'THE SAGE'--JANUARY 2013

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo Feb. 8-10

Handy Hints & Tips for Arranging Fresh Flowers

6 Plants To Brighten Your Home This Winter

Our 'Mad Gardener' Is Ready for Your Questions

Klein's Floral Design Team Is Here To Serve You

Klein's Favorite Seed, Bulb & Plant Sources

Our Favorite Wild Rice Recipes
Product Spotlight: Livingston Seeds

Notes from Rick's Garden Journal -- from December 2012

--December 3 or May 3? --Arborvitae Stress

--A Pine Siskin Irruption

Plant of the Month: Piggyback Plant

You Asked the Mad Gardener About Winter Care of Gerbers & Geraniums

<u>January in the Garden:</u> A Planner Gardening Events <u>Around Town</u>
Join Us on Twitter

Follow Us on Facebook

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

THE MAD GARDENER

"Madison's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"

Ask any of your gardening questions by e-mailing them to us at <a href="mailto:

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.

JANUARY STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday 8:00-6:00 Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: Closed

Please note that we will be closed Sundays during January. Our first Sunday open will be February 3, 2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 1--New Year's Day. HAPPY 2013!

January 12 & 13--The Wedding Planner and Guide Bridal Show at the Alliant Energy Center. From start to finish, everything needed for that special day is at the show with over 200 vendors offering products and services catering to

your needs. Make sure to get a seat for the daily fashion show at noon and 3 pm. Open on Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm, tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Visit www.wedplan.com for tickets and more information.

If a wedding is on your horizon, set up your free wedding consultation as early as possible. Our schedule fills up fairly quickly. Klein's talented team of designers can make your wedding day a perfect one. Call Laura or Sue at 608/244-5661.

Mid January--Seeds begin arriving for retail sale from Northrup King, Livingston, Olds. Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about spring planting. If starting your own seeds at home, some like lisianthus, geraniums, pentas and bananas should be started now so they are ready for spring planting. Please check out our **Newsletter Archive** for everything you'll need to know about indoor seed starting.

January 21--Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 27--Full Moon

January 23--Chinese New Year

Late-January--Ever thought about working at a greenhouse? Now is the time to stop in and ask if we'll be hiring for spring and pick up an application. We always need temporary, part-time counter help in the spring and greenhouse production swings into gear by mid-February. If you're interested, ask for Jen or Sue for the retail area or Jamie or Rick for the greenhouses. Benefits include a generous discount on all those plants you buy at Klein's anyway. Join our team and experience first hand how we make the magic happen.

February 8-10--Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center. Please join us. Tickets are available at Klein's for a lesser price than at the door. Details available at **www.wigardenexpo.com**.

February 14--Valentine's Day. Order early for guaranteed delivery. We deliver throughout Madison and most of Dane County.

To Top

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

Handy Hints and Tips For Arranging Fresh Flowers

- 1) Choose the right foam for the flowers you are using. Generally, green water-retaining foam is for fresh flowers and foliage, while the gray stiffer foam is for dried or artificial flowers.
- 2) Think about the size of the space in which your arrangement will be placed, and choose the size of your container and flowers accordingly. A huge vase and lots of flowers will look overcrowded on a small side table, and equally, a small vase and a few flowers would be completely lost in a large area such as a Church.
- 3) When making an arrangement for a dining table, keep it low (no more than 9" high at its highest point) so that guests can converse with each other across the table without having to fight their way through the flowers!! However, if you are making an arrangement for a buffet table, always make the arrangement on a pedestal or in a tall vase to bring the flowers up and out of the way of the food.
- 4) Use flowers in different stages of development, from bud to full bloom. Place the buds at the top and edges of the arrangement, and the largest fullest flowers in the center of the arrangement, more towards the bottom of the design, to form the focal area. Half-open flowers can fall anywhere between these two.
- 5) Use flowers and foliage with different shapes, colors and textures, for a more interesting design. Generally, you need three sorts of shapes line material (straight leaves, such as Iris leaves, Bear Grass, Phormium, and flowers such as Liatris, Foxtail Lilies, etc), generally used to form the outline shape of your design; rounded materials (such as Carnations, open Roses, Gerberas, etc.), generally used as the focal flowers; and intermediate or filler materials, (such as Gypsophila, Waxflower, small, ferny foliage) to act as stepping stones between the other materials, and to "fill in". Use different textured materials such as ferny, furry, bold, etc., which will reflect the light differently and give interest to the design. Try to incorporate different colored foliage, according to your color scheme, which again will

add interest to the design.

