

## 'THE SAGE'-Klein's Online Newsletter—MAY 2014

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses

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

Our 2014 Spring Plant List Is Now Online!

Our '[Mad Gardener](#)' Is Ready for Your Questions

Plant Your Own Containers in Our 'Creation Station'

Tips on [Prolonging the Life of Fresh Cut Flowers](#)

[Beneficial Insects Are Available at Klein's This Spring](#)

New in 2014: [Water Plants at Klein's](#)

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

[You Asked the Mad Gardener About Siberian Iris](#)

[Our Very Favorite Fresh Egg Recipes](#)

Product Spotlight: [Mason Bee Houses from Gardener's Supply Co.](#)

[Notes from Rick's Garden Journal](#)--from April 2014

--Nursery Tales

--Stem Color vs. Flower Color

--Fantastic New App Available

[Plant of the Month: Aronia \(Chokeberry\)](#)

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Related [Resources and Websites](#)

[Plants Harmful to Kids and Pets](#)

**OUR 2014 SPRING PLANT LIST** can be viewed on-line @ [Spring Plants](#). This comprehensive listing contains every plant that Klein's will be offering for the 2014 season and is extremely helpful for both the home gardener and landscaper alike. The list contains fun facts, cultural information and pot or pack size for each item and comes in very handy in planning your garden this spring. **BUT, PLEASE** call ahead to make sure a desired plant is ready for sale or that we still have it in stock. Because we "grow our own", most supplies are limited.

### **KLEIN'S 'CREATION STATION' POTTING SHED**

Bring in your own pots or purchase one of ours. Then, using our potting soil at no charge, you'll be able to create your own masterpiece onsite! We'll simply charge you for the plants. We require, of course, that no plants be brought in from outside sources and it's always a good idea to call ahead to reserve a spot--especially during peak hours and to ensure the table is stocked with soil. Just contact Dena @ [dena@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:dena@kleinsfloral.com) or call [\(608\) 244-5661](tel:6082445661) for more information. Our talented staff will be available to answer all questions, help pick out some plants and to get you started. We'll even deliver them for you for an added fee.

### **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.

### **MAY STORE HOURS:**

**Again during the 2014 spring season, Klein's will open at 7:00 a.m. every Tuesday!** Year long, Tuesday is Klein's Senior Discount Day. On Tuesdays those 62 and over save an extra 10% off all regular priced items. Beginning Tuesday, May 1, we opened the doors an hour early. Avoid the lines and shop early! The extended Tuesday hours last through mid-June.

In addition, with the incredible success of our outdoor checkout located in our bedding plant area, we will be making this one of our primary checkout options again for the 2014 spring season. Weather permitting, the outdoor register will be open daily. The outdoor checkout is located just outside our Potting Shed at the back of Show room Number 1.

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-8:00 (Open Tuesdays at 7:00)  
Saturday: 8:00-6:00  
Sunday: 9:00-5:00

**Open Memorial Day, May 26, 9:00-5:00**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**May 5--**Cinco de Mayo

**May 10--**This is Madison's average last frost date, but keep your eye on the weather before planting. Madison has a notorious reputation for late May frosts. Many local old-time gardeners refuse to plant, especially their tomatoes, peppers, morning glories, etc. until Memorial Day weekend when the soil has warmed properly. Novice gardeners have a tendency to plant too early!

**May 11--**Mother's Day. Order early and shop early!!! Mother's Day is second only to Valentine's Day for deliveries and the Saturday before Mother's Day is traditionally our busiest day of the entire year. Extra drivers will be on the road Saturday, May 10 for prompt and efficient service. Click on [Delivery Information](#) on the left side of our home page for more details about Klein's delivery. **We will not be delivering on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11.**

**May 14--**Full Moon

**May 26--**Memorial Day-the unofficial beginning of summer! Store Hours: 9-5:00

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

You've just received a lovely bouquet of fresh flowers for Mothers' Day, a birthday, a thank you, a new birth or maybe just because. Now how do you keep your flowers looking as fresh as possible for as long as possible? Inherently some flowers last longer than others. Long-stemmed roses, on the one hand, might last only a few days, whereas carnations can sometimes last up to two weeks. Though we send you the freshest flowers we can, there are a few things you can do to prolong the flowers' longevity. Here are a few tips from our friends at Teleflora at <http://www.teleflora.com>

**Check Your Flowers Daily**

Keep the vase, container or liner filled with fresh water. Even if the container has floral foam, you should keep the water level high to promote long lasting flowers. The container's water has a fresh flower food added to it. If you completely change the water, you should also thoroughly clean the container. Add fresh water mixed with a commercial fresh flower food. These flower foods may be supplied by the florist who delivered your order and they contain the correct ingredients to properly nourish the flowers, keep bacteria at bay (which can block the stems and prevent them from absorbing water), encourage buds to open, and lengthen the life of the bouquet. It's one of the best—and easiest—ways to extend the life of your flowers, but be sure to follow the directions on the package correctly. Improperly mixed flower food can actually do more harm than good.

### **Re-cut Their Stems**

Every few days, remove the flowers from the design and re-cut the stems. Remove 3/4" to one inch from the bottom of the stem and be sure to cut the stem at an angle to allow the flower the best chance to take up water. Use a sharp knife or sharp floral cutter or scissors. Avoid smashing or piercing the stems, as this can destroy the water vessels in the stem and prevent water absorption. Remove any spent or damaged blooms or foliage that falls below the waterline in the vase.

To avoid disturbing the stem placements in a vase arrangement, tie the stems with twine just above the vase's edge before taking them out of their vase. Hold the tied arrangement at the twine-bound point to re-cut the stems. Then place them back into the clean vase with the fresh water and a flower food.

### **Change Their Water and Add Additional Fresh Flower Food**

Be sure to clean the vase before refilling it with room-temperature water mixed with the proper amount of fresh flower food. Be sure no debris is floating in the water (such as leaves and stem parts) as this could promote the growth of bacteria which can shorten a flower's life.

### **Display Them in a Cool Spot**

Most flowers prefer temperatures between 65 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit (18 to 22 degrees Celsius) and are best displayed away from direct sunlight, heating or cooling vents, directly under ceiling fans, or on top of televisions or radiators, which give off heat and can cause flowers to dehydrate. Avoid placing fresh flowers near ripening fruit, which releases tiny amounts of ethylene gas that can age them prematurely.

