'THE SAGE'--JANUARY 2014

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses Online Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo Feb. 7-9
Our 'Mad Gardener' Is Ready for Your Questions
Now Hiring . . .

10 Ways to Reuse That Christmas Tree

Klein's Favorite Seed, Bulb & Plant Sources

You Asked the Mad Gardener Natural Remedies for Indoor Pests

All About Walnuts and . . .

Our Very Favorite Walnut Recipes

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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 **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.

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 2, 2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 1--New Year's Day. HAPPY 2014!

January 11 & 12--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 Kathy (kathy@kleinsfloral.com) or Sue at 608/244-5661.

Mid January--Seeds begin arriving for retail sale. Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about spring planting. If starting your own seeds at home, some such as 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 16--Full Moon

January 20--Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 31--Chinese New Year

Throughout 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 7-9--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.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

Now Hiring: Delivery Driver

We Are Currently Seeking a Person for Year Round Part-time Flower Delivery and Maybe Greenhouse Work in the Springtime.

We're Looking for Someone with a Flexible Schedule, Available at Least 3 Days a Week and More Hours Seasonally. No Experience Necessary.

Ever Thought About Working at a Greenhouse? This Could Be Your Opportunity. If You Enjoy Meeting People and Putting a Smile on Their Face-- This Job's for You! Please Pick and Application at the Store and Ask for Rick (rick@kleinsfloral.com) for More Job Details!

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YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER . . .

Hi there, Mad Gardener! Oftentimes my houseplants (especially the ones that spent last summer outside) become infested with insects during the winter months. I prefer using more natural means to control them. Do you have any tips? Thanks, ahead of time! Victoria

What to do when pests attack your houseplants without resorting to chemicals? It's easier than you think and there are many homemade remedies that are not only safe, but extremely effective.

Sometimes simply changing the pests environment is the simple solution. This oftentimes works with fungus gnats—which hate dry soil, and spider mites—which do not thrive under humid conditions. Aphids can be controlled by the

occasional blast of soapy water. Scale and mealy bugs can be easily controlled with a little rubbing alcohol on a cotton ball or swab.

The first thing to do is isolate the infected plant. Prune or remove the most infected foliage if possible, then carefully wash the stems and leaves (top and bottom) with a mild solution of water and dish soap. Watch the plant carefully and repeat as necessary. The bottom sides of the leaves are the preferred hiding places for whiteflies and spider mites. Periodically mist your plants with this soapy solution. Please note that this should not be done with hairy leafed plants like African violets.

Other home remedies include a 1:10 solution of milk to water for powdery mildew and a garlic tea, made by steeping chopped garlic in hot water for 6 hours. This is also very effective against powdery mildew.

Ironically, moving your plants outdoors during the summer months may be the most effective and simplest pest control available to you. During the summer, when plenty of insect predators and parasites are found in the garden, putting the infected plant outdoors may take care of the problem. Either the pests will be eaten, or, as with aphids, the adults may fly away to another host plant. You'll notice the pests may reappear again in late winter, but the predatory attacks usually cause a real setback; buying valuable time before you put the plant back outdoors again.

Some 'natural' over-the-counter products you may want to consider include:

Insecticidal Soap--Mild and effective, it can sometimes harm plants if used too often. Hot Pepper Spray--Tends to repel soft bodied insects like thrips, whiteflies and aphids. Hot Pepper Wax actually destroys the insect.

B.T. (Bacillus thuringiensis)--A bacteria that makes insects unable to digest food, thereby killing them.

Neem Oil--Extracted from the neem seed, it is not only effective against insects, but also fungi like mildew and rust.

Aphid and Whitefly Traps--Sticky cards placed near the infected plant attract pest during their flying stages.

Paraffin Sprays--Blocks the breathing apparatus of most insects. Can be a little harsh on some plants so test it out first.

As always, follow the manufacturers instructions when handling any pesticide, even those labeled as natural and safe. Ask a greenhouse associate if you have any questions when purchasing these products.

Thanks for the question, The Mad Gardener madgardener@kleinsfloral.com

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DID YOU KNOW...

 \dots that our locally abundant native black walnuts are as wonderfully edible as the English walnuts you buy at the grocery store?

What's the difference between English and Black Walnuts you ask?