- 6) When using open flowers such as Roses, Daffodils, Gerbera, etc., try to turn some of them at different angles to show a different shape. Never arrange all your flowers facing forwards this is very boring!!
- 7) Always remove the stamens on Lilies. There are several reasons for this: a) the pollen will stain the flower; b) The pollen will stain any clothing or furnishings it may come into contact with; c) removing the stamens makes the flowers last a bit longer (this is because a flower which has been pollinated has completed its job in life, and therefore dies fairly soon after pollination by removing the stamens, this is prevented, thus making the flower last longer). NEVER cut off the stamens with scissors. This is ugly, and unprofessional, and causes discoloration. Use your fingers to pull the stamens off, leaving a nice neat point which will not discolor.
- 8) Make sure that your colors are evenly balanced this means not having more strong colors over one side of the arrangement than the other.
- 9) Always allow some space between the flowers to prevent a crowded effect.
- 10) Fillers such as sand, small stones or gravel can be used under the foam to raise it up so that you don't have to use so much in a deep container. This will also add weight to the container to make it more stable.
- 11) When using clear containers, add marbles, layers of interesting pebbles, or shells to hide the foam.
- 12) Position a container with three legs to show one leg directly in front. This will help the balance of the design, and prevent it from falling forward with the weight of the flowers.
- 13) Always check that baskets with waterproof linings do not leak before using them. Minute punctures in the plastic lining do not always show up, and can result in unexpected leaks. Fill the basket with water and leave for around half an hour, somewhere waterproof like a draining board or sink. By this time, any minute puncture in the lining will be leaking water, and you will know that the basket leaks. If in doubt, line the basket again with polythene, clingfilm or tinfoil.
- 14) Never place containers directly onto polished surfaces. Any unexpected water spillage can cause damage which may be difficult and expensive to rectify. Use a waterproof base under the container.
- 15) Never place your arrangement on top of electrical appliances. Any stray water or an unexpected leak can cause more damage than you had bargained for!

To Top

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER . . .

I would like to have better luck over wintering my potted geraniums and gerbera daisies. Could you give us some tips on how best to keep these plants over the winter in doors, how to care for them, and get them ready for replanting outdoors in the spring? Are there other good candidates for overwintering in doors? Thanks!

Both are very easy to overwinter indoors so long as they are kept dry and cool. I overwinter nearly two dozen potted geraniums in my basement and have two gerbers that are now going on 10 years old (varieties that are no longer available so I'm glad I kept them!).

Back in the old days, the preferred method of overwintering geraniums was to remove them from the ground or their pots, shake off the soil and hang them bareroot in the basement root cellar at under 45°. Even under the best conditions, success rate by this method is usually about 25% at best. Much depended on the temperature, humidity and the condition of the plants being stored.

Nowadays, few homes have root cellars or rooms where roots, bulbs or storage vegetables can be stored at the required winter temps of 38-45°. Geraniums are best stored while still in their pots (or potted up if they were grown in beds).

Geraniums can be kept growing as a houseplant throughout the winter in a sunny window. They'll oftentimes bloom throughout the winter depending on variety. They'll lose a lot of leaves and be pretty ragged looking by late winter. They should be cleaned up throughout the winter and pruned as needed, with their last pruning about March 1 for early summer blooms. They can be pruned back pretty hard at that time--back to 4-6".

I store my potted geraniums in the basement near a few windows. I have an older home so I've rigged up some shelves dangling from the ceiling joists. Freestanding shelves work, too, but waste floor space. I've added supplemental florescent lighting in the smaller, darker windows. They're on a timer that pretty much replicates day length. My basement remains in the upper 50's or low 60's for most of the winter.

The key to success is the watering. I cut way back on the watering allowing them to get bone dry during the winter months; perhaps watering them just once a month or even less. I water them well when I do water them. They shouldn't be fertilized while overwintering. We're wanting them to drastically slow down their growth.