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

**When should I transplant Siberian Iris? I tried looking it up and one place they said in the spring and another said in the fall. I have some large clumps and they are not getting much sun. They did not produce many flowers last summer.**

**Thanks for the help! Mary**

Hi Mary,

Here in the northern Midwest, as a rule, most perennials are best split and transplanted in late May or early June--once they are growing well, but aren't too tall. This makes them easy to work with and gives them time to root out before summer heat. Fall can be a great time to split and transplant most perennials. But with our hard winters and sometimes lack of snow cover, this can be sometimes more problematic.

I recommend dividing your Siberian irises in mid to late May. They won't flower this year, but will have an entire summer to root in and thrive for next season. I usually divide mine into 6-8" pieces.

Make sure they are in full (but not super hot afternoon) sun and in rich, moisture retentive soil. Inadequate sunlight is oftentimes an issue for Siberian irises not blooming well. People read that they are 'shade tolerant' and then plant them in shade that is too dense (a reminder that 'full sun' is just 6 hrs. or more of direct sunlight per day). Once clumps 'hollow out' in the center you'll no it's time to split them again.

Thanks for the question,

Klein's Mad Gardener

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

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

**... that Klein's will be carrying an assortment of water plants this spring season?**

While Klein's has always offered a small selection of marginal and moisture loving plants over the years (i.e. cyperus, rushes, cannas, elephant's ears), we are adding a line of water plants from Van Bloem Gardens. To get started, our selection will consist of the must-haves for any pond, fountain or water feature. And for larger ponds, don't forget to about our many beautiful, native perennials including; cardinal flower, swamp milkweed, joe-pye weed and so many more. Klein's selection of water plants for the 2014 season include:

**(\*)=Hardy Perennial for Zone 5 or Lower**

(\*) Acorus (Sweet Flag)  
Alocasia  
Alpinia (Shell Ginger)  
(\*) Anemone canadensis  
(\*) Aristolochia durior (Dutchman's Pipe)  
(\*) Aruncus (Goatsbeard)  
(\*) Asclepias incarnata (Swamp Milkweed)  
(\*) Caltha (Marsh Marigold)  
Canna  
(\*) Carex spp. (Asst. Sedge)  
(\*) Chelone glabra  
Colocasia  
Cyperus (Papyrus)  
Dichromena (Star Grass)  
(\*) Dryopteris spp. (Fern spp.)  
Eichornia (Water Hyacinth)  
Equisetum (Horsetail)  
(\*) Eupatorium (Joe-Pye Weed)  
(\*) Filipendula rubra  
(\*) Helianthus spp.  
(\*) Hibiscus moscheutos  
Hibiscus spp. (Coppertone Mallow)  
(\*) Hierochloa odorata (Sweet Grass)  
(\*) Iris siberica  
(\*) Iris versicolor (Flag Iris)  
(\*) Juncus (Rush)  
(\*) Ligularia spp.  
(\*) Lobelia cardinalis  
(\*) Lysimachia nummularia (Moneywort)  
(\*) Matteuccia struthiopteris (Ostrich Fern)  
(\*) Nymphaea (Waterlily)  
Oplismenus (Basket Grass)  
(\*) Osmunda spp. (Fern spp.)  
Pistia (Water Lettuce)  
(\*) Pontederia (Pickerel Weed)  
Setcreasea  
(\*) Saururus (Lizard's Tail)  
Scirpus (Fiber Optic Grass)  
(\*) Scirpus zebrinus (Zebra Rush)  
(\*) Silphium perfoliatum (Cup Plant)  
Thalia (Flag)  
(\*) Trollius spp. (Globeflower)  
(\*) Typha (Cattail)

For more information about each plant, visit [Spring Plants](#). From there click on Annuals or Perennials. Or go to the Van Bloem Garden's website at [www.vanbloem.com](http://www.vanbloem.com). Our Van Bloem assortment will be arriving in early May.

For assistance at Klein's, please ask for Dena ([dena@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:dena@kleinsfloral.com))

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

### **ENTRY: APRIL 5, 2014 (Nursery Tales)**

While going through some old papers and collected articles today, I came across this magazine article I cut out of a magazine many years ago. This article offers a delightful tongue-in-cheek insight into what it's like to work at a garden center.

#### **Nursery Tales** by Heather Lockman

"Ahhh," sighed my friend Dana, with more than a touch of envy. "You know you've landed my dream job."

Dana and I are both writers. The work is mostly rewarding, but sometimes when we get fed up with deadlines and sparring with editors, we'd joke about getting jobs at a garden center--spending a summer outdoors amid flowers and getting in touch with our souls. Now, to Dana's astonishment, I'd actually gone and done it.

"Lucky you," she said

I pictured myself counseling thoughtful customers, suggesting lesser-known bulbs and perennials for their borders. I would help beginning gardeners discover the joys of texture and foliage. I would share bits of gardening folklore. My days would be very peaceful and Zenlike.

Alas, I soon discovered there is nothing even remotely Zenlike about a nursery in springtime. In spite of appalling May weather, customers stormed the garden center to fill their shopping carts with common-as-dirt petunias and fought over which hanging basket to buy and who got the last white lobelia. I didn't have time to share folklore. I barely had time to breathe.

Every twenty minutes or so, Annabel, the nursery's chief grower, zoomed up from the growing fields and greenhouses behind the property in a golf cart hauling a trailer full of plants. She had waistlong blond hair, piercing Icelandic blue eyes, a wiry frame fueled by coffee, and the mouth of a stevedore. Annabel wouldn't have recognized Zen if it crawled off the back of her cart.

"Help me unload this trailer, sister, or I'm gonna break your fingers!"

Somehow I'd never imagined the back-straining, knee-bending, shin-bruising tasks involved in this line of work. I ran like a rabbit unloading trailers and restocking empty tables. I wrestled sacks of potting soil and bales of peat moss into cars full of groceries and golf clubs. I swept and reswept the greenhouse floors.

"What a great place to work," at least one customer said to me every day. "There's nothing more peaceful than being around plants."

