control**

Even well cared-for houseplants occasionally suffer a pest infestation. Here are six common houseplant pests and how to control them without resorting to toxic treatments.

**Aphids:** These small white, green, black, brown or orange pests are often found in clusters on tip growth and flower buds. A strong spray of water is usually enough to dislodge them—give an infested plant a good shower in your tub or outside with the hose.

**Mealybugs:** If you see tiny tufts of white cotton, usually clustered in sheltered areas of stems or on the underside of leaves, your plant has mealybugs. To control them, apply rubbing alcohol to individual mealybugs (the white tufts) using a cotton swab.

**Mites:** About the size of a grain of salt, mites are hard to see, but the damage they do is not. Look for mottled or stippled leaves, deformed flowers and very fine webbing over the damaged area. A strong spray of water will usually eliminate them—just be sure to spray both the tops and bottoms of leaves.

**Scales:** You won't spot scales easily as they blend in well against stems and leaves. The first clue of a scale outbreak is often sticky specks on a plant's leaves or the tabletop. Check the leaves and stems directly above the sticky area for bumps that can be rubbed off. Rub off scales by hand—if there are too many, find a chance to put the plant outside where the scales' natural enemies can get rid of them for you.

**Whiteflies:** If you notice white specks flying up when you brush against a plant, whiteflies have set up camp. To control them safely, get insecticidal soap and spray it on the leaves, particularly on the underside (try the spray on a few leaves before spraying the whole plant to be sure it is not sensitive to the soap).

**Cats:** Some cats like to dig in potted plants; others use them for litter boxes. If your cats won't stay away from your houseplants, crush some rue leaves and spread them on top of the soil—the scent is very unpleasant to cats.

Source: [organicgardening.com](http://organicgardening.com)

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

### **Ficus**

There are few houseplants with more diversity than the ficus (fig) family, ranging from ground covers (creeping fig) to stately trees. And few houseplants are easier to grow, given a few basic requirements. They don't like to get too dry and they don't like to get moved around too much. Both result in leaf drop, which is usually not too detrimental for the plant but generally causes a panic in the owner. No ficus is hardy in Wisconsin so all must be treated as houseplants. Most can take rather low light, so are perfect for our long winters. Some, like the rubber tree (*F. elastica*) and the fiddleleaf fig (*F. lyrata*), prefer a more moderate light.

The most common ficus that people are familiar with is the weeping fig (*F. benjamina*). Most varieties grow into a beautiful tree and can be purchased in shrub form, with a single straight stem, with braided stems or more recently with a corkscrew stem. Leaves are a shiny green and can be variegated or elongated (*F. benjamina* 'Alii', an exceptionally beautiful variety).

Key to a ficus' success is correct watering. They like to remain moist, but never soggy, allowing them to dry out more during the dead of winter. Letting them dry out too much too often will result in leaf drop, but don't panic. Simply water as normal and don't move the plant. Soon the leaf drop will cease and you may even see some new growth. Moving the plant will add to the leaf drop and continuous moving will compound the problem even more.

Ficus love to spend the summers outdoors. You won't believe how fast they grow if allowed to spend some time in some warm rains. Place in a shady spot to avoid leaf scorch. Under a tree or a spot without an overhang is best. Move the plant back indoors before the first frost, pruning as desired. Once indoors, it will begin losing leaves after a

few weeks--lots of them! But again, don't panic, don't move it and let it acclimate. You won't see much growth during the winter, but come February each tip will be bright green with new foliage. As with all houseplants, it's best not to fertilize from November thru February, as not to encourage new growth.

[To Top](#)

### **AROUND TOWN:**

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

### **Olbrich Garden's Holiday Express: Flower & Model Train Show**

December 1 through December 31

Twinkling lights, festive poinsettias, tiny landscapes, and large-scale model trains: all aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Using large-scale model trains, Olbrich's horticulture staff will showcase miniature landscapes among hundreds of colorful poinsettias. Members of the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society come from all over the state to show off their large-scale model trains. Relax with friends and family and enjoy holiday refreshments available for purchase in the lobby. Olbrich's Photo Depot also provides the perfect background for a holiday photo! Admission for Olbrich Botanical Society members is free. Admission to Olbrich's Holiday Express for the general public is \$3 for adults, and \$2 for children ages 3 to 12. Children 2 and under are free. Admission to the tropical Bolz Conservatory is included.

Olbrich's Holiday Express is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Olbrich will close at 2 p.m. on December 24, and will be closed all day on December 25 and January 1.

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

### **Rotary Botanical Gardens' Holiday Light Show**

December 13-16, December 20-23 and December 27-30

Stroll Rotary Botanical Gardens (RBG) filled with 300,000 dazzling lights and fun holiday displays. Inside enjoy electric trains, local musicians, Santa visits, internationally themed activities and holiday shopping.