I prune them just once--about that March 1 date and then move them to the garage toward the end of April, while nights are still a little too cool to put them outside. They'll oftentimes be completely shocked by the time I move them outside in early May, but they rebound quickly once the weather warms. They won't look as nice as the geraniums you purchase at a garden center in early May, but you save money and are able to keep treasured varieties that disappear from the marketplace. By mid-June your overwintered geraniums are usually larger and fuller than those newly bought at a garden center.

If space is limited, cuttings are another option in the fall . . . but that's a whole other story.

The overwintered gerbers are treated much the same. The key is the watering and they should be treated much the same as the geraniums. They require a bit more light to store well either near a bright window or under timed florescent lights in the basement set at 11-13 hours per day.

Gerbers are notorious for bringing in all kinds of pests and fungal problems so before I bring mine in I cut the foliage and blooms completely back to the soil and allow them to regrow. By the time I'm ready to take outside the following May they're usually full with new growth and a few flowers if I'm lucky.

With both plants, it's good to start fertilizing about March 1. Gerbers like their fertilizer a wee bit on the acidic side to prevent yellow growth. I use a very dilute Mir-acid solution with great success.

As for other candidates for overwinter; there are tons of them, including abutilons, begonias, impatiens, fuchsias, coleus, ornamental peppers, mandevilla, hibiscus, lantana . . . the list goes on and on!!

Thanks for your question, Klein's Mad Gardener madgardener@kleinsfloral.com

DID YOU KNOW...

... that Klein's talented floral design team is here to serve you!

Klein's team of talented designers is available to serve you every day of the week except Sundays. Both Laura Lato (lead designer) and Sue Klein (owner) are there to answer all of your floral and design questions from roughly 8:00 to 4:00 daily, with Kim Howell, Bonnie Kees, Sharon Bedner or Kathryn Derauf available Saturdays (although any of our sales associates are able to address most of your floral needs). We not only carry a huge assortment of fresh cut flowers, but also blooming and green plants, balloons and gift baskets. If you're not sure what you want, we'd be happy to make suggestions. Need something in a hurry? Our huge retail cooler is always stocked with vased roses, stunning fresh arrangements in many styles and price ranges, and buckets of loose cut flowers from which to pick and choose. We also have much more in stock in our walk-in floral cooler. If there are flowers you want and can't find them in our retail cooler---just ask!

To Top

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

ENTRY: DECEMBER 3, 2012 (December 3 or May 3?)

Today we not only broke our record high temperature for the day, but for any day ever in the month of December. In fact, today's 65° high is our average high temperature for May 3!!

With such warm temperatures I've noticed a few odd happenings in the yard--most notably that my daffodils are beginning to pop through the soil. In fact, some of the daffodils in the back yard are nearly an inch tall. This same thing happened last year and with no longterm effects. They grew and bloomed (though earlier because of our March heatwave) as always, though I did notice that some of the leaf tips were brown and crunchy--probably their only symptom of coming out of dormancy in December.

ENTRY: DECEMBER 21, 2012 (Arborvitae Stress)

While driving around Dane County it's hard not to notice the effects of last summer's (and ongoing) drought on the arborvitaes in area landscapes. In some yards rows of well-established 15+ foot arborvitaes have turned completely brown. Once they've reached this stage, their demise and ultimate death is inevitable. Though arborvitaes are native to Wisconsin, they are more at home in low-lying moist areas rather than in our yards and landscapes. In many yards they are wrongly planted in rows as windbreaks and oftentimes on slopes and berms where water during drought periods is at a premium.

Because arborvitaes are shallow-rooted moisture-loving conifers I knew I needed to deep soak my four large arborvitaes weekly to keep them strong and healthy during last summer's dry spells. A stressed tree is not only vulnerable to drought, but then becomes susceptible to a slew of pests and diseases that contribute to its deterioration.

Already weakened and stressed, we now received a whopping 16+ inches of heavy wet snow; doing in many of the remaining healthy arborvitaes around town. During the storm I've been out in the yard every few hours to shake the snow from the heavily bowing branches. My arborvitaes have come through all of the adverse 2012 weather relatively unscathed. The same can't be said for may in the area and there'll certainly be a lot of replacement shrubs and trees being planted in the upcoming years.