The walnuts we're all most familiar with are called English walnuts (Juglans regia). The variety actually started out as the Persian walnut, and was thought to have grown in the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Through selective breeding, the Greeks enlarged the fruit of the Persian walnut to resemble the size of the walnuts we eat today.

The Persian walnut picked up the name "English walnut" over the years since it was English merchants who introduced the nuts across the globe. Then in the 18th century, in what was then called Alta California, Franciscan monks began growing English walnuts, later renamed to California or Mission walnuts.

Our native Black Walnut (Juglans nigra) was in fact, however, an important part of many native American diets, but the walnuts we eat today are actually English walnuts, which have a milder taste and broader appeal. They also have thinner, easier-to-crack shells. Black Walnuts on the other hand have a bolder, earthier flavor. Their shells are thick, tough to crack, and will likely stain your hands.

Black walnut trees are not cultivated on the same scale of English walnuts. They mostly grow wild across central and eastern parts of the United States.

A major benefit of eating walnuts is a healthy dose of omega-3 polyunsaturated fats. Walnuts contain alpha-linolenic acid, or ALA, the plant-based source of omega-3 fats. A steady diet of these omega-3 fats helps lower blood pressure and bad cholesterol, decrease inflammation, prevent blood clots, strengthen bones, increase cognitive function and lower risk of heart disease, cancer, diabetes and metabolic syndrome. Although they're high in calories, walnuts can actually help you lose weight because they are low in saturated fats and high in fiber.

From a handful of English walnuts, about 1 ounce or seven whole ones, you get 190 calories, 4 grams of protein and 2 grams of fiber, along with high amounts of vitamin E, potassium, copper, phosphorus and magnesium, according to the California Walnut Commission. You can buy them unshelled, halved or in broken pieces.

One ounce black walnuts contains about the same amount of calories, protein and fiber. Also high in potassium, magnesium, phosphorus and vitamin E, black walnuts have less omega-3 than do English walnuts, but more arginine and selenium, according to the University of Missouri Center of Agroforestry. Often handpicked in the wild, black walnuts are a popular ingredient in ice cream. They are more expensive than English Since the polyunsaturated fat in walnuts can oxidize quickly, store walnuts in the refrigerator or freezer in an airtight container.

Sources: www.livestrong.com and www.seriouseats.com

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

ENTRY: DECEMBER 2, 2013 (About Dark-eyed Juncos)

Juncos are one of the most common winter visitors to bird feeders and fun to watch because of their interesting social behavior. They leave the northern portion of their breeding range during September and October and migrate in flocks to their wintering areas in lower Canada and throughout the United States. They arrive in the Madison area almost always within a few days of October 10.

Juncos tend to winter in the same area year after year, so chances are the birds that arrive at your feeder are the same birds that were there last winter. The first birds to arrive are older and more dominant. The younger ones arrive next. Males tend to winter farther north than females, so the proportion of males in a winter flock will be higher the farther north it is. (It is not always easy to determine age and sex reliably in the field. In general, the darkest birds are the males.)

They are commonly seen at bird feeders during migration and in the winter months, however, even then they prefer to feed on the ground rather than pick seeds from an elevated feeder. Having said that, however, I've definitely noticed a change in the juncos' behavior at my feeding station in the nearly 30 years I've been feeding birds. As the years have passed, an increasing percentage of juncos seem comfortable feeding at all of my feeders; whether tube, platform or otherwise. In the early days I rarely say a junco on the feeders and nearly always on the ground. Their favorite seeds at my station include safflower, niger and millet.

The flock stays in an area of about ten to twelve acres. Not all of the birds are together all of the time so you may see varying numbers of juncos. However, they all stay in that fixed area.

The flock has a social hierarchy with a pecking order in which males dominate females and adults dominate younger birds. Watch the juncos at your feeder and you can see the social hierarchy at work. Dominant birds will face another bird and raise and fan their tails revealing the white outer tail feathers. They may also rush at and peck or chase subordinate birds. Sometimes two dominant birds may face one another, extend their necks, and repeatedly raise and lower their bills as if in a little "dance." Rarely will this end in a fight.

At night, the flock will roost together in the same place, usually in some dense evergreen cover. It is fun to follow the flock at dusk and see where they roost. In the spring, at your feeder, the males will chase the females as part of early

courtship behavior. Males will also begin singing their musical trills. By April the juncos will have migrated north to their breeding grounds.

