

'THE SAGE'-Klein's Online Newsletter—SEPTEMBER 2014  
Klein's Floral & Greenhouses  
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THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:  
HUGE SHIPMENT OF HOUSEPLANTS HAS ARRIVED!  
Arriving Soon . . . The Spring Bulbs!!  
Our 'Mad Gardener' Is Ready for Your Questions  
Check Out Our End of Season Savings  
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Our 2014 semi-load of houseplants has arrived! Quality and selection are now at their peak. Some of our more interesting items include a selection of air plants, staghorn fern plaques and unique succulents, in addition to indoor tropicals in all shapes and sizes.

enjoy these end of season savings:  
25% OFF all remaining Perennials, Shrubs, Hardy Vines & Potted Fruits.

50% OFF all remaining Garden Tropicals.

Buy One, Get One Free on all remaining Summer Annuals.

(Sales do not apply to fall annuals, vegetables, mums or mixed fall containers)

## 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 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.

### SEPTEMBER STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Week of September 1--Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, alliums and much more arrive for fall planting. We suggest that you hold off planting spring bulbs until the weather cools in October. But shop early for best selection!

And a reminder that fall is the very best time to plant and divide iris and peonies. We carry an excellent selection of reblooming iris rhizomes and bareroot peonies.

September 1--Labor Day. Special Store Hours: 10:00-4:00

September 7--Grandparents' Day

September 9--Full Moon

September 23--Fall Begins

September 24--Rosh Hashanah

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':  
LIVE LIKE A FLOWER (Part 3): Live Colorfully

Each of us is like a flower: unique, beautiful and the source of a smile. Show the world what variety you are with these tips from design psychology expert and author of *Do I Look Skinny in this House?*, Kelli Ellis. She shares advice on how to live like a flower by being colorful and daring to be different.

1. Shake It up.

Do something unpredictable. Skydive, take ballroom dancing lessons, drive a race car, learn how to sail, paint the living room a wild color, hang flowers from the chandelier... try something completely new and you'll feel new!

2. Make It Simple.

Keep the people that make your life better on speed dial; your hair stylist, your florist, your dog walker, your baby sitter. Call on the pros and trust them to make your life simple and sweet.

3. Good Morning Sunshine.

Start and end your day in a color that makes your heart smile, one that creates a key to your haven. Choose a bedding color that you love, and wrap yourself in a smile every day. On your nightstand, fill a vase with flowers in your favorite color. A Harvard study shows that while people tend to feel least positive in the early hours, they reported feeling happier and more energetic after looking at flowers first thing in the morning.

4. Ignore Your "Normal".

To brighten your day, get bold. Instead of the usual black tights, try colored leggings in your favorite color. Swap out the typical black boots for vibrant pumps. Find a new style one piece at a time.

5. Make a Statement.

Share the things you love with the world. Create your own signature brand by choosing a favorite flower and always have them on your desk, or be known for your cool hairstyles and hair accessories. Do both and pin your favorite flower in your hair.

6. Spread Smiles.

Show your thoughtful and creative side by giving your work mates flowers that you think represents them. Flowers make the boss smile too! According to a Texas A&M study, productivity, innovation and creative problem solving improve when flowers and plants are in the workplace.

Because there are many life lessons we can gather from beautiful, resilient flowers as they grow from seedling to stem, the Society of American Florists and Aboutflowers.com created Live Like a Flower, a series of pieces of advice from well-known experts in life and happiness. Through the easy-to-follow advice of authors, speakers, designers and more, we can learn to bloom like a flower and live life to its fullest and most rewarding.

Source: Society of American Florists @ [www.aboutflowers.com](http://www.aboutflowers.com)

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

When will I be able to transplant my peonies? What is a nice way to arrange them & what other types of flowers would you recommend putting with them? Thanks, Karen

Hi Karen,

Toward the end of August and anytime in September is the best time to transplant peonies here in southern Wisconsin. You can cut the foliage back to 4" to make the process a little easier. Make sure to replant them shallow and horizontally with their eyes (the points from where the leaves sprout) just 1" below the soil. People oftentimes plant their peonies too deep; leading to weak plants and plants that won't bloom. Make sure to plant them in full sun. They tend to perform best in a very open area. Planting them in an open area results in stockier, bushier plants that won't lean or split apart as much as they mature. Keep well watered well into fall so they become established before the ground freezes.

Plant choices are completely up to you and how you want your garden to look. Keep in mind that peonies keep their foliage all season and essentially look like a shrub once they're finished blooming in late June. I like to have some perennials that bloom the same time as the peonies and in complementary colors--namely blue. Giant alliums (bulbs available after Labor Day), baptisia and spiderworts are excellent choices. A splash of yellow is also nice.