Causes For Arborvitae Turning Brown (Source: www.gardenguides.com)

Thuja occidentalis (Arborvitae) is an evergreen tree or large shrub. It is prized for its rich green year-round color, upright growth habit and hard-wearing, low maintenance nature. Brown foliage can be caused by a number of factors nearly all coming from environmental stress. Evergreen foliage cannot be returned to green once it turns brown and is slow to regrow so prevention of the spread is important to preserve the shape and appearance of the tree.

-- Drought Stress

Arborvitae requires evenly moist and rich soil. When it is starved of irrigation or rainfall, browning is a likely consequence. Arborvitae also prefers moist air, so when the roots are stressed for water and the ambient humidity is low, the odds of the foliage turning brown are increased. Supplement natural rainfall with occasional deep watering so that the soil remains moist but not soaking wet.

--Freeze and Thaw Cycles

During winter and early spring when the soil is frozen but ambient temperatures rise, arborvitae can suffer stress and tissue death because the roots are essentially frozen while the top-side foliage of the is being exposed to warm temperatures, sun and cannot take up moisture from the roots to replace what is being used in photosynthesis and lost via transpiration and evaporation. This is particularly damaging when it occurs repeatedly. Brown damaged portions can be removed but severely damaged trees with significant dead wood will need to be replaced.

-- Damaged Branches and Foliage

Branches and leaf twigs can be bent or broken from the branch or trunk causing stress, browning and tissue death. When brown color is localized in one or two spots on the tree, this is often the case and the damage can simply be pruned away down to healthy tissue making way for new green growth.

--Disease and Insect Damage

Root rot due to standing water in the soil or boring insects can each disrupt the internal flow of water and nutrients through the tree system. This causes tissue distress or death which often manifests itself in part, by brown foliage. Check the soil for water saturation and root integrity and correct watering or drainage if necessary. Inspect the trunk and limbs for evidence of boring insect activity such as small holes and fine sawdust particles.

--Fertilizer Burn

Excessive amounts of fast-release nitrogen fertilizer can cause burn to the roots of evergreens causing some root tissue death which can result in browning of top growth. While this is unlikely to cause an entire arborvitae to turn brown, it can account for patches or partial browning depending on severity of over-application.

ENTRY: DECEMBER 25, 2012 (A Pine Siskin Irruption)

While filling the birdfeeders this morning I was greeted by numerous noisy and infrequent visitors to my feeders--a flock of pine siskins. I would guess it's been 8-10 years since I last saw a pine siskin at my niger seed feeding stations.

Pine siskins are aggressive little finches. They're constantly screaming at each other in high pitched tones and chirps. Their 'song' is hard to describe but unmistakable once you've heard it. Siskins are the same size as goldfinches and often flock with them at feeders during the winter. Pine siskins are easily distinguished from goldfinches by their heavily streaked breasts (goldfinches have plain-colored breasts).

Siskins can be relatively common winter visitors in rural and wooded areas but aren't often seen in heavily populated urban areas this far south . . . unless food is in short supply in their regular wintering grounds or weather is extremely cold or snowy further north. Since 1986 when I began feeding birds, I've maybe seen pine siskins in the yard four times; and then it's usually just a pair or two. But today there were more than a dozen at the finch feeders. Seeing so many at the feeders makes me wonder how the rest of this winter will unfold and whether we're in for a lot of snow and cold weather in the weeks to come.

To Top

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

Wild Rice is the grain of a reed-like aquatic plant (Zizania palustris), which is unrelated to rice. It is grown in the United States and also in Canada. The grains are long, slender and black, with a distinctive earthy, nutty flavor. It is available in three different grades, giant, which is a very long grain and the best quality, fancy, which is a medium grain and of lesser quality and select, which is a short grain. Wild Rice is an annual grass which grows naturally in many Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin lakes. The Chippewa word for grain of berry is "min." The word "mano", meaning good, makes "manomin" (good berry). Wild rice was known by this name "manomin" to the Chippewas and to most of the early white explorers and settlers of the Upper Mississippi Valley. Throughout the years, there have been 60 popular names identified for wild rice. English terms were numerous but the most commonly accepted name became wild rice. By whatever name, many of the Indigenous Peoples of North America consider the "wild" varieties of lake and river wild rice to be "A Gift from the Great Spirit...the Creator Himself", spiritually sacred and therefore distinct from the "cultivated" or "farm grown" varieties. Today, the "wild" varieties and the "cultivated" or "farm grown" varieties of wild rice remain an especially important crop for both lake and river producers and modern day farmers.

