

## **'THE SAGE'--MARCH 2013**

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

### **THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:**

The 2013 CSA Open House is March 10 at Monona Terrace!

Our 'Mad Gardener' Is Ready for Your Questions

[Planning Your 2013 Cut Flower Garden](#)

The Summer Bulbs Arrive Soon.

[Seed Starting Basics](#)

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

Our [Favorite Recipes for a St. Patty's Day Feast](#)

Product Spotlight: [Fairy Flowers® from Fairy Gardening Inc.](#)

[Notes from Rick's Garden Journal](#)-- from February 2013

--Geraniums from Seed

--The Lei Flower--i.e. Plumeria

--Silly Rabbit!

Plant of the Month: [Florist Azalea](#)

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### **THE MAD GARDENER**

**"Madison's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"**

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

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

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

**FOR NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS OR GARDEN TOURS** that you would like posted on our web site or in our monthly newsletters, please contact Rick at [\(608\) 244-5661](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. Our readership is ever-growing so this is a great opportunity for free advertising. Events must be garden related and must take place in the immediate Madison vicinity.

### **A QUICK NOTE:**

We would like to thank all of you for making the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy a great success for us at Klein's this past February. Your feedback and support were above and beyond. Attendees commented often that they appreciated the burst of spring we brought to the expo with our spring blooming plants and fresh herbs.

**We also welcome all of you who newly subscribed to our monthly newsletter** at the show. The Garden Expo is Klein's biggest gardening event of the year. We enjoy talking with all of you and sharing our love of gardening with you.

**Thanks again! The Staff at Klein's**

### **MARCH STORE HOURS:**

Monday thru Friday: 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**March 10**--Daylight Saving Time Begins.

**March 17**--St. Patrick's Day. From shamrocks to green carnations--we have it!

**March 20**--First Day of Spring!!!! It's still too early to plant, but you'll notice spring bulbs peeking through the cold soil, trees buds bulging and maybe even that first robin. Keep in mind that Madison's average last frost date is May 10 so there's usually still lots of cold and snow to come.

**March 24**--Palm Sunday

**March 26**--Passover begins

**March 27**--Full Moon

**March 29**--Good Friday

**March 31**--Easter Sunday, Klein's will be open 10:00-4:00.

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

#### **The Cutting Garden**

Now, while it's still winter and cold and snowy outside, is the best time to begin planning your summer garden. Few gardens are more rewarding for the home gardener than their cut flower garden. In the weeks ahead you'll find well-stocked seed racks at garden centers as indoor seed starting ramps up for the upcoming season. By mid-March many of our favorite cut flower choices should be sown for a good head start on the planting season.

During the week of March 17, begin sowing calendula, gerber daisies, rudbeckias, linaria and larkspur. The week of March 24 should be set aside for sowing four o'clocks, pincushion flower, celosia and blue lace flower. The following week (March 31) is the biggest seed sowing week of all: annual tickseeds, cosmos, nicotianas, salvias, ageratum, tithonia and cleome, just to name a few. The week of April 7 slows just a wee bit as we sow our nasturtiums, zinnias, marigolds, annual blanket flowers and strawflowers. Indoor seed planting continues to wane as planting time grows ever closer. During the week of April 14 we sow mostly non-cutting flowers like the morning glories. Then during the week of April 21 we start the quick growers; the sunflowers, sweet peas and amaranths. Now that the planting is over our time is spent transplanting and maintaining our seedlings as we anxiously wait to get them outside to harden them off before planting them into the garden in mid-May.

If you don't yet have an area of your landscape set aside as a cutting garden, perhaps 2013 is the year to get started. Following are two excellent articles we've found to get you off to a good start.

#### **Choosing Annual Flowers for Your Cutting Garden**

By Marie Iannotti

There are any number of excellent plant choices for use as cut flowers. Although many perennial flowers do wonderfully well as cut flowers, you may be sacrificing the only flowers the plants will produce that season. So repeat

blooming annuals are often favored for cutting gardens, because you will get a longer season bloom. It's a personal choice.

Generally speaking, what makes for a good cut flower is a stem that is long enough and sturdy enough to hold the flower in an arrangement and a flower that lasts and looks good for several days. Flowers like daylilies, that bloom for only one day, and Impatiens, with insignificant stems, would not be great choices for cut flowers.

In the end, the choice of cut flowers comes down to what the gardener likes. Cosmos bloom profusely in many colors and are on everyone's list of great cut flowers. But if you lean toward dense clusters like Bells of Ireland or lupines, or exotic, tropical colors like celosia, there's a flower for you too.

#### **Annual Flowers Suitable for Use as Cut Flowers:**

**Ageratum (Floss Flower)**--Tight clusters of purple / blue flowers. Low grower.

**Amaranthus caudatus (Love Lies Bleeding)**--Hanging ropes of magenta blossoms with the texture of chenille.

**Amaranthus hybrids \***--Spiky blooms in shades from bronze to red.

**Ammi majus (Bishop's Flower, False Queen Anne's Lace, White Dill)**--The names sum it up.

**Anemone (Anemone sylvestris)**--Delicate white cups with yellow centers.

**Bells of Ireland (Moluccella laevis)\***--Green, bell shaped flowers line tall spikes.

**Blue Lace Flower (Trachymene coerulea)**--A smaller, blue version of Queen Anne's Lace.

**Calendula (Calendula officinalis)**--Daisy like flowers in hot hues of orange and yellow.

**Callistephus chinensis (China Aster)**--Spidery pom-poms in assorted colors.

**Castor Bean (Ricinus communis)**--Panicles of small, fluffy red flowers are followed by reddish-brown seed pods.

**Celosia, cristata (Cockscomb)\***--Cauliflower shaped flower heads in brilliant colors.

**Celosia, plumosa (Feather)\***--Plumes in similar shades to C. Cristata.

**Celosia, spicata (Wheat)\***--Fluffy flower spikes.

**Centaurea (Bachelors' Button)**--Periwinkle blue daisy-like flowers

**Cleome (Spider Flower)**--Gangly plants with spidery explosions of flower buds in pink, purple and white.

**Cosmos (Cosmos bipinnatus)**--Profuse bloomer in a wide assortment of colors and flower shapes.

**Dill**--Flat umbels of yellow flowers.

**Drumstick Flower (Craspedia globosa)\***--One-inch yellow globes on tall, stiff stems.

**Forget-Me-Not (Myosotis sylvatica)**--Profuse bloomer in a rare true blue

**Gomphrena (Globe Amaranth)\***--Small clover-like globe shaped flowers in many colors, on long stems.

**Heliotrope**--Dense purple flower heads with a light, vanilla scent.

**Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate (Polygonum orientale)**--Long, drooping, reddish flower spikes.

**Larkspur (Consolida ambigua)\***--Considered an 'annual delphinium', with similar flower spikes and colors.

**Lisianthus (Eustoma grandiflorum)**--Flowers could easily be mistaken for a rose, in white, pinks and deep purples.

**Marigold (Tagetes erecta)**--Pom-poms held on tall stems, in shades from soft yellow to deep gold.

**Nigella damascena (Love In A Mist)\***--Balloon shaped buds and star-shaped blooms are cloaked in delicate netting. Blue, pinks, purple and white.

**Reseda Odorata (Mignonette)**--The spikes cream-colored flowers aren't showy, but they are heavily scented and wonderful in arrangements.

**Salpiglossis (Painted Tongue)**--Soft, velvety trumpet-shaped flowers in a range of colors.

**Salvia coccinea (Lady in Red)**--Spikes of tubular, scarlet red flowers

**Salvia farinacea**--Thin, but sturdy spikes of delicate flowers in shades of blue and white

**Statice (Limonium sinuatum)\***--Sprays of dense, tiny pastel blossoms on very sturdy stems.

**Strawflower (Bracteantha bracteata)\***--Another daisy-like flower from the Aster family, but these have a dry, papery feel even when fresh. Comes in colors from pastels to hot.