Thanks for your question,  
Klein's Mad Gardener  
[madgardener@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:madgardener@kleinsfloral.com)

#### DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that there is a plant disease quickly decimating Madison area impatiens?

Over the past few weeks, we at Klein's have received numerous phone calls from gardeners asking us why their impatiens are suddenly dying. Some believe the problem inherently lies in the plants they purchased at garden centers and other sources. After all, "I've always grown impatiens in that bed and have never had a problem until this year." In actuality, the problem is a pathogen relatively new to the Madison area called impatiens downy mildew and has been spreading rapidly from garden to garden during the past two summers. Cool and wet Junes in the past two years have possibly accelerated its spread.

The following article by Jenna Lind of the UW-Madison Plant Pathology department sheds light the situation.

What is impatiens downy mildew?

Impatiens downy mildew is a disease that has become a serious threat wherever impatiens are grown. The disease has recently become a serious issue in the United States, including Wisconsin. Impatiens downy mildew has been so destructive in many areas that it has made

impatiens unusable as a garden ornamental. The disease affects garden impatiens and balsam (*Impatiens walleriana* and *I. balsamina*), as well as native jewelweeds (*I. pallida* and *I. capensis*). New Guinea impatiens (*I. hawkerii*) and its hybrids appear to be either resistant to or tolerant of the disease. Other common garden ornamentals are immune to impatiens downy mildew and thus not affected by the disease at all.

What does impatiens downy mildew look like?

Symptoms of impatiens downy mildew often first occur on leaves near the tips of branches. Initial symptoms include an irregular yellow-green discoloration of leaves that can be confused with spider mite feeding injury. Affected leaves often curl downwards. Stunting and reduced flowering are other common symptoms. As the disease progresses, leaves and flowers drop off, leaving a bare stem. Eventual death of affected plants can occur. The most distinctive characteristic of impatiens downy mildew is the presence of a fuzzy white material (actually the organism that causes the disease) that develops on stems, buds and particularly the under sides of leaves.

Where does impatiens downy mildew come from?

Impatiens downy mildew is caused by the fungus-like water mold *Plasmopara obducens*. This organism is commonly first introduced into a garden on infected impatiens transplants. It can also be introduced by windborne spore-like structures called sporangia. Once established in a garden, *P. obducens* can spread from plant to plant by wind or rain splash. Cool, wet/humid weather favors disease development. *P. obducens* can potentially overwinter in a garden in the form of specialized spores called oospores. These spores can be found in soil and in infested plant debris. Whether *P. obducens* can be introduced via impatiens seed is unclear.

How can I save a plant with impatiens downy mildew? Plants with impatiens downy mildew are unlikely to recover and can be a source of sporangia that can infect other impatiens plants, as well as oospores that can allow *P. obducens* to overwinter in a garden. If you see impatiens downy mildew, remove symptomatic plants (roots and all), place them in sealed plastic bags and throw them away in the garbage; DO NOT compost these plants. Also consider removing all impatiens within a three foot radius of symptomatic plants. These plants are likely infected, but not yet showing downy mildew symptoms. DO NOT use fungicides on plants that are showing symptoms as such treatments will not be effective.

How can I avoid problems with impatiens downy mildew in the future? Use a wide variety of bedding plants in your garden. A diverse plant selection can limit the spread of disease-causing organisms (like *P. obducens*) and limit the impact of diseases when they occur. Plants such as alternanthera, begonia, coleus, iresine and torenia are possible alternatives to impatiens. If you decide to plant impatiens in your garden, consider using New Guinea impatiens or its hybrids. These types of impatiens appear to be resistant to or tolerant of impatiens downy mildew. Inspect impatiens plants carefully for symptoms of downy mildew before buying them. DO NOT buy infected plants. Once you have purchased your impatiens, don't plant them right away. Keep them in a holding area and watch them for symptom development. Obvious symptoms of impatiens downy mildew may not appear for five to 14 days. In your holding area, keep plants from different sources (e.g., different greenhouses) as far apart as possible. That way, if impatiens plants from one source are infected, you can limit spread to other plants.

When planting your beds, DO NOT use impatiens in the same areas as you did last year; remember that *P. obducens* can potentially overwinter as oospores in soil and old impatiens debris. Space impatiens plants as far apart as possible. This will promote good air flow and

promote drier conditions that are less favorable for downy mildew to develop. For the same reason, avoid overhead watering (e.g., watering with a sprinkler). Instead, use a soaker or drip hose to apply water gently to the soil without splashing it onto leaves.