Source: www.stokesbirdsathome.com

ENTRY: DECEMBER 17, 2013 (The Easy-to-Grow Cymbidium Orchid)

For the first time in many a year a cymbidium orchid that was given to me by a coworker 20 years ago has gone into full bloom. This treasured cymbidium has pure pale yellow blooms and a very sweet fragrance. Until about 10 years ago, my orchid was a reliable bloomer. That changed however when I overwintered the plant at Klein's one winter. I stored my plant on the ground in an out of the way area. Unknowingly the roots and base of the plant became a favorite source of food that winter for hungry voles and/or mice. While all of the foliage remained lying on the surface of the pot, the roots had been completely eaten . . . except for one teeny little speck that rejuvenated and after many years has grown into the plant I have today. Needless to say, I'll never overwinter that plant at Klein's again!

Cymbydiums are among the easiest orchids to grow and among the most reliable to bloom. The cool and dark conditions of late fall and early winter promote flower development. My cymbidiums typically bloom in mid- to late winter. Once finished blooming, I remove the spent flower stalk and treat them as houseplants in a bright location. Once May arrives, I move my cymbidiums to a shady spot in the garden where they can benefit from summer rains. Then in the fall I leave them outdoors as long as I possibly can; sometimes moving them in and out of the garage to avoid nighttime freezes, but to keep them as cool as possible to promote blooming. Cymbidiums are native to the Himalayan foothills and are accustomed to cool temperatures. I typically move them into the house in mid-October. Cymbidiums are a terrestrial orchid (one that grows in the ground instead of trees) and can be planted in any very well-drained potting mix with some bark/orchid mix added. When repotting remove bad foliage and old, deteriorated pseudo-bulbs.

The cymbidium's grass-like foliage isn't particularly attractive, but tends to remain pest-free. Even if they were to attract insect pests, the strap-like foliage is very easy to keep wiped with soapy water.

When outdoors in the summer months, water cymbidiums freely. While cutting back drastically during the winter months, they prefer to be kept moist, but never soggy. Fertilize them as with any houseplant—at normal rate during the summer and then cutting back to nothing from November through February. Then slowly increase the rate to normal levels by May.

Cymbidiums bloom best when slightly root bound. Blooming will decrease as they become increasingly root bound. At that point it's good to split the clump and repot into pots that aren't overly large. An overly large pot causes the plant to invest its energy into rooting and growing rather than flowering—that is, until the plant becomes slightly root bound again.

ENTRY: DECEMBER 26, 2013 (Eliminating Ice Dams)

This December has shaped up to be a December more typical of my childhood memories in the 1970's than the warm and super-snowy Decembers of the past few years. Very cold temperatures and a fair (but not crazy!) amount of snow have been the rule of thumb. Given the snow, fluctuating temperatures and fair amount of sunshine, I've noticed that the annual appearance of ice dams have begun to form in that corner of the roof that caused so much water damage in the living room in years past. The heat from the house and the sunshine that hits the roof further up causes the snow to melt and then refreeze as it hits the lower part of that corner of the roof that never gets any sunshine and located over an unheated crawl space. As time passes and the ice builds up, the melted water has nowhere to go but back into the house and the living room below the crawl space.

Many years ago during reroofing the house, I improved this situation somewhat when I had a rubber membrane installed under the shingles. Though that helped a lot, it never completely fixed the problem as snow and ice backed ever further up the roof during especially bad winters.

The best remedy I've found for my situation was the installation of heated gutter cables. It was while delivering flowers to a home in Maple Bluff that I saw them in use for the first time and I could see that they might be the solution.

The gutter cables I use are readily available at any home improvement store (i.e. Menard's). They come in lengths as short as 25 feet up to 200 feet or more. The cables are clipped to the shingles in a zig zag pattern from the edge of the roofline to a foot or more up the roof. The end of the cable that's not plugged into an outlet is dropped down the entire length of the downspout. When heated, this allows an open pathway for water to flow all the way to the ground and not refreeze in the downspout. At the top of the downspout, the cable is now placed inside the gutter as long as is needed—again creating an open channel for the water to flow.