**Stock (Matthiola)**--Dense flower spikes with a spicy scent. Comes in pastels and jewel tones.

**Sunflower \***--Short or giant, sunflowers make long lasting cut flowers.

**Sweet Annie (Artemisia annua)\***--Grown for its fern-like, dark green foliage. Also has delicate, sweet scented white blooms.

**Sweet Pea**--Old fashioned, tall growing sweet peas have pea like blossoms and deceptively strong stems and come in a wide variety of colors and spicy scents.

**Verbena bonariensis**--Small clusters of purple flowers top long (4') stems that waft in the breeze and intermingle with other plants.

**Zinnia elegans**--Pom-poms with dense petals and contrasting centers. Profuse bloomer.

\* Also good for drying.

The above article comes to us from About Gardening .com @ [gardening.about.com](http://gardening.about.com)

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### **Grow a Colorful Cutting Garden**

By Jean M. Fogle

Fresh-cut, home-grown flowers transform a house into a home! Cutting armfuls of flowers you grew, and then making arrangements, drying them or giving them away is a true country pleasure. For years, I resisted harvesting flowers from my gardens, afraid I would ruin the wonderful display. The perfect solution was to start a cutting garden.

This new garden was fun to plan. I had no reason to worry about the design; I simply planted the flowers in rows for easy plant care and harvest. I didn't need to worry about color schemes; I could welcome flowers of all colors. Now, spring, summer and fall, I can cut to my heart's content! If you love flowers in your home, try adding a cutting garden.

Where you plan your cutting garden will determine the plants you will be able to use. Check the location to see how much sunlight it receives during the day. If it is sunny in the morning but shady by noon, all but the deepest shade plants will thrive. Hot afternoon sun locations are best for the sun-loving plants. Note if the area holds water or if it drains quickly.

Perennials form the backbone of any cutting garden. The plants live and bloom for years but their blooming season is often counted in weeks instead of months. When you begin to plan your garden, don't forget to check when the plants bloom. Be sure to add spring, summer and fall bloomers to your cutting garden. By staggering the bloom time, you will have plenty of flowers to grace your home.

### **Spring Color for Cutting:**

When the snow recedes and the warm winds begin to blow, the spring bloomers brighten the grey landscape. Be sure to plant enough spring flowers to add some cheer to the cool spring days. Early bird bloomers have the shortest bloom times.

### **Lenten Rose (Hellebores)**

Often blooming while snow still covers the ground, this tough and tenacious perennial has wonderful flowers. Flowers can be single or double, and come in a large variety of colors including green. Plant these shade lovers in well drained locations for years of blooms. Harvest the flowers when they are just opening. Zones 4 to 9

### **Columbine (Aquilegia)**

From April to June, columbines add their special beauty to the garden. The petals have spurs that project behind the flower which gives them an unusual look. For areas of the garden where you need some height, the McKanna's Giants reach 36 inches and come in a wide array of colors. I love the long strong stem of these for cutting. For a more compact plant, look for the dwarf Dragonfly Hybrids; they only grow 16 inches. In cooler climates the plants can tolerate sun, but require shade in warmer climates, and enjoy rich well drained soils. Cut when the blooms just begin to open. Zones 3 to 9

### **Dianthus**

From lowly groundcovers to the taller varieties, dianthus performs well in almost any garden. One whiff of the spicy fragrance and you can understand why the flower is popular in cut arrangements. Dianthus do best in full sun and come in colors ranging from pure white to purple. The lovely grey green foliage makes a nice contrast to the flowers. When the flowers first open is the best time to harvest. Zones 3 to 8

### **Bleeding Hearts (Dicentra)**

Bleeding hearts flowers are always a welcome sight. The stems with dainty hearts delicately dangling in a row make great cut flowers and add a special touch to any arrangement. The common bleeding heart had dark pink flowers and grows to 36 inches. These plants enjoy shady locations with rich moist soil. If you have a sunnier spot, try Dicentra eximia commonly called Fringed Bleeding heart. More compact, growing only 10 to 18 inches, this plant blooms for longer periods of time than common bleeding heart and tolerates some sun. Both types of bleeding hearts are available in white cultivars. Cut bleeding hearts for arrangements when the flowers are open. Zones 4 to 8

### **Peonies**

What would spring be like without fragrant peony flowers? Though their blooming season is short, the big beautiful flowers are a must for any cutting garden. Hardy and easy to grow, peonies enjoy full sun sites, but can tolerate some shade. The colors range from white to red with a few yellow varieties. The double flowers tend to be the most fragrant, but single flowers have a lovely form. Cut these flowers when they are just opening. Zones 2 to 8

### **Oriental poppy (Papaver)**

Late spring brings the incredibly showy flowers of the oriental poppy. Brilliant colors of the large crepe paper like flowers make these plants a must for a cutting garden. They love full sun and well- drained soil but only bloom a few short weeks. Cut the flowers in the cool morning before the flowers fully open. Zones 3 to 7

### **Lupine**

Lupine's long spikes of pea-like flowers are held above the plant's attractive foliage. The flowers come in many colors, including some bi-colors. Lupine grows best in acid soil and likes a shady spot in the garden. Harvest when most of the buds are open. Zones 4 to 8

### **Summer Color:**

As the warmer weather of summer approaches, the spring bloomers slip away, replaced by the incredible array of summer bloomers. Just a few of the many to chose from, these are plants that are hardy in most gardens and have a longer bloom time than many summer perennials.

### **Shasta daisy (Leucanthemum)**

White daisies compliment any flower arrangement and the perennial Shasta daisies are great bloomers. While most shastas have a short bloom period, 'Becky' blooms till frost. This tough plant fills out quickly and produces masses of flowers, making it my all time favorite daisy. As a cut flower it is excellent due to its sturdy stem that holds up well in arrangements. Plant in full sun, and be prepared to share this plant with friends since the clumps will grow quickly. Cut the flowers when they are fully open. Zones 4 to 9

### **Delphinium**

The tall stately beauties of the cutting garden, these plants produce masses of flowers. Strong stems make them great cut flowers in arrangements. "Pacific Giants" come in a variety of colors, are mildew resistant and grow

around 4 feet tall. Look for 'Magic Fountains' if you need a shorter plant. Known best for brilliant blue flowers, they also come in pink, red and white. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil for the best results. Harvest when half of the florets are open. Zones 4 to 8

### **Coneflowers (Echinacea)**

Native to the North American plains, coneflowers have lovely flowers with drooping petals. These hardy, adaptable plants produce excellent cut flowers and deserve a place in any cutting garden. The standard coneflower has bright pink flowers, but 'White Swan' is an excellent cultivar with white flowers. Exciting new coneflowers varieties now come in shades of mango, orange and gold. Look for 'Sunrise', 'Sunset', and 'Sundown' if you want these colors in your garden. Coneflowers tolerate many different conditions but do enjoy a fair amount of sun, and can be cut at any time. At the end of the season, don't remove the spent flowers, the birds love the seeds. Zones 2 to 8

### **Phlox**

If fragrance is a must in your garden, be sure to plant phlox! Ranging from white to purple, you are sure to find a phlox that fits your garden needs. Look for varieties resistant to powdery mildew, a common problem of this plant. 'David', has wonderful white flowers and is very disease resistant. 'Robert Poore' has rosy purple flowers with strong stems for cutting. Lovely lilac blooms and sweet scent make 'Franz Schubert' one of my favorite phlox. When half of the flowers are open is the best time to cut to take in for arrangements. Zones 4 to 8

### **Russian Sage (Perovskia)**

This plant packs a punch! The silvery green foliage contrasts nicely with the lovely spikes of lavender blue flowers and an added bonus is the herb like fragrance of the plant. Russian sage blooms till frost and produces plenty of flowers. Plant size reaches four to five feet tall by three to four feet wide, with an open airy look. Tolerant of poor soil, drought and a range of pH, Russian Sage can grow in a variety of conditions. This plant deserves a sunny place in any cutting garden. Cut when most of the flowers are open. Zones 3 to 9