I had always thought of gardening as a democratic pastime open to everyone. But I soon began to suspect there were people who simply shouldn't be permitted to garden--people who asked questions like, "Do you have a spray that will kill all the weeds but won't hurt the flowers I planted?" "What's wrong with the basket of annuals I bought here a month ago? It was beautiful, but now looks like rubbish." These were the folks who wanted to garden without ever bending over. They were looking for lawns that didn't need mowing and trees that changed color in autumn but wouldn't drop their leaves.

Even the veteran staffers could be stumped by customer questions. "What do you call those tiny containers plants come in?" one woman asked earnestly. My coworkers gave their best guess. Flower pots? Cell packs? Nursery flats? No, she said, none of those sounded right. Exasperated, someone offered, "Seeds?"

"That's it!" the woman cried happily. "Have you got any of those?"

In spite of the grueling physical chores, grumpy customers, and endlessly goofy questions, there were some sweet surprises. A tattooed man with a ponytail bought six different hardy fuchsias because, he told me cheerfully, they reminded him of his auntie. A gardener who'd lost his vision fell in love with chocolate cosmos because of their candy-box fragrance. Elderly shoppers often asked which summer flowers were best to grow for cemetery bouquets.

Best of all were the wild things that lived on the grounds. "When customers really get to me," a long-time employee admitted, "I go out and pet a frog." Dozens of bronze tree frogs lurked beneath the benches and in the buckets of

pond plants. We found garter snakes snoozing inside sun-warmed pots, chipmunks behind the gift-wrapping counter, and dim-witted killdeers nesting in the parking lot.

In August, the last of the bedraggled petunias were replaced with chrysanthemums, fall pansies, and flowering kale. By September, tulip and daffodil bulbs spilled from the retail shelves. Soon Annabel was shouting for help with the Christmas poinsettias and threatening us bodily harm if we busted so much as a stem. The days grew shorter and colder. Finally it started to rain. I wasn't made of stern enough stuff to slog through a nursery winter. It was time to give up the dream job and find my way back to my desk.

Before I left the garden center, I rang up an order of fall bedding plants for a woman who owned a local historic inn overlooking the bay.

"I'm so jealous!" she told me. "I've always wanted to work here!"

"Be careful what you wish for," I said. "It's not nearly as rosy and idyllic as everyone seems to think."

The innkeeper signed her credit card slip and flashed me a knowing smile.

"Yeah?" she said good-naturedly. "Try running a bed-and-breakfast."

#### **ENTRY: APRIL 6, 2014 (Stem Color vs. Flower Color)**

I did a lot of transplanting of seedlings today down in the basement as I step up individual plant seedlings from the seed starting medium in which they germinated into individual cell packs (72 cells/flat). In a normal season I usually start about 30 or 40 flats of flower and vegetable seeds in the basement. I focus primarily on specialty items that I can't find at garden centers. Though I sow more than enough of each seed variety, I step up only enough seedlings that I know will fit in my garden. The rest of the seedlings I usually pass on to coworkers or throw away.

When I'm transplanting most seedlings, I usually pick the largest and seemingly healthiest to transplant into the cell packs. However, after many years of experience I've learned that this isn't always the right thing to do. When transplanting seedlings from flower mixes of different colors, it's also important to note that stem color can play an important role in determining which plants I step up. Different stem colors result in plants with different flower colors and the seedlings aren't always at the same stage of development. In mixes, some colors can germinate later and at different rates than other flower colors. Were I only to choose the largest and most vigorous seedlings, I could miss out on some flower colors entirely in the garden come summer.

Therefore, I take a very random approach when pricking out seedlings and transplanting into cell packs or pots—a little of this size seedling and a little of that size. In mixes where the stem color is quite obvious (balsam for example), I mix things up in the cell packs as much as I can so I get a nice, even mix in the garden. The seedlings with plain green stems are usually quite a bit bigger than those that are pinkish. Were I to focus on only the more vigorous green stemmed seedlings, the balsam in my garden would lean toward white and pastel pink, forgoing the deep reds and purples that are also a part of the mix.

#### **ENTRY: APRIL 21, 2014 (Fantastic New App Available)**

I received the following Facebook notification today from Klein's about an app that I can't wait to download into my iPad:

##### **From Klein's Facebook Page @ [Klein's Facebook Page](#):**

"We recommend Dr. Allan Armitage's app, "Armitage's Greatest Perennials & Annuals" for our customers, because it provides easy-to-read information on many of the plants available in our store. The app is written with the home gardener in mind. Dr. Armitage suggests the best variety for hundreds of plants, and backs up his recommendations with years of personal experience, entertaining videos, and stunning photos. Armitage's Greatest Perennials & Annuals is essentially a small reference book in your back pocket. It's updated regularly, and best of all, costs only \$4.99. A spectacular value!"

##### **From the Google app store:**

"Gardening is not brain surgery, or rocket science - and if I have learned one thing, it is that gardening should never be taken seriously. So have fun. There are no rules.

You may search all plants, or use the filter to search for annuals, perennials or those grown in sun, shade or for foliage or flowers. Scroll through any plant for useful information, swipe through hundreds of photos. Add plants to

your list of favorites, and email some of these to your friends or spouse so they will buy you the plant you actually are lusting for.

For even more excitement, I have included videos where not only do I make a fool of myself, but may even teach you a few hints. Have fun!"

#### **About Allan Armitage:**

A world renowned plantsman, lecturer and author. He has traveled to gardens throughout Europe, South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, Canada, the Channel Island, and South America. He has appeared in International Horticulture conferences in Portugal, Toronto and Norway, chatted with Martha on the Martha Stewart Show and consulted with growers and nurseries around the globe. He has earned Professor Emeritus status within the Department of Horticulture at the University of Georgia. He has published 13 books, hundreds of trade journal articles for the horticulture industry, produced dozens of videos about plants for the gardener and is the author of an online course for the public.

Here is the link to purchase the app: [Allan Armitage's Greatest Perennials & Annuals Mobile App](#)

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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!!

Now that winter is over (!) and the days are long, local hens are laying en masse; providing consumers with an abundance of locally produced, farm-fresh eggs. We at Klein's are lucky to say that one of our own coworkers raises chickens on her area farm and supplies the Klein's staff with the most beautiful eggs around and from a wide variety of chicken breeds. The following are some of Klein's favorite recipes to use up our supply of eggs. Enjoy!