"Manomin" gave its name to the moon (month) of harvest, which is typically the end of August to early September in northern Minnesota. Harvest time can be fun, but a lot of hard work is involved, especially processing the grain on the spot, even with some modern aids. This native grass has a very large, erect, branched inflorescence which produces edible grains. Wild-rice usually grows in water and is often planted as wildlife food. "Manomin" grows as reeds that are anywhere from 8-12 ft. tall. They grow in water that is about 3-8 feet deep in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and marshes north of the Great Lakes. There are thousands of different varieties, each kind growing in its own particular place of depth, temperature, mud, water quality. Wild rice is very sensitive to the environmental conditions of its niche. The plants do not like changes; the species are perfectly adapted to the way things are in different areas, including seasonal water levels, quality, temperature.

Wild rice will keep indefinitely, if it is kept in a cool dry place in a covered jar or left in original bag. Cooked, leftover wild rice can be keep refrigerated up to one week; however, it is recommended that you use it up within two or three days. After one week left over wild rice can be frozen. Source: www.mooselakewildrice.com

The following are some of our very favorite wild rice recipes. Enjoy!

<u>WILD RICE AND MUSHROOM SOUP</u>--This longtime favorite comes from a St. Albert the Great Catholic Church (Sun Prairie) cookbook published in 1996. This hearty soup is a meal in itself!

3 cups water

1/2 cup chopped onion

1/4 cup butter

2 TBS, flour

1-2 cups sliced mushrooms

1 cup chopped celery

1 cup sliced carrots

1 cup half and half

2 cups vegetable broth

1 cup raw wild rice, cooked

1 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. pepper

1/4 cup parmesan

a little sherry to taste (optional)

Cook the rice per package instructions. Melt the butter in a large saucepan. Add the onion and saute until tender. Stir in the flour, salt and pepper and cook, stirring constantly until thickened. Gradually stir in the water and bring to a boil. Cook, stirring 1 minute more. Add the mushrooms, celery, carrots and cooked rice. Reduce the heat and simmer 30 minutes or until the veggies are tender. Add the half and half, parmesan and sherry and slowly heat through. Serves 6.

<u>WILD RICE WITH CRANBERRIES AND CASHEWS</u>--A wonderfully refreshing recipe from <u>Channel3000.com</u>. from August 2008.

1 1/4 cups raw wild rice

1 cup dried cranberries

1 cup chopped green onion

1 cup coarse chopped cashews (or almonds or nut of choice)

Dressing:

1/4 cup white wine vinegar

1/2 tsp. dried thyme

1/2 tsp. dried rosemary

2 TBS. honey

1/3 cup olive oil

salt and pepper to taste

Cook the rice per package instructions. Drain well. In a large bowl combine the rice, cranberries and onions. Whisk together the dressing ingredients. Pour over the rice mix and toss. Cover and chill. When ready to serve, toss in the reserved nuts. Serves 10.

WILD RICE SALAD-The following appeared in the Sunday newspapers Parade section this past July (2012).

1 cup raw wild rice

4 cups chicken broth

3 TBS. olive oil

1 1/2 cups chopped sweet bell pepper

3/4 cups cashews, coarsely chopped

1/4 cup chopped onion

Dressing:

3 TBS. rice or cider vinegar

2 TBS. olive oil

1 TBS. sesame oil

1 clove minced garlic

1/4 tsp. salt

a dash of pepper

Bring the rice and broth to a boil in a saucepan. Reduce the heat, cover and simmer 45-50 minutes until the rice is tender. Drain any excess liquid and set aside. In a skillet, heat 3 TBS. oil on medium high and saute the peppers and onions until tender. Add the cashews and continue cooking until the nuts start to brown. Set aside to cool a bit. In a bowl, toss together the rice and pepper mix. Whisk together the dressing ingredients and toss with the salad ingredients. Cover and chill at least two hours before serving. Serves 6.

WILD RICE SOUP -- An amazingly easy recipe from the Wisconsin State Journal (November 2005).