### **Coreopsis**

For your garden border, try coreopsis. Growing from 8 inches to 2 feet, these sun loving plants produce flowers for a long period of time. Thread leaf coreopsis, has fern like foliage and blooms profusely. The yellow, pink or red flowers are small but the foliage adds a nice texture to an arrangement. Taller growing 'Early Sunrise' has large, bright yellow semi-double flowers and is one of my favorite coreopsis. Harvest when the flowers are open. Zones 4 to 9

### **Blanket flower (Gaillardia)**

Easy to grow Blanket flower is a lovely addition to the cutting garden. The daisy like flowers have yellow tips and rust centers and a long bloom time. For dwarf plants look for 'Goblin' and 'Baby Cole'. 'Burgundy' is taller and has solid red flowers while 'Dazzler' had the bicolor red and yellow flowers. 'Red Plume' has a dark red, double flower. Plant them in full sun and well drained soil then sit back and enjoy. Cut the flowers when they are fully open. Zones 2 to 10

### **Fall Bloomers:**

When cool weather arrives, the summer perennials decide they are done, and the fall bloomers begin their show.

### **Sneezeweed (Helenium)**

Once used in place of snuff to induce sneezing, this wildflower is finding a home in the fall garden. The yellow, orange or red daisylike flowers open in late summer and the plant grows 3 to 5 feet.. This plant is excellent if you have clay soil and enjoys a sunny spot. Cut when the flowers just open. Zones 3 to 9

### **Goldenrod (Solidago)**

Because ragweed and goldenrod bloom at the same time, goldenrod has long been wrongly blamed for causing hay fever. This incredible plant is finally getting the respect it deserves in the fall garden. Unlike native goldenrods, the new varieties are more compact and less invasive. 'Fireworks' grows three feet and blooms vigourously till frost. 'Golden Fleece' is a more compact variety that grows about 18 inches tall. Give goldenrod plenty of sun and once they are established, they are tolerant of drought. Cut these flowers when some of the florets are just opening. Zones 2 to 9

### **Asters**

In shades of pink, red, purple, blue and white, these delicate daisy-like blossoms add punch to the autumn garden. There is an abundance of varieties available, with dwarf plants and ones that grow 3-5 feet. I particularly love the dark purple of the 'Purple Dome' and the brilliant red of 'Winston Churchill'. The airy foliage is a nice contrast to the flowers and helps fill in fall bouquets. Give them a sunny site and enjoy the show. Cut the flowers when most of the flowers are open. Zones 4 to 9

### **Turtle head (Chelone)**

Don't let the name of this perennial put you off! Nick-named for blossoms shaped like turtles heads, this plant adds a lot of interest to the fall garden. Coming in shades of white, pink or red, turtle head has attractive foliage and generally, the plant is 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. Partial shade to full sun and a consistently moist to wet, organic soil are ideal conditions for growth. Cut the flowers when they are just opening. Zones 2 to 9

### **Toad Lily (Tricyrtis)**

Here is another lovely plant with a less than desirable name. The speckled pink flowers look like orchids and rise above lovely foliage. New varieties include those with variegated foliage and a few even have yellow flowers. 'Miyazaki' and 'Amethystina' are nice varieties. Plant toad lilies in moist but well-drained soil in part to full shade. To bring the flowers in for arrangements, pick when buds show color and are just beginning to open. Zones 4 to 9

### **Japanese Anemone**

Tall and stately, the anemones add pink or white flowers to the fall garden. An excellent selection is 'Honoreine Joubert'. This vigorous plant grows up to five feet and produces masses of single white flowers. 'Max Vogel' is another tall plant with single pink flowers. Where you need a shorter plant, look for 'Prince Henry'. It only reaches two feet and has semi-double flowers that are rosy pink. Japanese anemones need well draining soil and shade. Cut the flowers as the buds open. Zones 5 to 8

### **Sedum (Stonecrop)**

Sedum makes a great cutting garden plant. It requires minimal attention and is drought tolerant. 'Autumn Joy' is the traditional variety but newer varieties such as 'Bertram Anderson', 'Brilliant' and 'Matrona' are excellent choices. Give sedum full sun and well drained soil and sit back and enjoy the show. Cut when most of the florets are open. Zones 3 to 9

Source: [www.hobbyfarms.com](http://www.hobbyfarms.com)

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

**I was given two pretty big jade plants about two years ago and they had been doing just fine up until about a month ago. They both have started dropping leaves like crazy. I water my plants once a month, so I don't think I am overwatering them. They also seem to have gotten some bugs/pests. They look like little fruit flies and I am not really sure how to get rid of them. I don't want these big plants to die! Thanks much. Courtney**

Hi Courtney,

Based on the photos you sent, your jade plants appear to be quite healthy!! Losing leaves during the winter is normal for many houseplants and succulents suffer the most during the short days of winter. You should see healthy new growth now that the days are lengthening. Make sure to your jade plants are in as much natural light as you can give them. If you can put them outside in the summer (slowly acclimating them to a full sun location), they'll rebound and put out new growth very quickly. Hopefully your pots have drainage holes.

It's great that you cut back on the watering during the winter months, but at once a month, you may not be watering them quite enough; depending on the soil they're planted in. Too little water could contribute to them dropping their leaves. Jades need to get bone dry between waterings, but they can be watered thoroughly once they need it.

As for the flies, those are fungus gnats and are a common problem for indoor plants. Though annoying, they cause the plants little harm. Their larvae are, for the most part, feeding on the organic matter in the potting soil. They thrive best in moist, organic potting mixes. The best control is to allow your plants to dry thoroughly between waterings or by putting a thin layer of sand on the soil surface of your house plants. The females find it difficult to lay their eggs through the sand.

Thanks for your question and I hope I was of some help,

Klein's Mad Gardener

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

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

**. . . that autumn isn't the only time of the year to think about planting bulbs? How about March?**

Many beginning gardeners see bulb planting as only a fall task; one of the last things one does before putting the garden to sleep for the winter. The bulbs planted in the fall are the spring bloomers: the tulips, daffodils, crocus and hyacinths. These bulbs are available at garden centers from about Labor Day into early November.

The other class of bulbs are the “summer bulbs”, those from tropical or subtropical origins that will not survive Wisconsin’s harsh winters. Though called bulbs, many are actually corms, tubers or rhizomes. The summer “bulbs” include dahlias, gladiolas, tuberous begonias, cannas, callas, caladiums and many others. These bulbs are either planted directly in the garden in spring or are started indoors in pots in late winter to give them a jump start for our short Midwest growing season. These bulbs all need to be stored indoors over winter. Summer bulbs become available at garden centers throughout the month of March and into early April. The early arrivals are those that like that early jump start, especially begonias, caladiums, callas and elephant’s ears. These bulbs should all be started in pots by March 1 if possible. Dahlias and cannas can be started indoors around April 1. They could be planted directly into the garden in May, but we then lose a month of bloom time when planted that late. Gladiolas, on the other hand, are best planted directly into the garden beginning in late April. For a summering crop, continue planting glads every two weeks into June.

Lilies (Asiatics, Orientals, Tigers, etc.) can be purchased and planted in both spring and fall. Many garden centers offer started plants in the spring. Most lilies are fully hardy in southern Wisconsin so are treated as a hardy perennial. Therefore, they are not dug up in the fall.