**BAKED EGGS**--No standing at the stove for this crowd pleaser! Eggs are light and fluffy and always perfectly done!! This is a family favorite.

12 eggs

1 tsp. salt

1 1/4 cups milk

1/4 cup butter

Add-ins: Choose from chopped onions, chopped green pepper, chopped ham, chopped turkey, crumbled cooked bacon, cheese, herbs of choice.

Preheat the oven to 375°. Meanwhile, beat together the eggs, salt, milk and add-ins of choice. Place the butter in a 9" square baking dish and allow to melt in the hot oven. Once melted, pour in the egg mixture. Bake 15 minutes, remove from the oven and stir, bringing the cooked parts into the center. Return to the oven and bake an additional 10 minutes. Eggs will rise above the baking dish. The center should be set and the edges well-cooked. Serves 6-8

For a larger crowd, this recipe doubles easily. Simply use a 9x13" baking dish and add 5 minutes to EACH cooking time.

**FRITTATA**--This recipe has been made for many a family breakfast and company get-togethers over the years. Originally appeared in Better Homes & Gardens magazine in December 1997. A tried & true favorite!

1 1/2 cups potatoes in 1/2" cubes

1 TBS. vegetable oil

1 1/2 cups (8 oz.) chopped cooked ham

3/4 cup shredded cheddar

8 lightly beaten eggs

1/3 cup milk

1 x 4 oz. can diced green chiles

1/4 cup chopped green onion

1/2 tsp. dried oregano

1/4 tsp. salt

1/2 of a 7 oz. jar roasted red peppers cut into thin strips

1 1/2 cups salsa of choice

1/4 cup fresh cilantro

shredded parmesan (optional)

Preheat the oven to 350°. In a 10" oven safe cast iron skillet, cook the potatoes in hot oil, uncovered, over medium heat for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cover and cook 5 minutes more until tender, stirring just once. Sprinkle the ham and half of the cheddar over the potatoes. In a mixing bowl, lightly beat the eggs and stir in the milk, chiles, green onion, oregano and salt. Pour into the skillet over the potatoes. Arrange the pepper strips in a spoke-like fashion on the top. Bake, uncovered for about 30 minutes until the center is set and a knife comes out clean. Sprinkle the top with the remaining cheese. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Meanwhile in a saucepan, stir together the salsa and cilantro and heat through. Cut the frittata into wedges and serve with the warm salsa and parmesan if desired. Serves 4-6.

**ZUCCHINI RICE QUICHE**—Yet another decades old family favorite passed down over the years.

1 TBS. butter  
1 large onion (1 cup), chopped  
2 cloves minced garlic  
1 cup coarsely chopped mushrooms  
2 cups chopped zucchini  
1 chopped tomato  
2 cups cooked rice  
1/2 tsp. dried basil  
1/2 tsp. dried oregano  
pepper to taste  
2 egg whites  
3 large eggs  
2/3 cup cottage cheese  
1/4 cup milk  
1/3 cup parmesan, divided  
several dashes cayenne pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 350°. In a large saucepan, melt the butter and saute the onion and garlic for one minute. Add the mushrooms and zucchini and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the tomato, rice, basil, oregano, pepper and cayenne. In a small bowl, beat together the egg whites and whole eggs. Mix in the cottage cheese, milk and 2 TBS. parmesan. Stir into the veggie mixture. Pour the mixture into a greased 10" pie plate. Sprinkle with remaining parmesan. Bake 25-30 minutes until set. Allow to stand 10 minutes before slicing. Serves 6.

**BAGEL, LOX AND EGG STRATA**—A delicious make-ahead recipe from the May 2002 issue of Better Homes & Gardens.

1/4 cup butter, melted  
8 cups plain bagels cut into bite size pieces (4-6 bagels)  
1 x 3 oz. package thinly sliced lox-style smoked salmon, cut into pieces  
2 cups shredded Swiss or Monterey jack cheese  
1/4 cup snipped fresh chives  
8 beaten eggs  
2 cups milk  
1 cup cottage cheese  
1/4 tsp. pepper

Place the butter in a glass 9x13" baking dish and spread to cover the bottom. Spread bagel pieces evenly into the dish. Sprinkle the bagels with the lox, cheese and chives. In a large bowl, combine the beaten eggs, milk, cottage cheese and pepper. Pour over the bagels and lox. Press down gently with the back of a wooden spoon to moisten all ingredients. Cover and chill for 4-24 hours. When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350°. Bake, uncovered, about 45 minutes or until set and the edges are puffed and golden. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serves 12.

**COMPANY FRENCH TOAST**—The entire family loves this recipe that appeared in the Wisconsin State Journal in 2005.

1 x 8-10 oz. loaf French bread cut into 1" thick slices  
5 beaten eggs  
1 cup milk  
1/4 tsp. baking powder  
1 TBS. vanilla extract  
1 x 20 oz. bag frozen whole strawberries



4 medium ripe bananas  
2/3 cup sugar  
1 TBS apple pie spice (McCormick's, Durkee, Penzey's)  
Cinnamon sugar

Place bread in a 9x13" pan. Combine the eggs, milk, baking powder and vanilla. Pour over the bread, cover and refrigerate overnight. In the morning, preheat the oven to 450°. In a large bowl, mix together the still frozen strawberries, bananas, sugar and apple pie spice. Place this mixture in another 9x13" pan coated with cooking spray. Top the fruit with the soaked bread. Sprinkle the top with cinnamon sugar. Bake 25-30 minutes until very golden. Makes 8 slices.

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## **NATURAL NEWS--**

An update from last month's newsletter:

In 2014, Klein's will be carrying beneficial insects (ladybugs and praying mantis) as a natural means for pest control in your garden. **They should be arriving in store from Orcon around June 1 rather than early May.** The ladybugs come 1500/ containers and the mantid package contains 2 egg masses with approximately 100 eggs per mass. Releasing beneficial insects into your garden is not only effective, but a wonderful teaching tool for children; whether at home or in school. It's best to release beneficial insects remedially rather than preventively. **If they don't have prey to eat right away, they move on to another garden that does. Therefore, it's best not to release them into your garden too early in the season.**

A favorite "good bug" and alternative to chemicals, store-bought ladybugs have been a popular beneficial insect for many years. When released at sundown (because they don't fly at night), ladybugs eat aphids, mealy bugs, scale, leafhoppers, various plant-eating worms and other destructive soft-bodied pests. And they keep on eating until the bad guys are gone, laying their own eggs in the process. When new pests arrive, fresh ladybugs will be waiting.