4 TBS. butter

2 TBS. minced green onion

1/2 cup flour

8 cups chicken or vegetable broth

6 cups cooked wild rice (canned, cooked wild rice is a guick alternative)

1 tsp.salt

2 cups half and half

4 TBS. sherry

optional 1/4 cup minced fresh parsley and/or toasted slivered almonds

Melt the butter in a pot and saute the onion. Blend in the flour and gradually add the broth. Cook and stir until thickened. Stir in the cooked rice and salt. Bring to a simmer and simmer 5 minutes. Stir in the half and half and the sherry. Gradually heat through but do not allow to boil. Garnish bowls with parsley and almonds. Makes 14 cups.

To Top

NATURAL NEWS--

Indoor Blooms 6 Plants To Brighten Your Home

Deck the halls with winter-blooming plants that make even dim windowsills vibrant and colorful. Add these plants to your indoor landscape to keep the gardener in you merry until the first flush of spring flowers arrive.

Cyclamen (currently available homegrown at Klein's):

Heart-shaped leaves and butterfly blossoms make cyclamen a Christmas favorite. "If conditions are right, the flowers will just last forever," says Hans Gerritsen, president of the Hortus Group, specialty cyclamen growers in Castroville, California. Cyclamens flourish in chilly temperatures—ideally no warmer than 65°F—with indirect or filtered bright light, moist but well-drained soil, and foliage that is kept completely dry. Florist's cyclamen (C. persicum) is the most widely available. Latinia hybrids, whose red, purple, or salmon "flame" flowers boast a white blush and, in some cases, a sweet scent, are also a good choice, Gerritsen says. If your house is warm, try the new Metis miniature hybrids, which promise prolific blooms even in less-than-ideal conditions.

Streptocarpus (available on-line, but seldom retail):

The orchidlike flowers of the Streptocarpus make it enticing and its long period of bloom makes the plant desirable. Streptocarpus has seen a recent boom in hybridization resulting in numerous compact cultivars, including the popular Streptocarpus 'Joker' and the Bristol's Series, heavy bloomers that fit into a windowsill. Once settled in cool, indirect light, they can be quite tolerant of occasional neglect. "Even if they're virtually dead, if you water them once, they'll come back to life," says Dr. Ralph Robinson, owner of the Violet Barn, in Naples, New York.

Jasmine (available at Klein's mid-winter sometimes into late spring depending on variety):

Complement your home with the subtle sweetness of winter-blooming Jasmine (Jasminum spp.). Given bright light during the day and cool nighttime temperatures, J. polyanthum produces a blizzard of white flowers that train easily around a hoop. For warmer locations and bushy growth, choose J. sambac 'Maid of Orleans', with blossoms that turn purple before fading.

Kalanchoe (available nearly year round at Klein's):

There is no "foolproof plant," admits Kate Sadowski, horticulturist at the Chicago Botanic Garden, but in terms of winter color, Kalanchoe is about as close as you can get. When days are short and indoor conditions are dry, kalanchoes burst with star-shaped flowers ranging from yellow to purple if kept in direct light. Red Christmas kalanchoes (K. blossfeldiana) are as common as candy canes, but K. pumila, with silver foliage and pink clusters, and K. uniflora, with trailing balloonlike blossoms, are just as festive. Pinch back the stems when straggly and water when soil is dry and these succulents will embellish south-facing windowsills all winter.

Begonias (various types of begonias are available year round):

Not all types of Begonia will produce a reliable show of color during the winter. Only rhizomatous and winter-flowering begonias are stimulated, instead of stunted, by decreasing daylight, says Byron Martin, owner of Logee's Greenhouse, in Danielson, Connecticut. The rhizomatous beefsteak begonia, B. 'Erythrophylla'—the oldest begonia hybrid in circulation—boasts glossy leaves that are red on the reverse and a crown of bright blossoms. Other easy but prolific bloomers include B. 'River Nile', which has star-shaped leaves and bright pink blossoms, and B. 'Freddie',

which has bronzed, foot-long leaves and tall spikes of dark pink flowers. Also look for Hiemalis begonias (sometimes sold as Rieger or Blush begonias)—hybrids developed to be winter bloomers.