Storing raised bulbs for the winter is a learning experience with great success, but you’ll find some misses along the way. There’s tons of advice available on the “best” way to store bulbs. As a rule of thumb, most over wintered bulbs do best in a cool, dark and dry environment. An old-fashioned root cellar works best, but few homes have those nowadays. A heated garage is the next best choice, but most people will have at least some success in their basements--keeping in mind, the cooler, the better. Store bulbs in peat moss, sand or a mixture of the two for greatest success. The foliage of most summer bulbs can freeze off in the fall. This will not ruin the tender bulbs underground. Cut off the dead foliage, dig up and allow to cure for a few days before storage. This allows freshly cut wounds or damage from digging to callous over before storage. Most stored bulbs must remain cool, dark and dry all winter. But some, like cannas, prefer a little moisture during storage. Each bulb has slightly different requirements so a little research goes a long way. Make sure to check stored bulbs periodically throughout the winter and discard any bulbs with signs of rot.

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

### **ENTRY: FEBRUARY 5, 2013 (Geraniums from Seed)**

I sowed my geranium and lisianthus seeds today. I usually get them started even a week or so earlier than this, but the seeds arrived from Park’s Seeds just yesterday. These are two from a short list of plants that I sow very early because they are so slow growing. It can take up to 3 or 4 months in order for them to grow large enough to plant them in the garden in mid-May. Though I’m not starting any from seed this season, I also start my bananas, pentas, abutilon and eucalyptus at the end of January or beginning of February.

Friends often ask me why I start geraniums from seed when Klein’s probably carries the most extensive collection of geraniums in the area. My main reason for starting geraniums from seed is the cost. Where as one plant can cost four or more dollars, a pack of seeds (usually 15 to a packet) costs about the same. Geraniums are very easy to start from seed and germinate readily. I sow the seed on the surface of moistened seed starting mix in a small container and then cover the seeds with a very thin layer of mix; making sure the seeds are covered. I place the containers in a 10” x 20” tray with no holes (available at Klein’s) and cover with a clear plastic humidity dome. I place the tray on a heated seed starting mat to speed up germination under a florescent light. In just 2 or 3 days the sturdy seedlings make their appearance. I keep the tray domed for a few days until the second set of leaves form. The added warmth and humidity makes the seedlings grow quickly. They must remain moist but not soggy during this period. Once the second set of leaves form, I move the containers to a plant rack where I keep the light source just a few inches above the seedlings. Doing so prevents spindly growth as they reach for the light. The added heat from the mat is not needed anymore. I’ll need the mat in just a few weeks to start other seeds. Once the seedlings are of substantial size and their first true leaves have formed, I transplant each seedling into an individual cell of a 4-pack. By the time they are ready to be moved outdoors, plants are usually about 3 or 4” tall.



Another reason for starting geraniums from seed is plant selection. I'm more a fan of simple, single flowered geraniums, rather than the huge flower balls that top most varieties available at garden centers. Though the individual flowers don't last as long, plants have a more natural appearance and are usually covered with more flowers per plant. Seed varieties also tend to hold up better during summers with a lot of rain and humidity. The single flowers won't mold as easily as the densely packed clusters on many varieties.

For the 2013 season I'm going with three colors of the Orbit series in rose, appleblossom and violet. The Orbit series is an older tried-and-true series that is also available in red, salmon, scarlet, pink and white. In years past I had gone with the Black Magic series whose foliage is very darkly zoned. Black Magic rose is a past AAS Winner. For some reason, however, the seed is becoming increasingly hard to find and when I've ordered the series in 4 or 5 colors only a color or two actually show up in the mailbox. When your planning your garden, unavailable seed for a plant that's so slow to get started can be very disappointing. Other common seed grown series include: the Elite series, the Ice series with petals frosted in white, the Summer Showers series (an ivy geranium), the Nano series (very compact), the Diva series, the Horizon series and the Maverick series.

#### **ENTRY: FEBRUARY 6, 2013 (The Lei Flower--i.e. Plumeria)**

A few weeks back a box arrived at Klein's via Fed Ex directly from Hawaii and to our surprise the box contained an assortment of bromeliads and anthurium plants and plumeria cuttings from a customer who wanted to thank us for services we've done for her over the past few years. We knew she was hoping to bring back a few things for us from her trip; but we never expected anything so gracious as this box of goodies. The plumeria cutting I received from the box brings my plumeria collection up to six plants; the oldest of which is now over 6 feet tall and is covered with super-fragrant pink blooms from mid-summer into early fall.

Plumerias are an amazingly easy-to-grow tropical that is never found at local garden centers. My first plumeria was from a branch that had broken off a coworkers plant he was overwintering at Klein's. A second piece of a branch had fallen unseen under one of our plant tables and rooted directly into the soil before being discovered and potted up by another coworker months later. This demonstrates how easy plumeria are to grow.

Plumerias (also known as Frangipani), which are related to oleanders, are members of the dogbane family. Native to the American tropics, they have spread to the tropics worldwide and have become linked especially to Hawaii where their intoxicatingly fragrant flowers are used in making leis. In Polynesian culture if a woman wears a single plumeria flower over her right ear she is seeking a relationship; if over her left, she is taken. In their native tropics plants grow into small trees. As container specimens here in the north they seldom grow to more than 6 or 8 feet. The large, single flowers are usually in shades of red, pink, white or yellow with many multicolor choices available. Cuttings are usually taken while the plant is leafless during the winter months. Simply break off a growing tip between 6 and 8" long. Allow the broken edge to cure and seal itself off for a few days or longer. Then simply stick the cut end into a moist potting mix. Stems rot easily if they aren't allowed to cure fully. Cuttings are slow to root and it may take months for new growth to begin. Once outdoors in the summer and given hot and humid weather, plants are quick to grow. Flowering won't begin until the plant is of sufficient size. Established plants thrive in full, hot sun but must be kept moist for peak flowering. Here in Wisconsin, plumerias must remain potted and then brought indoors for the winter. During the winter, keep your plumeria in a bright spot and as warm as possible. Even under the best conditions plants will usually lose all of their leaves during the winter, but are quick to rebound once the days lengthen and the weather warms. Spider mites are the most prevalent pests to watch out for. Because their leaves are so large, spider mites find it easy to live and propagate on the undersides along the central vein. If I find spider mites on my plumeria plants I simply snap off the most infested leaves and wash off the remaining ones.

It's hard to describe the fragrance of plumeria blossoms. They are richly sweet and unlike any other flower in my garden. Blooms are especially fragrant on warm, sunny mornings. Plumeria plants and cuttings are easily found online. I've had great success with plants from Logee's Tropical Plants at [www.logees.com](http://www.logees.com). Though pricey, plumeria plants are a wonderful and long-lived investment. Nearly every employee at Klein's is hooked on them!

#### **ENTRY: FEBRUARY 18, 2013 (Silly Rabbit!)**

While filling the birdfeeders this morning, it's hard not to notice all of the round rabbit pellets all around the yard and especially under the birdfeeders. Because of the extensive snow cover this entire winter season, food is probably a little more difficult to find and any seeds that have dropped below the feeders are certainly a welcome treat. Some nights I see up to a half dozen rabbits under a single feeder and I have many feeders placed throughout the yard. There are certainly a dozen or more rabbits that pass through my yard daily. Their distinct paths are trenched into the deep snow as they wander from yard to yard.

And because rabbit poop is a “cold” manure, the pellets throughout the garden are a direct benefit to my flower beds. Unlike chicken, cow or pig manure, which are considered “hot” manures and, therefore, need to be aged or composted, rabbit pellets can be put directly into the flower or vegetable gardens. In fact, I’ve read that rabbit pellets are a great addition to the home compost pile. “Bunny gold is nitrogen on steroids; it really gets the pile going!” says one website.

As a child I watched a lot of TV and I loved the commercials sometimes more than the TV shows they punctuated. One popular cereal commercial stated, “Silly Rabbit! Trix are for kids!!” One can’t help but wonder if there was some sort of tongue in cheek association between the shape and size of Trix cereal and its rabbit spokesperson. A rabbit as the mascot for Kix cereal instead if Trix would have made that connection a bit too obvious I guess.