### **Will lady bugs take care of all my problems?**

Ladybugs will take care of a lot of garden problems but probably not all of them. They like soft-bodied pests like aphids, scale, mealy bugs, bollworms, leafhopper, and corn earworm, but they like aphids best and will travel to find them.

There are other Beneficials who have a broader appetite including Green Lacewings and Praying Mantids. In fact Praying Mantids can be put out before you have a problem, they will hatch out in spring and look for all sorts of other bugs to eat, keeping the garden pretty clean. Green Lacewings control aphids, mites, whiteflies, meal bugs, leafhoppers, thrips, all types of moth and butterfly eggs, and caterpillars. Like Ladybugs it is best to put them out after you see a problem so they have something to eat right away, if you put them out too early and there is nothing for them to eat they may travel out of your garden to find food.

Another good way to keep bad bugs at bay is to make sure your garden is healthy, well fed and watered properly. It seems silly but often bad bugs are not attracted to healthy plants, they go after the stressed ones. Worm Castings are a great fertilizer, helping the soil and the plant plus they have been known to repel or decrease populations of Whitefly.

Less common, but more often seen in southern Wisconsin in recent years, praying mantis feed on a wider array of insects due to their size. These fascinating creatures are a sight to behold.

### **Why would I use a bug to control a bug?**

Using a beneficial insect is a natural way to control the bad bugs on your plants or in your soil. You can't get more organic than one bug eating another bug—it's nature at work. Since the beneficial bugs don't harm the plants you are not replacing a problem with a problem. Look for a balance: you don't want so many bad bugs that you're disfiguring beautiful flowers or reducing harvests, just enough to keep the good ones around in case there is a spike in populations. If all the bad bugs are gone the beneficial insects will leave also to look for more food. Not unlike house guests or teenagers.

Another benefit to using beneficial insects is you don't have to worry about the bad bugs building up a resistance to the spray or chemical. Even organic sprays are essentially chemicals, just from natural sources and bad bugs can build up tolerances to them as well. Bad bugs can never build up a tolerance to being eaten.

Also you don't have to worry about storage, leakage or kids getting into sprays or bottles with a beneficial insect.

#### **About Orcon 'The Natural Solution to Garden and Pest Problems'**

People used to say, "The only good bug is a dead bug!" They used strong chemicals to try and kill every creature in their yard. Now we know that can be dangerous to us and our planet. We know it's better to work with Mother Nature instead of against her.

For 35 years, we've been providing gardeners with effective and earth-friendly solutions to protect against pests that can damage plants. Orcon's beneficial insects — ladybugs, green lacewings, praying mantids, beneficial nematodes and others — defend gardens from "bad bugs" such as aphids, whiteflies, mealy bugs and mites.

Visit their website at: [organiccontrol.com](http://organiccontrol.com)

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

#### **ARONIA (Chokeberry)**

*Aronia melanocarpa*, commonly called black chokeberry, is an open, upright, spreading, somewhat rounded but leggy, suckering, deciduous shrub that typically grows 3-6' tall. It is native to low woods, swamps, bogs and moist thickets but occasionally to dry upland areas, from Newfoundland to southern Ontario and Minnesota south to Missouri, Tennessee and Georgia. It is noted for its 5-6 flowered clusters of white 5-petaled spring (May) flowers, glossy elliptic to obovate dark green leaves (to 2-3" long) with finely toothed margins, black autumn berries (blueberry size) and purple/red fall color.

The common name of chokeberry is in reference to the tart and bitter taste of the fruits which are technically edible but so astringent as to cause choking in most of those who try. Fruits are used to make tasty jams, jellies and juices.

Aronia is a good source of iron and vitamin C. Its health properties are mainly ascribed to the high levels of anthocyanins, polyphenols and flavonoids that act as antioxidants and venotonics (to strengthen arteries and veins). Aronia is considered as a new super-food with many health properties that exceed those of cranberries.

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Plants have a wide range of soil tolerance including boggy soils. Best fruit production usually occurs in full sun. Remove root suckers to prevent colonial spread.

Group or mass in shrub borders, small gardens or open woodland areas. Ability to withstand wet conditions makes it suitable for growing on the margins of ponds or streams. Excellent addition to naturalized areas where its suckering, colonial growth habit does not need to be restrained.

Klein's offers the following aronia varieties and can be found alongside our other potted fruits including; blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, rhubarb, etc.

**Autumn Magic**--Autumn Magic bears gorgeous white flower clusters in the spring, dark green foliage all summer, and dark blue-black fruits all winter. Grows to 5-7' tall. Great source of vitamin C and high in antioxidants. (2 gallon pot)

**Glossy Black**--Large, flavorful blue-black fruits are high in vitamin C and delicious in jam and juices. Makes a beautiful blooming shrub in any garden. Grows to about 6'. (2 gallon pot)

Source: [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)

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## **AROUND TOWN:**

For neighborhood events or garden tours that you would like posted in our monthly new sletter, 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 new sletter. This is a great opportunity for free advertising.

### **Olbrich Garden's Leaf Mulch Sale**

May 3 & May 17, 9:00-1:00 (Bulk Available)  
May 22 & 23, 12:00-5:00 (Bagged and Bulk Available)

Buy the same leaf mulch used in Olbrich's gardens for your home garden. Leaf mulch cuts down on watering and weeding, recycles local leaves, and is credited for Olbrich's healthy looking gardens. Bags are \$6.50 each and \$40 for a tractor scoop (8-10 bags).

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

### **Rotary Garden's Compost Sale**

Saturdays in April and May, 8:00-noon

Area garden enthusiasts, once again, will have an opportunity to purchase organic compost at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville.

The organic blended mushroom compost is sold in 40 lb. (1.5 cu. ft.) bags for \$6 per bag. Rotary Botanical Gardens' Friends Members will receive an additional 10% discount at the sale.

If you would like more information or have questions, please call Mark Dwyer at [608-754-1779](tel:6087541779) or email: [mark.dwyer@rotarybotanicalgardens.org](mailto:mark.dwyer@rotarybotanicalgardens.org).