Now the zigzagging begins along the roofline using the metal shingle clips. They attach much the same way as those used for Christmas lights, but are made of metal instead of plastic. The other end of the cable is plugged into an outdoor extension cord and then to the outlet. For safety, it's recommended by the manufacturer that an outlet be installed near the roofline. But to date, I've only seen people use outdoor extension cords when using the gutter cables.

For the most part, I plug in the cables only during periods when ice buildup is a problem and keep them unplugged when not needed. Therefore, I sometimes need to leave them plugged in for weeks on end during times of heavy snowfall and/or freeze/thaw cycles. The low heat and auto-shut off creates little chance of a fire starting. It's, however, very important to check the cable regularly and look for damage. Because I leave my cables in place year round, I inspect them thoroughly at the beginning of each winter season (usually when I put up the holiday lights) and replace them every five years regardless of their visible condition—just in case

I'm happy to say that since using the gutter cables I've had no visible damage caused by ice dams. Though gutter cables are just one way to help get rid of ice dams, proper insulation and roof rakes are among the alternatives.

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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!!

English walnuts are a common dessert nut and are widely used in confectionery (biscuits, cakes, sweets, chocolates, pastries and breads) and in ice cream. These are also the main uses for our native black walnuts; whose pricey meats can oftentimes be found at the farmers' market on the Capitol square in late fall. Walnut oil is of exceptional quality and has long been used as a salad oil, especially in France. Chopped or crushed walnuts are added to salads and a wide range of dishes (meat, poultry, fish, stuffings, pastas and pates). Walnut is also used to flavor wines and liqueurs (especially *brou de noix*, a French liqueur made from the green husks). The following are some of Klein's very favorite walnut recipes.

<u>WALNUT CRUSTED BAKED SALMON</u>—a tried-&-true, super-easy recipe that always produces restaurant quality results. This is a fantastic savory alternative to sweet honey, maple syrup or marmalade glazed salmon. Source: Everyday Food, April 2008.

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

2 TBS. seasoned breadcrumbs

1 TBS. fresh lemon zest

2 tsp. olive oil

1/2 tsp. course salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

24 oz. skin-on or skinned salmon fillets

1 TBS. Dijon mustard

lemon slices for serving

Preheat the oven to 425°. Line a rimmed cookie sheet or broiler pan with foil and sprays with cooking spray. Pulse the walnuts, breadcrumbs, lemon zest, oil, salt and pepper in a food processor until crumbly. Place the salmon (skin-side-down if skin-on) on the pan and brush evenly with the mustard. Press the crumbs evenly onto the fillets. Bake until done—15-18 minutes depending on the thickness. Serve with lemon slices. Serves 4.

SYRIAN WALNUT SPREAD (MUHAMMARA)—a fantastic appetizer best served with quality pita chips. This recipe makes about two cups.

1 x 12 oz jar roasted red peppers in olive oil and garlic, drained

1 cup chopped walnuts

1/3 cup panko crumbs

2 TBS. extra virgin olive oil

2 tsp. lemon juice

1 tsp. ground cumin

1/4 tsp. cavenne pepper

salt to taste

pita chips

Blend all ingredients except the salt in a food processor until the consistency of a coarse puree. Season careful with salt to taste. Serve with pita chips.

<u>RICK'S FAVORITE PESTO</u>--This robust pesto recipe comes from Jane Brody's <u>Good Food Book</u> (1985). It's simple, extremely flavorful and freezes exceptionally well. Rick says he much prefers the stronger nut flavor of walnuts in this pesto over the much milder flavor of pine nuts. Give it a try and see what you think.

3 cloves garlic, chopped (1 TBS.)

1/4 tsp. salt

1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

2 cups fresh, packed basil leaves

1/4 cup pine nuts or walnuts

1/2 cup grated parmesan

In a processor, combine the garlic, salt and oil and process till smooth. Add the basil and nuts and blend the mixture until smooth, stopping and scraping the sides down a few times as needed. Transfer mixture to a bowl and stir in the parmesan. Stir into warm, cooked and drained pasta. Makes 1 1/4 cups or enough for 1 lb. pasta. Freeze in containers in these single meal batches. Once frozen, transfer to freezer bag if desired to save freezer space. Will keep for up to 1 year. Thaw before using.

<u>WALNUT FETA YOGURT DIP</u>—This family favorite first appeared in the June 2008 issue of Better Homes & Gardens magazine.