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

March is the month of St. Patrick’s Day and a traditional Irish meal goes hand in hand with the festivities. One of Klein’s staff members belongs to a very longstanding ethnic dinner cooking club that put together the following perfect Irish menu for one of their get togethers from February of 1994 to celebrate one of the member’s strong Irish heritage. This simple-to-make, foolproof menu remains as one of the club’s very favorites to this day--over twenty years later.

**CHEDDAR & PARSNIP SOUP**--This scrumptious soup comes from the pages [Sundays at Moosewood](#).

1 medium onion, chopped  
1 tsp. salt  
2 TBS. vegetable oil  
2-3 tsp. caraway seeds  
1 lb. parsnips, peeled and cubed  
3 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed  
3 cups water  
1/4 tsp. ground fennel seeds  
3 cups grated medium sharp cheddar (about 8 oz.)  
3 cups milk  
chopped fresh parsley or dill (optional)

In a 3 qt. saucepan, saute the onion with the salt in the oil on low heat until the onions become translucent, about 10 minutes. Mix in the caraway and parsnips. Stir and simmer gently about 5 minutes. Add the potatoes and the water. Bring to a boil. Moderately simmer for about 10-15 minutes, until the potatoes are tender and easily pierced. Remove the soup from the heat. Stir in the fennel and the cheese. When the cheese has melted, pour in the milk. Allow the soup to cool 5-10 minutes. Puree the soup in the pot with a hand emersion blender or in batches in a traditional blender or food processor. Gently reheat, being careful not to let it boil. Serve sprinkled with parsley or dill. Serves 6.

**IRISH SODA BREAD**--A lovely and easy-to-make bread from [The Frugal Gourmet on Our Immigrant Ancestors](#) by Jeff Smith. This recipe makes two loaves.

6 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tsp. baking soda  
2 tsp. baking powder  
3 TBS. cornstarch  
t tsp. sugar  
1 tsp. salt  
2 1/2 cups buttermilk

Preheat the oven to 375°. Add all of the dry ingredients to a large bowl and mix well. Pour all of the buttermilk into the bowl at once and stir, using a wooden spoon, until a soft dough is formed. Do not try to make it smooth at this point. Pour the contents of the bowl out onto the counter or a cutting board and knead for a minute or so until everything comes together.

Divide the dough into two portions and shape into a round loaf, pressing the top down a bit to just barely flatten it. Place the loaves on a large ungreased baking sheet. Sprinkle a little additional flour on the top of each loaf and, using a sharp knife, make a cross in slashes on top of each.

Allow the loaves to rest 10 minutes and then bake on the middle rack of the oven for 40 minutes, or until golden brown and done to taste. Cool on racks before serving.

**COLCANNON (MASHED POTATOES WITH CABBAGE)**--Traditionally a ring or a coin is added to this dish, forecasting good luck for the guest who is served the portion containing the prize.

2 lbs. (about 6) medium potatoes  
3 cups shredded cabbage (about 1/2 of a small head)  
6 chopped scallions (greens and all)  
1/4 cup water  
1/8 tsp. salt  
1/3-1/2 cup milk  
1/4 cup softened butter or margarine  
1 tsp. salt  
a dash of pepper  
more butter or margarine

Heat 1 inch salted water (1/2 tsp. to 1 cup water) to a boil. Add the potatoes. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and cook until tender, 30-35 minutes; drain. Heat the cabbage, scallions, water and 1/8 tsp. salt to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer until tender crisp, 5-10 minutes; drain.

Mash the well-cooked potatoes until no lumps remain. Beat in the milk in small amounts. Add 1/4 cup butter, 1 tsp. salt and the pepper; beat until the potatoes are light and fluffy. Stir in the cabbage and the scallions. Put into a serving bowl and dot with additional butter to taste. Serves 6.

**THE PERFECT CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE**--From Great Good Food by Julee Rosso. This party-sized recipe serves 12 and makes for great leftovers! Adjust amounts as needed for your family.

5 lbs. corned beef, trimmed of fat  
3 bay leaves  
1 TBS. caraway seeds  
freshly ground pepper  
12 large onions  
12 large carrots cut into 3" pieces  
3 green cabbages, quartered  
1 cup fresh chopped parsley  
Mustard Sauce and/or Horseradish Sauce (recipes follow)

Place the meat in a very large, heavy stock pot and cover it with water. Bring to a boil and skim the surface. Add the bay leaves, caraway and pepper. Reduce the heat and simmer, covered, for 1 hour. Add the onions and carrots; cover and cook 30 minutes. Add the cabbage and cook another 30 minutes.

Slice the meat and arrange it on a large platter, surrounded with the vegetables and sprinkled with the parsley. Pass the sauces at the table.

**HORSERADISH SAUCE**--Use with corned beef, roast beef, smoked fish or as a dip. Yields one cup.

3 TBS. grated horseradish  
1 tsp. Dijon mustard  
1/2 cup plain yogurt  
1/2 cup cottage cheese

With a whisk, whip together the yogurt and cottage cheese then blend in the horseradish and the mustard. Refrigerate.

**MUSTARD SAUCE**--Use with corned beef, fish or burgers. Yields 3/4 cup.

6 TBS. Dijon mustard  
1/4 cup chopped fresh dill  
1/4 cup sour cream

Combine all of the ingredients and refrigerate until needed.

## **NATURAL NEWS--**

**2013 CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Open House**--Celebrating 21 Years of making farm fresh, local foods accessible residents throughout southern Wisconsin

**Sunday, March 10, 1:00 - 4:00 pm**  
**at Monona Terrace**  
**1 John Nolen Dr., Madison, Wisconsin**  
**For more info call: [608/226-0300](tel:6082260300)**

Bring your friends and neighbors to this **FREE** community event, featuring a diverse array of CSA farms, workshops, kids' activities, music, a raffle, and tasty samples of farm-fresh foods to showcase the many benefits of CSA.

The Annual CSA Open House brings most of the CSA growers serving the Madison area right to one location. You can meet, mingle with, learn from, and sign up for your CSA shares right here at the Monona Terrace.

**We are looking forward to the 2013 CSA growing season!**

### **About Community Supported Agriculture**

From the Madison Area Community Supported Coalition website @ [www.macsac.org/index.html](http://www.macsac.org/index.html)

"CSA is a unique social and economic arrangement between local households and farmers who work together to share the responsibility of producing and delivering fresh food. Households support the farm by paying an annual fee in the winter or spring that entitles them to a "share" of the season's harvest. Once harvesting begins, members pick-up a weekly box of fresh foods which may include produce, fruits, cheeses, eggs, meats, poultry, flowers, herbs or preserves. Pick-up sites are often located at a member's house or at the farm. Most farms create a newsletter that accompanies each delivery with notes about farm activities, descriptions of what's in the delivery, cooking tips and recipes. Many farms also create opportunities for their members and families to visit the farm and participate in farm events. The typical CSA season in Wisconsin runs from the end of May through mid-October. Farms offer a diversity of share options including extended season shares, multiple share types and sizes, and special funds and payment plans to accommodate households on a tight budget. CSA farmers use sustainable and organic methods to produce high quality to reduce the impact of agriculture on the environment.

The goals of CSA support a sustainable agriculture system which provides farmers with direct outlets for farm products and ensures fair compensation.

- Encourages proper land stewardship by supporting farmers in transition toward low or no chemical inputs and utilization of energy saving technologies.

- Strengthens local economies by keeping food dollars in local communities.

- Directly links producers with consumers allowing people to have a personal connection with their food and the land on which it was produced.

- Makes nutritious, affordable, wholesome foods accessible and widely available to community members.

- Creates an atmosphere for learning about non-conventional agriculture, animal husbandry, and alternative energy systems not only to the farmers and their apprentices, but also to members of the community to educators from interdisciplinary study, and to students of all ages."