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

### **Dahlia Tuber Sale**

Sunday, May 4, 12:00-2:00

Dahlias are late summer bloomers popular for their extravagant blooms, diverse forms, and bright colors. They're subtropical annuals grown each year from tubers dug up in the fall and overwintered in a cool, dry environment. The sale is sponsored by the Badger State Dahlia Society. For more information call [608-577-1924](tel:6085771924).

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

### **Flowering Crabapples and Lilacs**

Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
In the Longenecker Gardens

Emeritus Professor of Horticulture Ed Hasselkus, curator of the Longenecker Gardens, will concentrate on the Arboretum's excellent collection of flowering crabapples and present highlights in the Gardens' large lilac collection.

University of WI Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Hwy.  
Madison, WI 53711  
[608/263-7888](tel:6082637888) or [uwarboretum.org/events](http://uwarboretum.org/events)

## **West Side Garden Club Plant Sale**

Friday, May 9, 8:00-6:00

Saturday, May 10, 8:00-4:00

3918 Nakoma Rd., Madison (near Thoreau School and the intersection of Seminole & Nakoma Roads)

The West Side Garden Club is celebrating 92 years in 2014 and we've been holding a plant sale for nobody knows for sure how many years.....

Each garden club member is asked to dig at least 40 plants from their garden to sell.

All of the proceeds from our plant sale are given to organizations that promote gardening in the Madison area. Some of our recipients in past years include: scholarships for the Longenecker Memorial, Allen Centennial Gardens and the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. Donations were also made to the Aldo Leopold Center, Goose Pond, CDI Garden Therapy, Troy Gardens and the list goes on and on. In the past five years, our not-for-profit group has donated \$40,000 to projects that promote civic beautification, scholarships, memorial trees and support to garden-related community groups. Please join us.

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## **Olbrich's Plant Sale with the Pros**

Friday, May 9, 11:00-6:00

Saturday, May 10, 9:00-3:00

Enjoy one-stop shopping convenience during **Olbrich's Plant Sale with the Pros** at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Buy the same unique plants used in Olbrich's gardens. Olbrich's Plant Sale with the Pros will feature everything from annuals and perennials to ornamental grasses and shrubs.

The plant sale will feature the newest cultivars on the market including tropical plants that will fire up your garden, small-scale garden conifers, herbs, and butterfly plants along with hundreds of annuals and perennials. Shoppers will find rare shrubs and trees, including hardy shrub roses that thrive in the challenging Wisconsin climate.

### Expert Advice

Olbrich horticulturists and master gardeners will be on hand to answer any question and give expert advice. Olbrich's Schumacher Library will also be at the sale with reference books and garden information. Be inspired by plant combinations and displays developed by Olbrich's professional staff.

Take advantage of free container design and potting services at the Plant Pro Potting Bench. Get help selecting the best plants for a stunning container garden or hanging basket...then let a professional plant them for you! Pots are available for purchase at the sale or bring your own containers!

Proceeds from the plant sale benefit Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Shop early since quantities are limited. Shoppers are encouraged to bring cartons, wagons, or boxes for carrying plants.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

[608/246-4550](tel:6082464550) or [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org) for details.

## **Rotary Garden's Spring Plant Sale**

Friday, May 9, 9:00-4:00 (RBG Friends Members only)

Saturday, May 10, 9:00-4:00

Sunday, May 11, 9:00-4:00

Rotary Gardens Horticulture Center

Featuring vegetable plants including heirloom tomatoes, bell peppers, hot peppers, basil, miscellaneous herbs and beans. Thousands of daylily divisions from the gardens will also be available for purchase as will bagged mushroom compost

Rotary Botanical Gardens

1455 Palmer Drive

Janesville, WI,  
[608/752-3885](tel:6087523885) or [www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)

### **Rotary Garden's Annual Tree Sale**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 9, 10 & 11, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (rain or shine)  
at Rotary Botanical Gardens' Horticulture Center  
825 Sharon Rd. (follow signs on Palmer Dr.)

2-3 year old transplants--\$1.85 each (in minimum bundles of five. Choose from Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, Black Hills Spruce, Arborvitae, White Pine, Red Oak and Sugar Maples. For more info, call 608/754-2152 after April 1.

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

### **Sundowners/Crosstown Violet Club Sale**

Saturday, May 10, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
This annual sale includes African violets, starter plants, blooming plants, leaves, gesneriads of all kinds, and potting soil and pots. Sponsored by the Sundowners and Crosstown African Violet clubs. For more information call 608/298-7324

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

### **Native Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 10, 9:00-2:00  
U.W.-Madison Arboretum Visitor Center

More than 100 species of quality prairie plants, woodland plants, shrubs, vines and trees are available for purchase under one tent. Experts will be on hand to answer questions. Proceeds support Arboretum projects.

University of WI Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Hwy.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608/263-7888 or [uwarboretum.org/events](http://uwarboretum.org/events)

### **Azaleas and Rhododendrons**

Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
In the Longenecker Gardens

Dr. Deb McCowen, a specialist in woody ornamentals, will review the Gardens' collection of azaleas and rhododendrons and discuss the care of these plants in the Madison area.

University of WI Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Hwy.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608/263-7888 or [uwarboretum.org/events](http://uwarboretum.org/events)

### **Windsor Area Garden Club Plant Sale**

Thursday, May 15, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Friday, May 16, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
6596 Chestnut Cir., Windsor

As always we will have a wide variety of tried and true perennial plant divisions from our own gardens. We will also have a few annuals, vegetable, and misc. plants available. Come visit with our garden club members and

receive help with general gardening questions in a welcoming environment. Master gardeners will also be available for more specific questions you may have. All proceeds will go to Gilda's Club.

Visit their websites @ [www.facebook.com/windsorareagardenclub](https://www.facebook.com/windsorareagardenclub) or [www.windsorareagardenclub.org](http://www.windsorareagardenclub.org) for contact info.

### **Indian Hills Garden Club Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 17, 8:00-2:00  
Spring Harbor Middle School  
1110 Spring Harbor Dr. (just off University Ave.)

Reasonably priced, healthy perennials from the garden club members' own gardens are for sale. Proceeds from the plant sale benefit neighborhood parks and non-profit organizations. For additional information, please contact Shary Bisgard at 233-1238 or Jeanette Tierney at [jeanettetierney@gmail.com](mailto:jeanettetierney@gmail.com).