4 cups plain, low-fat yogurt

2 oz. (1/2 cup) crumbled feta

1/3 cup chopped walnuts

2 TBS snipped dried tomatoes (not packed in oil)

1 tsp. dried oregano

1/4 tsp. salt

1/8 tsp. pepper

vegetables of choice for dipping (carrots, celery, cucumber slices, sweet peppers, etc.)

Line a colander with three layers of cheese cloth and suspend the colander over a bowl. Spoon in the yogurt and cover with plastic wrap and chill for 24-48 hrs. creating yogurt cheese. Place the yogurt cheese in a bowl. Stir in the feta, nuts, tomatoes, oregano, salt and pepper. Cover and chill at least 2 hours. Makes two cups. Serve with veggies of choice.

<u>WALDORF SALAD</u>—This classic from the 1950's has made a real comeback in the past few years as cooks rediscover fun and healthy twists of the green salad standby.

4 medium-sized unpeeled tart apples (i.e. Granny Smith), cored and cubed

1/4 cup chopped celery

1/4 cup raisins

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

1 TBS. lemon juice

2 TBS. plain yogurt

2 TBS. mayo

2 tsp. honey

salad greens of choice

In a large bowl, combine the apples, celery, raisins and nuts. In a separate bowl, mix together the lemon juice, yogurt, mayo and honey. Stir well until blended. Add the dressing to the apple mixture. Toss together and serve over a bed of greens.

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NATURAL NEWS--

10 Ways to Reuse That Christmas Tree

When the needles start drooping, get creative!

Source: www.networx.com

During January, city streets are commonly bedecked with dead Christmas trees waiting mournfully for collection, and most cities, including Madison (visit <a href="www.cityof"www.cityof"www.cityof"www.cityof madison.com), have Christmas tree collection programs, specifying collection days and sending around compost collection trucks to gather up the dead. But that doesn't have to be the fate of your Christmas tree, because there are many creative uses for its remains that offer a more dignified solution.

1. Fire Starter

Christmas trees are infamously flammable, especially at the end of their lives, when they have minimal moisture to suppress flames. While electricians may caution you about the use of some electrical components around a Christmas tree, you can use that trait to your advantage when the holidays are over. Cut your tree into manageable portions and use the branches and trunk as kindling and fire starter to quickly get flames going in the woodstove, fire pit, or fireplace. Make sure all tinsel and ornaments have been removed to avoid noxious smoke.

Be aware that if your tree is at all sappy, you run the risk of creosote buildup. It needs to be completely dry before being used in indoor fireplaces and woodstoves.

2. Fire Starter, Bonus Edition: Bonfire

Some families make an epic post-holiday tradition of creating a bonfire with their trees, and they may even combine forces with friends and other households in the family to make the fire last longer. Christmas trees light up like, well, Christmas trees, and they can make a great bonfire source for a New Year's party on the beach or in the backyard. As with any bonfire, check to determine if you need a burn permit first, and observe safety precautions: light the fire in a clear, open area on a day with minimal wind, don't keep flammable objects nearby, and supervise the tree closely as it burns.

3. Mulch

Those obnoxious shedding needles make fantastic mulch for your garden, and the branches can be composted in the brown layer of your compost. If you have access to a wood chipper, run the trunk and large branches through to create wood chips, which can be used for mulching, lining paths, or suppressing weed growth.

4. Pathway Edgers

Cut that trunk into miniature rounds and use them in upright position to edge paths (or beds and other garden features). If you have a somewhat folksy, natural, relaxed-feeling garden, they'll fit right in. They'll also break down slowly to nourish the soil and slowly improve the condition of your garden beds, which is a nice added feature. Incidentally, those same rounds can also be sanded and sealed to make coasters.

5. Trellising and Staking

A trunk with most of the branches trimmed away can create a natural trellis, while leftover branches can be used as a free source of garden stakes. They make be crooked, but that can add to the charm in a garden where more formal straight stakes would look out of place.

6. Fish Habitat

Overwintering fish need places to hide from predators and get out of the coldest parts of the water. That's where tree branches come in. In nature, branches may naturally fall into ponds, rivers, and streams to create habitat, but in more manicured water features, fish typically have fewer options to choose from. Adding branches from old Christmas trees can help keep fish safe through the winter months.