Amaryllis (bulbs are available into January & plants available through Valentine's Day):

(Hippeastrum spp.) is a popular gift item because its bulb doesn't require chilling to produce beautiful flowers. A relatively new development in the world of winter blooms is the commercial introduction of trumpet and cybister (H. cybister) varieties of amaryllis. For a trumpet-shaped, pink blossom anchored by a bright green eye, choose 'Pink Floyd'. If you prefer exotic flowers, 'Ruby Meyer' (a cybister type) has spidery petals with vivid chartreuse edges. To initiate growth, place amaryllis in bright sunlight and water whenever the top 1/2 inch of soil is dry. A cooler site is fine once growth has commenced, and will prolong the life of the bloom.

Source: organicgardening.com

DECEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Piggyback Plant

It's been many a year since we've seen this once popular houseplant at Klein's. But just last month a selection of 4" piggyback plants became available from one of our wholesalers. A Victorian favorite, piggyback plants are easy to take care of and a favorite for children to learn about the joy of growing houseplants. Piggyback plants are beautiful in indoor hanging baskets where the 'babies' are allowed to cascade over the sides of the pot. They are also delightful in the summer shade garden. The following info comes from Union County College website

http://faculty.ucc.edu

Common names:

Piggyback Plant, Pick-a-Back, Youth-On-Age, Thousand Mothers, Mother of Thousands

Scientific name: Tolmiea Menziesii

Many indoor gardeners know the piggyback plant as a durable houseplant that can tolerate conditions that would prove fatal to many other plants. It is especially tolerant of low light conditions.

Native to western North America from northern California into Alaska, the piggyback's natural habitat is an area with cool, moist soil that is protected from bright sunlight. They commonly grow under the canopy of tall trees. While each plant is under a foot in height, it can slowly spread forming a large colony. When cultivated indoors piggybacks make dense, full potted plants and nice hanging baskets.

Piggyback stems grow at or below the soil surface, with the leaves seemingly arising from the soil. Each leaf is broadly star-shaped with 5 – 7 toothed lobes, pubescent, and rough to the touch. Piggybacks grown indoors rarely bloom. The small, greenish-purple blossoms are borne on long stalks and are held well above the foliage. They aren't particularly showy, and could be described as insignificant.

The most unusual feature of piggybacks is their means of vegetative reproduction, which has led to the variety of descriptive common names for this species. Adventitious buds develop at the base of each leaf's blade where it meets the petiole (leaf stalk). From these buds new plantlets develop, "piggyback" style, on the mother leaf. The long petioles are weak and bend under the weight of the blade. In nature when the blade touches the ground, the plantlet quickly develops a root system and becomes an independent plant. The net result is a large colony of plants developing from even one individual. Home gardeners can pick a leaf, push it into some fresh soil, and easily grow a new plant.

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.

26th Annual Orchid Quest 2013

Saturday, February 2, 10:00-5:00 Sunday, February 3, 10:00-4:00

Escape the winter blues and join orchid enthusiasts at Orchid Quest 2012. Exhibits of exotic and deliciously fragrant orchid flowers will awaken your senses and bring cheers on a winter day. In addition to many orchid exhibits, OQ will also feature florist displays, painted porcelain, art work, quilted banners and a raffle. OQ is one of the largest orchid shows and sales in the Midwest.

Aspiring home growers can expand their knowledge by attending orchid related educational seminars, conducted by renowned orchid experts.

20+ vendors from the Midwest and East Coast will be selling their exotic blooming orchids. You will be able to find everything you need to take care of your new orchid plants including literature, growing media, fertilizer, orchid pots, and more. Come see this multidimensional show. Visit www.orchidquild.org or call 608/231-3163 for more details. Sponsored by Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery of Waunakee. Tickets are \$7 or \$10 for the two days.

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way Madison, WI 53713 608/267-3976 or www.alliantenergycenter.com

20th Annual Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo

Friday, February 8, 3:00-9:00 Saturday, February 9, 9:00-6:00 Sunday, February 10, 10:00-4:00

Walk through the custom garden display, attend demonstrations and seminars, register for workshops and view over 400 different exhibitors. Visit www.wigardenexpo.com for more information. Meet Shelley Ryan, master gardener and producer/host of The Wisconsin Gardener series, UW-Extension experts, and Master Gardeners. All show proceeds, including admission fee, support Wisconsin Public Television programming. Garden Expo also meets WPT's educational and community outreach mission.

Tickets cost \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Two and three-day passes are available for added savings. Advance tickets are available at Klein's.