### **Badger Bonsai Annual Show**

Saturday, May 17, 9:00-5:00  
Sunday, May 18, 10:00-5:00

Marvel at these growing miniature landscapes. Sponsored by the Badger Bonsai Society. For more information call 262/438-8469.

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

### **Dane County UW-Extension's Teaching Garden Plant Sale**

Sunday, May 18, 12:00-3:00  
Dane County UW-Extension Office  
5201 Fen Oak Ct, Madison (just off Agriculture Dr. between Pflaum & Femrite)

Please join us for a plant sale extravaganza! Purchase select plants from the Extension Office Teaching Gardens and Master Gardener Volunteers' personal gardens. There will also be vertical garden planters and rustic obelisks for sale. Children's activities to include painting and planting pots to take home! Contact Lisa Johnson at [608/224-3715](tel:6082243715) for more information or at [johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com](mailto:johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com).

Madison Area Master Gardeners Association  
PO Box 259318  
Madison, WI, 53725  
[608/224-3721](tel:6082243721) or at [www.mamgawi.org](http://www.mamgawi.org).

### **Small Ornamental Trees**

Wednesday, May 21, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
In the Longenecker Gardens

Dr. Laura Jull, Professor of horticulture, will highlight some of the Arboretum's interesting, and unusual, ornamental small trees.

University of WI Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Hwy.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608/263-7888 or [uwarboretum.org/events](http://uwarboretum.org/events)

### **Iris Show**

Sunday, May 25, 12:00-5:00  
Sponsored by the Madison Iris Society

For details call 608/271-3607

Cut irises in a rainbow of colors will be on display in the Evjue Commons.

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

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

Saturdays, April 19 thru November 8, 6:00-2:00  
On the Capitol Square

Wednesdays, April 23 thru November 5, 8:30-2:00  
In the 200 block of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

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

### **Northside Farmers Market**

Sundays, May 4 through October 19, 8:30-12:30  
In the Northside TownCenter at the intersection of N. Sherman Ave. and Northport Dr. across from Warner Park.

The Northside Farmers Market is a nonprofit community enterprise. It is one of the newest and fastest growing farmers' markets in Dane County. In keeping with the innovative spirit of Madison's Northside, we are surpassing what defines the traditional farmers' market. Our fundamental principles include:

--Providing an abundant selection of high quality, locally grown foods.  
The market accepts Quest, WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers.

--Supporting our local agricultural entrepreneurs who are increasingly important today in ensuring that we have the best and safest food possible.

--Educating the community about traditional foods and the history of local agriculture in an attempt to preserve (and expand upon) our rich heritage.

--Promoting nutrition and the market by hosting dinners for neighborhood groups and seniors.

Parking is always FREE!

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

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

By May 1, cool weather items like pansies, cole crops, onion sets, etc. should already be planted.

Sow successive crops of radishes and greens every 2 weeks.

Mow your lawn frequently and at a high setting to control lawn weeds.

Reseed bare spots in the lawn as needed.

Begin hardening off your seedlings and overwintered plants. Move inside or cover on cold nights.

Prep beds as soon as the soil is workable and not too wet.

Till compost into beds.

Perennials, shrubs and trees can now all be planted safely.

Divide and propagate most perennials as desired (except peonies & iris)

Plant straw berries and asparagus early in the month.

Plant your leftover Easter Lily into the garden. They'll bloom each July in the garden.

Be prepared to move plants indoors if a sudden cold spell (or snow) hits.



- \_\_\_ After May 10, begin setting out all plants, but **KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEATHER!**
- \_\_\_ Sow beans and corn after the last scheduled frost date.
- \_\_\_ After May 20, begin planting warm weather items: tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, coleus, impatiens etc.
- \_\_\_ Mulch beds as needed to cut down on weeds and watering.
- \_\_\_ Begin weeding as needed. The smaller the weed, the easier to remove.
- \_\_\_ Prune spring blooming as desired AFTER they are done flowering.
- \_\_\_ Wait until after the foliage has yellowed to cut back daffodils, tulips, etc.
- \_\_\_ Begin pinching tall perennials like asters, goldenrod, phlox, etc. for shorter and bushier plants.
- \_\_\_ Visit Klein's---**SPRING PLANTING IS FINALLY HERE!**

Some of our very favorite seed and plant sources include:

**For seeds:**

- Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds @ [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com) or 417/924-8887
- Burpee @ [www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com) or 800/888-1447
- Harris Seeds @ [www.harriseseeds.com](http://www.harriseseeds.com) or 800/514-4441
- Johnny's Select Seeds @ [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com) or 207/861-3901
- Jung's Seeds @ [www.jungseed.com](http://www.jungseed.com) or 800/247-5864
- Park's Seeds @ [www.parkseed.com](http://www.parkseed.com) or 800/845-3369
- Pinetree @ [www.superseeds.com](http://www.superseeds.com) or 207/926-3400
- Seeds of Change @ [www.seedsofchange.com](http://www.seedsofchange.com) or 888/762-7333
- Seed Savers @ [www.seed savers.org](http://www.seed savers.org) or 563/382-5990
- Select Seeds @ [www.selectseeds.com](http://www.selectseeds.com) or 800/684-0395
- Territorial Seeds @ [www.territorialseed.com](http://www.territorialseed.com) or 888/657-3131
- Thompson & Morgan @ [www.thompson-morgan.com](http://www.thompson-morgan.com) or 800/274-7333

**For bulbs:**

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

**For plants:**

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

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

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

**IN MAY:**

---Transplanting continues!! Early in the month we finish transplanting the seedlings for spring sales. But during mid-month we begin transplanting the seedlings for our summer "Jumbo-Pack" program. Customers continue to purchase bedding annuals through the summer months. Sometimes they're replacing plants that have succumbed to summer heat or heavy rains. Or maybe some quick color is needed for selling a house or having an outdoor party. Whatever the case, we can fill their needs.

---The spring onslaught is in full swing. The back greenhouses are filled floor to ceiling with plants awaiting purchase. Our outdoor space is a sea of color. Flats of plants waiting for sale fill most nooks and crannies of our property.