7. Make a Cat Tree

Admit it: your cats have probably already been climbing the Christmas tree, so why not make the arrangement formal? Trim away most of the branches, leaving large and sturdy ones in place as braces for scrap wood from construction sites or the hardware store. Screw the wood down tightly so it won't wobble before you upholster with scrap carpet or other material (consider wrapping some parts of the trunk in coarse rope for the cats to scratch) and set the tree up on a stable base.

8. Suet Feeders

Birds and other animals love suet, especially in the winter months, when food sources are limited. Trim the tree down and drill out the trunk so you can insert suet, bird seed, and other treats. Your old tree will provide you with some great birdwatching!

9. Dune Restoration

Here's a surprising use you might not have heard of: Christmas trees are sometimes anchored in place on beaches to trap sand to slowly rebuild damaged dunes and banks. As the sand builds up, it slowly covers the tree, and conservation organizations can plant dune grasses to hold the sand down. If you're interested in seeing your tree go to a good cause, contact the government agency or conservation group working on beach and dune maintenance in your area to see if they can use your tree.

10. Recycling

Finally, yes, you can always recycle your tree. Before sending your tree for recycling, please remember to remove ornaments, tinsel, and other decorations that could interfere with processing it.

JANUARY'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Orange Bird-of-Paradise (Strelitzia reginae)

The official flower of the City of Angels, Los Angeles, the orange bird-of-paradise makes a stunning container specimen in the Madison garden, blooming nearly year round under optimum growing conditions. Though an annual in the Wisconsin garden come summer, they can be brought indoors and make a stunning and easy-to-care-for houseplant.

Currently, if you were to visit Klein's, you'd find an old and very large orange bird-of-paradise about to burst into bloom at the back of our main showroom. As of early January there were at least 18 stems about to bloom. On our plant, blooming usually continues into mid-summer once placed outdoors in mid-May. It then takes a short rest before new flower stalks appear in late fall. We've found that plants bloom best once they have become rather root bound. As a cut flower, the showy blossoms can last weeks in a vase. Plants are so durable and reliable they often outlive their owners. They thrive in full sun and are extremely drought tolerant. In southern California you'll often see them used in median and boulevard plantings.

While relishing extreme heat, birds-of-paradise are also tolerant of quite cool temperatures. We leave ours outdoors until the first frosts in early to mid-October. The cool temperatures and shorter days promote flower development.

The rarely seen white bird-of-paradise, Strelitzia alba, is a much larger variety that rarely blooms here in the north so is best avoided in favor of the more familiar orange varieties. Bird-of Paradise is a native of South Africa.

Plants are easily propagated by splitting plants that have become too crowded.

Bring a bit of the tropics to your home! Klein's currently has available a nice selection of orange bird-of-paradise in 10" classic grower pots.

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AROUND TOWN:

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

27th Annual Orchid Quest 2014

Saturday, February 1, 10:00-5:00 Sunday, February 2, 10:00-4:00

Escape the winter blues and join orchid enthusiasts at Orchid Quest 2014. 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.

This year's Orchid Quest speaker is Fred Clarke who has been growing orchids since 1977 and has been hybridizing for 32 of those years. With over 30 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred

applies these skills at his 40,000 sq. ft. orchid nursery (more than an acre under cover) Sunset Valley Orchids, Inc., located in San Diego, California.

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.orchidguild.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

21st Annual Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo

Friday, February 7, 3:00-9:00 Saturday, February 8, 9:00-6:00 Sunday, February 9, 10:00-4:00

Garden Expo is a midwinter oasis for people ready to venture out and dig their hands in the dirt. Now in it's 21st year, this three-day event celebrates the latest trends in gardening and landscaping. Join other gardening enthusiasts to share ideas, gain inspiration and create something new. All proceeds support Wisconsin Public Television.

Things to do at the Garden Expo;

- -Get your hands dirty with more than 150 educational seminars, demonstrations and hands-on workshops.
- -Visit with hundreds of businesses, independent contractors, nonprofits and artists to share ideas and learn about the newest in gardening and landscaping equipment and services.
- -Relax with a casual walk through the central garden—courtesy of The Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association.
- -Discuss innovative gardening techniques with experts from the UW-Extention/Cooperative Extension Horticulture Team.
- -Purchase seeds, tools and everything else you need to be ready when the trees bud and the ground thaws.