Tickets available at the door. Pre-event tickets available at the RBG Cottage Garden Gallery, at four BMO Harris Bank Janesville locations and five Blackhawk Community Credit Union Janesville locations.

Doors open 4:30 pm. Last ticket sold 8 pm.  
Admission- at the door  
\$5 adults (16 and up)  
\$3 youth (3 to 15)

Rotary Botanical Gardens  
1455 Palmer Dr., Janesville, WI  
[608/752-3885](tel:6087523885) or [rotarybotanicalgardens.org](http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org)

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

Saturdays, November 17 thru December 22, 7:30-noon  
Monona Terrace

Saturdays, January 5 thru April 13, 8:00-noon  
Madison Senior Center  
330 W. Mifflin

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

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

- Pick up a copy of the 2013 Wisconsin Local Foods Journal at Klein's.
- Mulch perennials to protect from the cold and prevent heaving.
- Purchase marsh hay and rose protection. Wait till the ground freezes.
- Mulch roses by mounding soil and wrapping, rather than using rose cones.
- Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.
- Make water available to the birds. Begin using a deicer as needed.
- Plant bulbs for forcing and put in a cool location for 10-12 weeks.
- Plant bulbs until the ground freezes.
- Prep lawnmower for winter storage and snowblower for weather to come.
- Mark driveways and sidewalks with stakes.
- Finish garden cleanup to make spring easier and prevent pests.
- Do any last minute raking to prevent smothering delicate plants or beds.
- Spread fireplace ashes over beds to amend the soil.
- Make sure clay pots are stored inside and dry to prevent cracking.
- Place your used Christmas tree in the garden for added wildlife protection.
- Have trees trimmed--it's often times cheaper and easier to schedule.
- Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.
- Stop feeding houseplants and cut back on watering.
- Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering new ones.
- Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- Wrap trunks of susceptible trees to protect from rodents.
- Visit Klein's---it's green, it's warm, it's colorful---it's always spring!

[To Top](#)

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:**

Heronwood Nursery @ [www.heronwood.com](http://www.heronwood.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 DECEMBER:**

---We're prepping the hundreds of poinsettias and holiday plants that go out for orders each day. After choosing the most gorgeous plants, we need to foil, bow and sleeve each order before loading into our vans for delivery to Madison's homes, businesses and churches.

---Tropicals for next summer sale continue to arrive. Our tropicals (such as bananas, colocasias, aloccasias, xanthosomas, etc.) arrive now so we are able to get the best selection and are able to offer you substantial sized plants next summer.

---Hundreds of herbs for windowsill culture are thriving in the sunny, warm greenhouses. We have chosen only the best assortment for indoor growing and winter harvest. Choose from rosemary, lavender, parsley, thyme and more.

---We continue to plan and prepare for Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center in February by sprucing up display pieces and potting up thousands of violas, primrose, cineraria, etc. for sale at the show. This is Klein's biggest annual event and our most important advertising.

**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.

#### **2013 Wisconsin Local Foods Journal 'Sustainable Eating All Through the Year'**

With the discontinuation of the Wisconsin Garden Journal by the Madison Area Master Gardeners Association this past year (see 'Good-bye to the WGJ' @ [kleinsfloral.com](http://kleinsfloral.com)), we are very happy to announce the perfect replacement for journaling your 2013 home garden. New and available at Klein's for holiday gift giving comes the **2013 Wisconsin Local Foods Journal** by Terese Allen and Joan Peterson. Though intended primarily as a food journal, this new journal ties in perfectly with the current home gardening rage, sustainability and our buy local movement. The beautiful spiral bound book and engagement calendar is nearly identical in set-up and format to the old Wisconsin Garden Journal--the major differences being, of course, that it's loaded with food facts, recipes (all of which use fresh garden ingredients) and eat-local restaurant ideas and articles from around the state. Local Chef, Odessa Piper, opens the journal with an essay entitled 'Thoughts on Sustainability'. All profits from the sales of the Wisconsin Foods Journal benefit REAP Food Group's initiatives, including Buy Fresh Buy Local, a program that is building a regional network of farmers, producers, chefs and diners.

#### **About REAP**

The Good Food Mission:

REAP Food Group is building a regional food system that is healthful, just, and both environmentally and economically sustainable.

REAP connects producers, consumers, policy makers, educators, businesses and organizations to nourish the links between land and table.

REAP is committed to projects that shorten the distance from farm to table, support small family farmers, encourage sustainable agricultural practices, preserve the diversity and safety of our food supply and address the food security of everyone in our community.

To learn more about REAP or to become a REAP member, please visit their website at [reapfoodgroup.org](http://reapfoodgroup.org)

[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](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 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](mailto:jamie@kleinsfloral.com)

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

Lead Floral Designer--Laura Lato

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)

[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](#)