---Watering is a nonstop endeavor. On hot, windy days, we no sooner finish the first round, when we have to start all over again. Some plants in our retail areas may need watering 3 or 4 times in a single day! You wouldn't do this at home, but customers don't like to see wilted plants. It's not harmful for us to let them wilt a bit, but it makes for bad presentation.

---Restocking is also constant. Cart loads of product are moved nearly continuously from our back greenhouses to the front show rooms.

---Believe it or not, but our fall mums arrive! The small plants are put into small pots now and then stepped into larger tubs later in the summer. They won't be available for sale until mid-August.

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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.

### **Mason Bee Houses from Gardener's Supply Co.**

Orchard mason bees are small bees native to North America and are very good pollinators for flowers and fruit trees. They visit as many as 1,000 blooms per day.

Mason bees do not use hives like honeybees. In nature, mason bees place their eggs in holes drilled by beetles or woodpeckers. The bees will also use spaces between roof shingles or other narrow openings around the garden.

The Mason Bee House is a bundle of bamboo tubes that provide a place for mason bees to reproduce and gather pollen and nectar for their young. After laying eggs, the adults die, leaving a new generation to take over.

#### **Mounting the Bee House**

The Bee House should be placed against a flat surface and located in an area protected from high winds. The front of the house should have a south or southwest exposure where it will get the most sun in winter to keep bees warm.

After bees mate, the female places eggs in the bamboo tubes. Each egg is separated by nectar and pollen—it is at this time that the bees' pollen-gathering also pollinates plants.

After the pollen and nectar is placed, the female places a mud plug in the tube (hence the term "mason"), then repeats the process with more eggs, pollen, nectar and plugs. When the tube is full, she finishes with a heavy mud plug and her work is done.

In the spring, the mature bees emerge from the tubes. Males exit first. Females emerge after males because the eggs are placed deeper in the tubes. This is a protective measure, assuring a good female population to help keep the species going.

#### **About Mason Bees** by Kathy LaLiberte

Honeybees have been under a great deal of stress lately. It's no wonder. Working under the thumb of a queen bee, the average honeybee spends seven days a week collecting nectar and pollen along with its 70,000 hive-mates. To service the nation's growing demand for food, honeybees work for months on end without a break. As soon as they finish pollinating one crop, their hives are transported to the next crop. From Canada to Florida, California to Maine they are always on the move, frantically pollinating almonds, blueberries, raspberries, cranberries, cucumbers, apples, peaches, pears and more.

It appears the workload is getting to them. Honeybee population levels have dropped by 50 percent in the past 25 years. Colony collapse disorder, which was first identified about three years ago, is wiping out entire hives almost overnight. Colony collapse disorder and other problems have been blamed on pests and diseases, pesticides and herbicides, inbreeding, genetically modified crops, lack of diversity, habitat loss and climate change.

Native bees, of which there are more than 4,000 species in the U.S., are under similar stresses. They have definitely experienced population losses, but are proving to be much hardier than honeybees. Native bees have two big advantages over honeybees. First is the fact that they are solitary; they work for themselves and live independently. This makes them far less susceptible to disease and pest problems. And second, because they don't live in hives, they can't be "enslaved" for commercial agriculture, which increases their exposure to toxins and takes them out of their natural habitat. The downside? Native bees don't make honey.

Researchers for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) are studying native bees and other pollinators to understand how we can encourage these insects, and ultimately give honeybees a break.

Mason bees (genus *Osmia*) are a type of native bee that's quite common throughout most of the U.S. They are usually a little smaller than a honeybee, and typically metallic blue or blue-black in color. They get their name from their habit of nest-building, which is to seal off the cells where they lay their eggs, with a mortar-like application of mud.

There are about 140 species of mason bees in North America. All are solitary bees. The males do not have a stinger, and the females will only sting if trapped or squeezed. This makes them an ideal neighbor for the home garden, since they pose little to no threat of stinging.

In the wild, mason bees lay their eggs in small natural cavities such as woodpecker holes, insect holes and hollow stems, but they seem to be just as happy to lay their eggs in artificial nesting cavities such as wooden blocks with holes drilled in them, cardboard tubes and paper straws. Since mason bees are unable to excavate their own nesting cavities, they seem to be quite happy to use whatever location is suitable.

Female mason bees emerge in early spring and immediately begin to forage for pollen and nectar, which they collect from fruit trees, berries, flowers and vegetables. They pack this food into the far end of their nesting cavity until they decide there's enough there to feed a young bee. Then the female backs in, lays an egg and seals up the cell. This process continues until the bee has filled the entire chamber with a series of pollen/nectar/egg cells. Interestingly, the eggs that are destined to be female are always deposited at the back of the nesting chamber; the male bees will emerge first.

Once the mason bee has completely filled one chamber, she will begin filling another one. This pollen-collecting and egg-laying will continue for four to six weeks, after which the bee will die.

Mason bee larvae hatch just a few days after the eggs are laid. They munch away on the food that's been stored in their cell, which usually lasts them about 10 days. Then the larva spins a cocoon and pupates. By autumn, the insects look like an adult bee, but they remain inside their cocoons throughout the winter. When the weather warms in the spring, the males chew their way out first; the females emerge several days later.

Mason bees are very effective pollinators. Just two or three females can pollinate a mature apple tree! Mason bees will also work in cool or rainy weather when honeybees are more likely to take the day off.

Mason bees actually prefer to make their nests close together. An artificial nesting chamber takes advantage of this trait. Bees appreciate the convenience! In the wild, their eggs are laid in natural cavities which are rarely re-used. To avoid pest and disease problems, artificial nesting boxes should be carefully cleaned or disposed of after one or two seasons of use.

Source: Gardener's Supply Company at [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)

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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 new 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)

Floral Department Head--Kathy Lehman [kathy@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:kathy@kleinsfloral.com)

Accounts, Billing and Retail Buyer—Kathryn Derauf [kathryn@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:kathryn@kleinsfloral.com)

Perennial Specialist—Dena Fritz [dena@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:dena@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://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
- 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
- Arrow grasses
- 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
- Cow bane
- Cow cockle
- Cow sliprb
- 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
- Smartw eeds
- Snow -on-the-mountain
- Sorghum
- Star of Bethlehem
- Wild black cherry
- Wild radish
- Wisteria
- Yellow jessamine
- Yew

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