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.** Visit **www.wigardenexpo.com** for more information.

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

Bolz Conservatory Exhibit--Plants of the Dinosaur Age

November 2, 2013 thru March 2, 2014 Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00 In the Bolz Conservatory

What would many dinosaurs have eaten when they roamed the earth millions of years ago? Plants! And a lot of those plants are still alive today. See prehistoric plant species up close including figs, breadfruit, ferns, palms, and cycads while you learn about the amazing plant-eating dinosaurs that roamed the Earth.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison 608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details.

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

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

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

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

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

IN 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.

Garden Art and Birdbaths by Stone Age Creations, LTD 'Created by nature . . . crafted by artisans'™

For the past few seasons Klein's has offered unique and durable garden art from Stone Age Creations. Their one-of-a-kind collection of owls has been our most popular line and hard to keep in stock. We've expanded our collection of whimsical animals (turtles and hedgehogs) and also offer Stone Age Creation's line of hand carved granite birdbaths. Because all of Stone Age Creation's items are handcrafted, each has it's own unique personality and style . . . no two pieces are alike!!

From Stone Age Creation's website at http://stoneagecreations.com

"All our products are hand-carved from real stone as created by Mother Nature. These stones have endured harsh outdoor environments for thousands of years and will continue to do so long after you purchase them. Our competitors -- who offer products made from plastic, concrete, plaster, clay, or resin -- simply don't compare. In fact, many companies that sell inferior concrete products misrepresent their products as 'finely crafted stone'. Our competitors' lesser quality products will often spall, crumble, blow over easily, or are very fragile and break easily.

While many of the products we offer today are made overseas, we are the largest manufacturer of natural stone garden statuary that manufacturers items here in America. We are proud of the fact that we started in business by making items here and after 10 years we make more here than we ever have.

As a family-owned business located in a small town, our focus is to support the independent retailers and small business owners that distribute our products and support us. We don't offer any of our products through 'big box' stores. We also don't compete with our distributors by marketing and selling directly to retail customers within their market'

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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. 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

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. 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
Assistant Manager, Retail Buyer--Jennifer Simon jsimon@kleinsfloral.com
Floral Department Head--Kathy Lehman kathy@kleinsfloral.com
House Accounts & Billing--Naomi Boldon naomi@kleinsfloral.com
Delivery Supervisor--Rick Halbach rick@kleinsfloral.com
Owner & Manager--Sue Klein sue@kleinsfloral.com

RELATED RESOURCES AND WEB SITES

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

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.php

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://wimastergardener.org

The Wisconsin Gardener

http://www.wpt.org/garden/

Allen Centennial Gardens 620 Babcock Dr. Madison, WI 53706 608/262-8406 http://www.allencentennialgardens.org/

Olbrich Botanical Gardens 3330 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI 53704 608/246-4550 http://www.olbrich.org/

Rotary Gardens 1455 Palmer Dr. Janesville, WI 53545 608/752-3885 http://www.rotarygardens.org/

University of WI Arboretum 1207 Seminole Hwy. Madison, WI 53711 608/263-7888 http://uwarboretum.org/

University of Wisconsin-West Madison Agricultural Research Center 8502 Mineral Point Rd. Verona, WI 53593 608/262-2257 http://www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/

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PLANTS POISONOUS TO CHILDREN:

Children may find the bright colors and different textures of plants irresistible, but some plants can be poisonous if touched or eaten. If you're in doubt about whether or not a plant is poisonous, don't keep it in your home. The risk is not worth it. The following list is not comprehensive, so be sure to seek out safety information on the plants in your home to be safe.

- •Bird of paradise
- •Bull nettle
- Castor bean
- •Chinaberry tree
- •Crocus
- Daffodil
- Deadly nightshade
- •Dieffenbachia (dumb cane)
- Foxglove
- •Glory lily
- •Hemlock
- Holly berry
- •Indian tobacco
- •Iris
- Jimsonweed
- •Lantana
- •Larkspur
- Lily of the valley
- •Marijuana
- •Mescal bean
- Mexicantes

- 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 lilyDelphinium (Larkspur)
- •Dumbcane
- •Dutchman's breeches
- DutchmanEaster 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