Most Madison area health plans give preventative wellness rebates to their members who are also members of local CSA farms. These rebates can drastically lower the costs for CSA members making your support of a local CSA farm far more affordable. For complete details about wellness rebates, simply click on [www.macsac.org/rebates.html](http://www.macsac.org/rebates.html).

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

### **Florist Azalea**

#### **Care of Greenhouse Azaleas**

By Jean Galligan

University of Minnesota Extension Service

Here in the far north we grow two types of azaleas; both belonging to the genus *Rhododendron*. Azaleas that can survive in the ground all year-round in Wisconsin (zones 3-4) are, for the most part, deciduous shrubs, losing their leaves in the fall and replacing them in the spring. They are usually found at garden centers or nurseries with other hardy shrubs. The azaleas grown for gift giving have evergreen leaves and are grown in greenhouses. They are not hardy outdoors except in the warmest parts of the U.S. (zones 8-10). You can usually purchase a greenhouse azalea at any florist and even in grocery stores certain times of the year. They are most commonly sold in 6-inch pots, but are also available in smaller or larger containers.

When you are shopping for an azalea plant, choose one with a few flowers open and color showing in most of the buds so that you, or the person receiving the plant, can enjoy watching it open and will get the most blooming time out of it. Plants with most of their flowers wide open may be showier to begin with, but will not last as long.

#### **Getting the Most Out of Your Blooming Plant**

A greenhouse azalea needs plenty of water. **Check it daily to make sure it is continuously moist!** When the top layer of soil in the pot feels dry to the touch, water the plant thoroughly (best done in a sink over a rack) and allow it to drain freely through the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot. If the plant was watered over a saucer, be sure to drain it after 15 minutes. A great way to double check whether you should water the azalea is to lift the plant periodically, comparing its weight to how heavy it seemed after you last watered it. Eventually you will know when it's ready to be watered, just by lifting the pot.

If the plant gets too dry, wait about 15 minutes after the first watering and repeat watering in the same way. If the plant still feels light when you lift it you may need to plunge the whole potted plant into a pail of water and allow it to soak until no more bubbles appear. Unfortunately when an azalea is allowed to get this dry it almost always drops a lot of leaves soon after and may even die.

While the azalea is blooming, keep it close to a window where it can receive at least 4 hours of indirect sunlight per day. Try to keep temperatures as close to ideal as you can. Night temperatures between 45° and 55° F and day temperatures that do not exceed 68° are the goal. Since this plant requires low night temperatures, it will probably have to be set in a cool entranceway or enclosed porch during the evening. The plant will probably tolerate a less than ideal location for a few days as long as you return it to a better place shortly thereafter. There is no need to fertilize while the plant is blooming.

#### **After Blooming - Azalea Care**

If you decide you want to force your azalea to bloom the following year, prune off the faded blossoms and shape the plant so that it maintains a bushy, well-branched habit. If the plant is healthy with no disease symptoms (root rotting, leaf dropping) occurring, re-pot it into a container that is only one size larger than the old pot (about an inch or so larger in diameter.) Use a potting medium that is 2 parts peat moss, 1 part packaged potting soil, and 1 part sand or perlite, or use any fresh potting soil rich in peat moss.

Keep the plant in a bright, sunny location and water as described earlier. Start fertilizing with an acid-forming fertilizer every two weeks until new flower buds develop next fall or winter. If the leaves turn yellow between the veins, apply a chelated iron product according to package directions.

After all danger of frost has passed in spring, put the plant outdoors. Sink the pot into the soil up to its rim, in a well drained, partially shaded site. The azalea will dry out faster in a pot plunged into the earth than if it were planted directly into the ground because the roots can not spread out in search of moisture. Therefore special care must be taken with regard to watering, especially during hot, dry periods.

#### **Re-flowering**

The following requirements may be difficult to provide and are why many people simply discard azaleas once they've finished blooming:

In order to form flower buds and ultimately bloom again, your azalea will need 5-6 weeks of night temperatures between 40° and 55° F. Some or all of this temperature requirement can be met outdoors in the fall depending on the

year. However, when frost threatens, the plant must be moved indoors and grown under a cool night regimen. That's the tricky part. Warmer temperatures will cause a skimpy supply of flowers. Without a high enough level of humidity around the plant at this stage, the buds may be deformed. Tiny green shoots may develop. These should be removed for aesthetic purposes.

Once flower buds are well developed, after 5 or 6 weeks of "cold treatment", move the plant to a sunny window and repeat the same instructions given in the paragraphs under "Getting the Most Out of Your Blooming Plant". The azalea should bloom again for several weeks in its new location.

Source: [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu)

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### **AROUND TOWN:**

For neighborhood events or garden tours that you would like posted in our monthly newsletter, please contact Rick at [\(608\) 244-5661](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's Garden's Bolz Conservatory Exhibit - Flora of Tropical Thailand**

November 3, 2012 through March 24, 2013  
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00  
In the Bolz Conservatory

Discover some of Thailand's tropical plants and see the plants in this Bolz Conservatory exhibition. Admission is \$2 for the general public. Admission is always free for Olbrich Botanical Society members and children 5 and under, and is free for the general public on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon.

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

### **Primula Sale**

Saturday, March 9, 9:00-1:00  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Capture the first signs of spring with a colorful and classic primula at the new Primula Sale at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Take home a rainbow of primroses in striking purple, red, yellow, orange, and pink, all grown from seed in Olbrich's greenhouses.

These primulas are hardy and will bloom year after year in your garden. Often one of the first flowers to bloom in spring, some primulas also bloom again in the fall when the weather becomes cool. Primulas are cool weather perennials that do best when planted in the ground. They make wonderful gifts, so purchase them for your friends and yourself!

Olbrich's primulas are grown in fiber pots instead of hard plastic pots. The fiber pots are "compostable, not plantable," meaning that the primulas must be taken out of the pot and planted in the ground or a container. Then the fiber pot can be added to your compost bin. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Gardens. Plants are \$5.00 each.

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

### **Olbrich Garden's Spring Show: Wisconsin Woodlands**

March 9 thru March 24

Daily from 10:00-4:00  
In the Olbrich Atrium

Immerse yourself in the splendor of spring!

Meander through an array of spring flowers and leave the stark winter landscape behind. Relish in the fragrance of hyacinths and admire the delicate petals of elegant tulips and the sunny hues of brilliant daffodils.

A \$2 donation is suggested. Proceeds benefit Olbrich Gardens.

Select flowers from the show will be available for purchase on Monday, March 25 at 12 pm until supplies last.

[Olbrich Botanical Society members](#) are the first to glimpse the beauty of spring in this indoor exhibit of spring blooms from 9-11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 9. Enjoy the invigorating colors and scents of spring bulbs, trees, and shrubs, and then enjoy music and light refreshments in the Evjue Commons. Olbrich members also receive 20% off in Olbrich's Growing Gifts shop.

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

### **2013 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Open House**

Sunday, March 10, 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Monona Terrace  
1 John Nolen Dr., Madison, Wisconsin

For event details see our Natural News section above or visit [www.macsac.org](http://www.macsac.org).

### **Annual Spring Symposium: Our Gardening Heritage**

Saturday, March 23, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
at Rotary Botanical Gardens

**Registration deadline: March 15th**

**Price:**

\$65 for RBG Friends

\$75 General Public

*\*Note - fee includes lunch \**

Visit <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/RegistrationPandP1-12kk.pdf> to register.

Join your fellow plant enthusiasts at Rotary Botanical Gardens for a jam-packed day of learning and fun! Our stellar line-up of speakers includes:

**Preserving Our Heritage Through Heirloom Gardening**

by Diane Ott Whealy, co-founder of Seed Savers Exchange and author of [Gathering](#).

**Gardening Insights & Inspiration from Wisconsin's Early Settlers**

by Marcia Carmichael, Historic Gardens Coordinator at Old World Wisconsin and author of [Putting Down Roots: Gardening Insights from Wisconsin's Early Settlers](#).