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way Madison, WI 53713 608/267-3976 or www.alliantenergycenter.com

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

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN A checklist of things to do this month.
Place your used Christmas tree in the garden for added wildlife protection.
Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.
Check for and treat for pests on plants brought in from the garden.
Begin forcing stored elephant's ears at the end of January.

Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.
Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering new ones.
Order your seeds. By ordering early, there are usually freebies & discounts
Start certain slow-growers like lisianthus, geraniums, pentas and bananas.
Shop for summer bulbs like begonias, caladium, calla and elephant's ears.
Use the winter days to plan next summer's garden.
Check your garden for any plant damage from weather or rodents.
Have trees trimmedit's often times cheaper and easier to schedule.
Visit Klein'sit's green, it's warm, it's colorfulit's always spring.

Some of our very favorite seed and plant sources include:

For seeds:

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

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

Harris Seeds @ www.harrisseeds.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.territorialseed.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:

Heronswood Nursery @ www.heronswood.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!

To Top

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 JANUARY:

- ---This is the quietest month at the greenhouse. All 10 greenhouses in our back range have been shut down to save on energy and prep them for all the spring plants that start arriving in February.
- ---We take advantage of the warm and sunny rooms in our front range (the retail area) to do any touch up painting or construction to ready ourselves for the spring season.
- ---Thousands of geranium cuttings arrive for our 4 1/2" pots and we begin planting up our geranium hanging baskets and flower pouches.

- ---We begin stepping our tropicals into larger pots for spring sale. This early jump gives you larger and more vigorous plants than many of our competitors.
- ---We spend much of our time ordering product for next summer, from plants to pottery to garden ornaments and sundries.
- ---We begin to access our needs for spring staffing and try to have the new people in place and trained by March 1. March and April are the busiest months behind the scenes in the greenhouse and we rely on a dedicated, hardworking team to have everything ready for the customer come May 1 and the spring onslaught.
- ---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.

LIVINGSTON SEED

'Since 1850'

Each December for the past dozen years or so boxes of garden seeds from Livingston Seed are reliably the first to arrive on our doorstep for spring sales and early indoor seed starting. And each year seed from Livingston Seed remains the top-seller of the three seed suppliers whose products we sell at Klein's. An interesting selection and colorful packaging are the main reasons for their continued success. We'll be setting up our seed area during the first few weeks of January, so shop early for best selection. While Livingston Seeds have already arrived, look for Northrup King, Olds and Olds Organic Seeds to show up in the upcoming weeks.

About Livingston Seed Company:

Livingston Seed was founded in 1850 by Alexander Livingston. Mr. Livingston developed the first reliable tomato variety and cultivated a total of 31 varieties under the name "Buckeye Garden Seed Company". The first of these was the Paragon, introduced in 1870. However, in Mr. Livingston's day tomatoes were generally thought poisonous. In fact, tomatoes were prized more as exotic ornamentals than edibles.

Today, Livingston Seed offers an expansive range of vegetable and flower seeds in both packets and bulk, as well as many display options. Livingston Seed has continued to search out new varieties, merchandising, and packaging all designed with you in mind.

Livingston Seed is a wholesale company, selling only to the trade. We have done the research to find out what our consumers are looking for in a seed company. Our packets are designed to fill these needs. Each packet showcases beautiful photographs shot in our own trial garden. Every packet contains easy to read, helpful information. Our packets are truly unique and designed with your customer in mind. Our patented window in our Bonus Packs allows customers to actually see the seed!

At Livingston Seed we make it a priority to be the value leader in the industry. We offer more seed in our packets at a lower price value than any other company. We are committed to independent businesses and do not sell to the "big box" stores.

Livingston Seed Company states that all varieties offered for sale do not contain any Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's). We provide seeds that are developed using traditional breeding techniques and have not undergone any genetic transformation.

Our Seeds are not chemically treated.

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 <u>Blooming Plant or Fresh Flower Club</u> 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
Lead Floral Designer--Laura Lato
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
- Mexicantes
- Mistletoe
- Morning glory
- Mountain laurel
- •Night-blooming jasmine
- •Nutmeg
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Poison ivy
- •Poison sumac
- Pokeweed
- Poppy
- Potato
- PrivetRhododendron
- 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