**Plant Diseases That Have Changed History**

by Brian Hudelson, PhD, Senior Outreach Specialist and Director of Diagnostic Services at UW-Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic.

**Midwest Victory Gardens: Potatoes, Petunias and Patriotism**

by Lee Somerville, Landscape Historian and Master Gardener, and author of [Vintage Wisconsin Gardens: History of Home Gardens](#).

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

## **Fascinating World of Carnivorous Plants**

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
at Rotary Botanical Gardens

Price:

\$5 for RBG Friends

\$7 General Public

Carnivorous plants are unique in the plant world with an incredible ability to lure, capture, kill and digest animal prey. Everyone's heard of Venus Flytraps, but there are many other interesting types out there, including several species that grow in Wisconsin. Teresa, educator and an active member of the International Carnivorous Plant Society, will reveal their unique adaptations; the different ways they attract and eat their prey; discuss their occurrence in the wild and then showcase several live examples. Pre-registration not required.

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

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

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)

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

- Pinch back over wintered geraniums one last time. Root cuttings if needed.
- Check perennials for heaving during warm spells. Remulch as needed.
- Check for early spring bloomers like crocus, winter aconite & hellebores.
- Begin uncovering roses by month's end.
- Continue bringing out your cooled forced bulbs for indoor enjoyment.
- Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.
- Check for and treat for pests on plants brought in from the garden.
- Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.
- Keep birdbaths full and clean for the return of the first robins & other arrivals.
- Repair and clean out birdhouses. Early arrivals will be here soon!
- Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering or buying new ones.
- Seed starting is in full swing: petunias, tomatoes, peppers and cole crops.
- Sterilize seed starting equipment and pots with a 1:16 bleach solution.
- Shop for summer bulbs like gladiolas, lilies and dahlias.
- Remove mulch & rodent protection (chicken wire) from tulip and crocus beds
- Use the winter days to plan next summer's garden.
- March is the month to prune most fruit trees and apply dormant oil.
- Prune late summer and fall blooming shrubs.
- Do not prune spring blooming shrubs like lilacs, forsythia or viburnum.
- Begin bringing in branches for forcing: pussy willow, forsythia, quince, etc.
- As the days lengthen and new growth occurs, increase fertilizing houseplants
- Check your garden for any plant damage from weather or rodents.
- Ready the lawn mower---just a few weeks to go.
- Visit Klein's---the showrooms are filling up with spring annuals. Pansies, violas, calendula, cole crops & onion sets become available by month's end.

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

#### **For bulbs:**

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

#### **For plants:**

Heronswood Nursery @ [www.heronswood.com](http://www.heronswood.com) or [360/297-4172](tel:3602974172)  
High Country Gardens @ [www.highcountrygardens.com](http://www.highcountrygardens.com) or [800/925-9387](tel:8009259387)  
Logee's Greenhouses @ [www.logees.com](http://www.logees.com) or [888/330-8038](tel:8883308038)  
Plant Delights Nursery @ [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com) or [912/772-4794](tel:9127724794)  
Roots and Rhizomes @ [www.rootsrhizomes.com](http://www.rootsrhizomes.com) or [800/374-5035](tel:8003745035)  
Wayside Gardens @ [www.waysidegardens.com](http://www.waysidegardens.com) or [800/213-0379](tel:8002130379)  
White Flower Farm @ [www.whiteflowerfarm.com](http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com) or [800/503-9624](tel:8005039624)

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!

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### **A SEED STARTING PRIMER--**

Starting your own plants from seed can be both rewarding and frustrating for the beginning gardener. From experience, it's best to start out slow. This eliminates some of the frustration. Experience will gain you knowledge and confidence. Before starting your seeds, read the packet and get a little basic information. Some seeds are best sown directly in the garden come spring and not started indoors. It's best to do a little research by going on-line or purchasing a good gardening book. The packets themselves will usually tell you whether to direct sow in the garden or how many weeks before our last frost date to sow indoors. Our last frost date is about May 10. Using a calendar, count back from May 10 and this will be your sow date.

One can start seeds on any sunny windowsill and in almost any container. Warmth and moisture are critical in getting most seeds to germinate. But a few pieces of basic and inexpensive equipment purchased at your garden center and/or hardware store will help you get started and make your seed starting experience a great success. Here is a shopping list:

- \*A heating mat--makes seeds germinate quickly and uniformly
  - \*A few 10x20" trays without holes
  - \*A few clear humidity domes
  - \*A sterile seed starting mix
  - \*A 4' shop lamp w/ 2 fluorescent bulbs (you don't need "gro-lights")  
or a seed growing rack if you'd like to make an investment
  - \*A few 10x20" trays with holes
  - \*A few sheets of empty cell packs, e.g. 4-packs or 6-packs
  - \*A water mister
  - \*A timer
  - \*A soilless potting mix
- All of the above items, except the timer, are available at Klein's.**

Again, following package instructions, sow the seeds, as many as you want, in a very shallow, open container, filled with moistened seed starting mix. This container can be anything from very low or cut off dairy containers to disposable food storage containers. Per package instructions, cover or don't cover the seed. Some seeds require light for germination. Next place your seeded containers in a tray **without holes**, mist them till well watered and cover with a humidity dome. Place your covered tray on the plugged in heating mat under the shop light. Set your timer so the shop light is on for 13 hours (off for 11 hours).

In a few days, as your seeds begin to sprout, remove them from under the humidity dome and place in a well-lit, warm location. Keep your seeds and seedlings moist. Different seeds sprout at different rates so this can take from a few days to a few weeks. Once all your seeds have germinated, unplug your heating mat. You can now move all of your seedlings to under the shop light still set at 13 hours.

Once your seedlings have 2 sets of "real" leaves it's time to "**prick them out**" (transplant them). Do this by placing a sheet of empty cell packs in a tray **with holes**. The holes now become necessary for proper drainage. Fill the cells with soilless potting mix and moisten well with the mister. Using a pen or pencil "dibble" a hole into each of the cells. This is where you'll now place your seedling. Remove the seed starting mix and seedlings as a clump from their starting containers. Gently break apart this root ball, separating your seedlings. The pen or pencil will come in handy as an added tool to help separate the seedlings. Carefully place one seedling in each of the holes you put in the prepped cells. Gently firm in with your finger tips. Mist well to water thoroughly and place in a warm, well lit area. Using your shop light again makes this easy. The seedlings may seem weak and somewhat abused, but they're very resilient and will pop back quickly. When watering, fertilize your new plants with a very dilute solution, rather than at full rate. By May 10 your flowers and vegetables should be ready to put in your garden and you can say that you did it yourself--beginning to end.

**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 MARCH:**

---Transplanting is in full swing on the transplanting line in our back greenhouses.

Employees work 8-10 hour shifts planting thousands of plugs and tiny seedlings into the cell packs you purchase in the spring. Once planted, the flats move by conveyor and then monorail into the various greenhouses, all kept at different temperatures depending on the plant.

---The greenhouses and showrooms are filling fast with thousands of hanging and potted plants. We're constantly moving product around, trying to make the best use of our limited space.

---By the end of the month we're moving product outside into cold frames and hoop houses. We move product that is very cold tolerant, such as pansies, dianthus, dusty miller, alyssum and even petunias. The cold keeps them compact and pest free and hardens them off for the transition outside. We also need the room in our ever-filling greenhouses.

---Perennial plugs arrive and are stepped up into 3 1/2" and quart sizes. Our perennials are also grown quite cold so they invest their energy into rooting out, rather than growing. Plants remain compact. Any remaining perennials from last season are moved outdoors from an unheated greenhouse.

---Geraniums are pinched and shaped for the last time by the first week of the month. Any later pinching will delay blooming too much for spring sales.

---Retail items are arriving nonstop for unpacking and pricing, everything from garden ornaments and pottery to pesticides and fertilizers.

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**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.

## **FAIRY FLOWERS® from Fairy Gardening Inc.**

### **What is a Fairy Garden?**

A Fairy Garden is a miniature garden complete with structures and actual living plants. It is designed to give your green thumb a place to tend year-round and to lure fairies and with them, good luck, to your home. It's a tiny space created and tended with love. The design and components are limited only by your imagination.

### **What are Fairy Flowers®?**

The plants in the Fairy Flowers® line have been selected because they naturally stay small or can be trimmed to stay tiny. These flowers thrive as outdoor plants in the height of your growing season and as indoor plants the remainder of the year. With proper pruning and care, Fairy Flowers® are designed to flourish in small spaces indefinitely.

Each plant comes with a beautiful tag that introduces gardeners to both the fairy and the flower he or she has created. With custom art and unique stories on each tag, the fairies and their flowers are so sweet; you'll want to get to know each and every one.

### **Selecting Fairy Flowers®**

When selecting Fairy Flowers® for your garden, consider choosing varieties that will allow you to create a realistic miniature landscape. We recommend at least one plant from each of the following categories:

- Groundcovers that mimic grass
- Shrub-like plants that imitate bushes
- Trailing plants that creep over tiny arbors and gazebos
- Tree-like plants providing the perfect shady spot

Be sure to think about the location where you'll keep your Fairy Garden and select plants that will thrive in its conditions. Also think about your personal schedule and what type of watering will work best for you. Here are some tips to keep in mind when making your Fairy Flowers® list:

- Full sun means plants will perform best with eight or more hours of direct sun per day.
- Sun means plants will perform best with six to eight hours of direct sun per day.
- Part sun means plants will perform best with four to six hours of direct sun per day. If you live in a very hot dry climate, plants that say "full sun" or "sun" generally perform better in part sun conditions in the summer months when the heat is especially intense.
- Part shade means plants will perform best with no more than four hours of sunlight.
- Shade means plants will perform best with no more than two hours of diffused sunlight.
- Full shade means plants will perform best in situations where there is never direct sunlight (i.e., a northern exposure).

### **Designing & Planting**

If there is one thing we know for sure about fairies, it is that they love to hide! So, think like a fairy as you design the perfect fairy lair. Keep things small and leave tiny spaces where fairies can peek at you, but you can't see them.

Your first step in creating your Fairy Garden is to select and purchase your favorite Fairy Flowers®, container and accessories or starter kits from Klein's or your favorite garden center. There are plenty of miniature plants fairies just love and you won't have any trouble finding flowers that make both you and your fairies very happy.

Now it's time to design your garden. In addition to hiding spaces, fairies love places to rest. All of that flitting and fluttering will wear a fairy out, so she'll be thrilled to see a bench for lounging and she might also appreciate a soft mossy or grassy spot for napping! When designing, it is helpful to place your plants and accessories in the spots where you plan to put them before you actually do any planting. This way you can play with your design and easily make changes as you decide what layout will be best for your fairies. Don't forget to leave room for your pebble path. Fairies have places to go and they'll need a way to get there!

Once you've developed a plan, it's time to plant. Remove all of the furniture and be sure to remember where everything goes. Select a plant and remove it from its container by tenderly squeezing the sides of the pot then gently pulling on the soil/root ball until it slides out easily. Next, "tickle" your Fairy Flower's® roots by gently pulling them apart until they are loose. Some soil may fall away from the root ball at this time.

With a spoon, garden trowel or your fingers, dig a small hole in the spot where you want to place the plant in the garden. The hole should be as deep as the soil around the base of the plant so that when the plant is in place, the top of its existing soil lines up with the top of "The Dirt" in the fairy box. Once the plant is in place, cover the plant's existing soil with at least ¼" of "The Dirt." Gently press directly down on the base of your plant (which is now covered with soil) to secure it in its place. Repeat this process for all remaining Fairy Flowers®.

If you have chosen trailing plants for an arbor or support structure, place one on each side at the base of the arbor and plant as described above. Once completed, weave the vines through the arbor walls so the plants will grow upwards and eventually cover your arbor.

You're getting very close to finishing your Fairy Garden and your fairies are getting very excited. If you listen carefully, you just may hear them giggling and making plans to move in right away.

Once you've finished planting your Fairy Flowers®, it's time to give them a drink of water. Since it's a new garden, the plants will be extra thirsty, so use a watering can with a breaker to water them until a small amount of water accumulates in a saucer placed beneath the pot. Be careful not to over water as most of the smaller Fairy Flowers® tend to be more drought tolerant, but will like to be kept moist at all times. See specific instructions (listed on the plant tag) to best care for each individual Fairy Flower®.

Once you've designed, planted and watered your garden, it's time to add your accessories and create a path through the garden.

Think of your Fairy Garden as a work in progress. It's fun to add seasonal flowers and holiday decorations from time to time. And, fairies believe variety is the spice of life, so don't be afraid to rearrange the furniture every now and then!

When everything is in place and you are ready to invite your fairies to move in, sprinkle a pinch of fairy dust over the garden for good luck. Save a little dust and anytime you're in need of luck, sprinkle another pinch or two.

Sit back, put your feet up and keep an eye out for fairies. Don't forget, fairies tend to be very shy, so you may need to spend a lot of time relaxing near your garden in order to see one!

Source: [www.fairygardening.com](http://www.fairygardening.com)

In addition to Fairy Flowers®, Klein's carries a wide assortment of fairy garden accessories from Georgetown Home and Garden and Grassland Roads for both indoor and outdoor miniature gardens.

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

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

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

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

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

## **FACEBOOK**

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

## **TWITTER**

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

## SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

We offer a 10% Off Senior Citizen Discount every Tuesday to those 62 and above. This discount is not in addition to other discounts or sales. Please mention that you are a senior before we ring up your purchases. Does not apply to wire out orders or services, i.e. delivery, potting, etc.

## RECYCLING POTS & TRAYS

Plastic flower pots and garden edging can now be recycled as part of the City of Madison's [rigid plastic program](#). Flowerpots and edging must be free of dirt and can be placed in your green recycling bin. For more information call 267-2626 or visit [www.cityofmadison.com/streets/recycling/plastic.cfm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/recycling/plastic.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. We do not deliver to Cambridge, Columbus, Deerfield or Stoughton.

Current delivery rate on 1-4 items is \$7.95 for Madison, Maple Bluff, Monona and Shorewood Hills; \$8.95 for Cottage Grove, DeForest, Fitchburg, McFarland, Sun Prairie, Waunakee and Windsor; and \$9.95 for Marshall, Middleton, Oregon and Verona. An additional \$3.00 will be added for deliveries of 4-10 items and \$5.00 added for deliveries of more than 10 items. For deliveries requiring more than one trip, a separate delivery charge will be added for each trip.

A minimum order of \$25.00 is required for delivery.

We not only deliver our fabulous fresh flowers, but also houseplants, bedding plants and hardgoods. There may be an extra charge for very large or bulky items.

Delivery to the Madison hospitals is \$5.95. Deliveries to the four Madison hospitals are made during the early afternoon. Items are delivered to the hospital's volunteer rooms and not directly to the patients' rooms per hospital rules.

There is no delivery charge for funerals in the city of Madison or Monona, although normal rates apply for morning funeral deliveries to Madison's west side (west of Park St.). Our normal rates also apply for funeral deliveries in the surrounding communities at all times. Although we don't deliver on Sundays, we will deliver funeral items on Sundays at the regular delivery rate.

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 3:00 p.m. We do not usually deliver after 4:00 unless specific exceptions are made with our drivers.

Except for holidays, the following west-side zip codes and communities are 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.

**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--

House Accounts & Billing--Naomi Boldon [naomi@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:naomi@kleinsfloral.com)

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

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

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#### **RELATED RESOURCES AND WEB SITES**

University of Wisconsin Extension  
1 Fen Oak Ct. #138  
Madison, WI 53718  
608/224-3700

<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.

#### **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

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