As a last resort, consider applying fungicide treatments for control. Use a fungicide that contains the active ingredient mancozeb and that is labeled for use on impatiens. Such products are typically available for homeowner purchase at local garden supply centers. Start applications before symptoms are present and be sure to read and follow all label instructions of the fungicide that you select to ensure that you use the product in the safest and most effective manner possible. Apply the fungicide per label directions as long as weather conditions (i.e., wet or humid weather) are favorable for disease development.

Source: The UW Extension website @ hort.uwex.edu

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

ENTRY: AUGUST 10, 2014 (With Twopence for Paper & String...)

Everyone who visits my garden quickly points out that nearly all of my taller plants have been staked up as not to topple in wind and heavy rains. Along with watering and weeding, this is one of my favorite garden tasks. I find the process of staking very relaxing and the rewards throughout the season pay off. Plants stand tall and look tidy the whole summer. On the day that any single plant is staked, it can look unnaturally bound up and constricted. But in a day or two the leaves spread their wings and flowers face the sun again. As the plants grow, both stake and string become completely unnoticeable.

Years and years of experience has taught me to be careful in the type of string I choose when staking plants. I find most 'garden twines' too bulky to tie up delicate stems and the knots too big. I've found that the natural fiber cotton and jute twines can become weak and in turn rot during summers that are humid with a lot of rain. It's a sad sight walking into the garden and finding a treasured and pampered sunflower snapped at the base; frayed ends of soggy cotton twine five feet higher waving in the wind—still securely knotted to the stake.

On the other hand, some polyester twines are unattractive and make for slippery knots, In addition, they oftentimes unravel at the ends making the staking process more difficult and time consuming. With both garden twines and polyester twine it's necessary to keep a pair of scissors close at hand to cut all of the necessary lengths.

A few years back I discovered the perfect twine for my needs—kite string (or at least the brand they sell at Farm & Fleet). The kite string I use is polyester (therefore, tough and water resistant) yet thin enough that I can easily tear it by hand; forgoing the scissors. The spools are small and fit easily into my pockets. The loose end dangles from my pocket and I simply pull out a desired length and tear it by hand. Unlike most polyester twines, this kite string won't unravel. In the years I've been using kite string, it has yet to fail me. A garden task that I already enjoy doing has been made even easier!

(By the way, for very large and heavy plants I find that very small, thin bungee cords are the perfect choice.)

ENTRY: AUGUST 16, 2014 (My Little Monarch Sanctuary)

Considering the dire news about our deteriorating monarch population from pesticides, climate change and habitat loss in Mexico, I have never in all my 30 years of gardening seen so many monarch caterpillars in my yard. Granted that over time I've created a great monarch habitat; this is the first year that monarchs (and a lot of them) showed up at the beginning of the summer and hang out in the yard the entire day. There are some days I'd watch females laying eggs on nearly every milkweed plant in the yard—common milkweed, swamp milkweed, butterfly weed and annual milkweed. I've counted at least 4 dozen caterpillars so far and counting and at all stages of development. It's been a lot of fun watching them grow and change. They're very easy to find . . . where's there's caterpillar poop on milkweed leaves, there must be a caterpillar somewhere on the plant. Once the caterpillars reach a certain size, they leave their host plant to form their chrysalis on some nearby plant or structure.

In addition to monarchs, this has been an incredible summer for nearly all of our butterflies. I've seen no shortage of tiger swallowtails, morning cloaks, red admirals, among others. In fact, as I'm writing this I see two swallowtail caterpillars feasting on the parsley plants just outside my window and I know another two are on the smoky fennel just around the corner.

ENTRY: AUGUST 27, 2014 (Rick's 2014 Top Plant Reviews)

Each gardening season I love to try out a lot of new plants in the garden. For every success, there's also a flop. My early season excitement for rainbow colored quinoa in the garden has been a dismal failure. Having said that, there are a lot of new plants that I'm thrilled with and can't wait to use them again in the years ahead. My favorite new plants of 2014 include:

'Amistad' *Salvia guaranitica*—Ideal for pots or summer borders, this is a strong growing variety with stunningly beautiful flowers. Dark purple buds open to deep purple flowers with an almost black calyx. Both flower color and form are superior to its predecessor, 'Purple Majesty'. The flower size and color are more striking than 'Black n' Blue'; whose color can be overwhelmed by bolder surrounding plants. A big winner in my garden and hummingbirds LOVE it!

'Waverly' *Salvia leucantha* Hybrid—Possibly of English origin, originally distributed as *Salvia* 'San Marcos Lavender'. The 5' tall clumps are topped with light pink-lavender flowers from late summer through fall. Flowers are larger than the species. Plant form and color is very nice. I'm not a big fan of white flowers and this one is pretty close in my garden. None the less, I'm a salvia fan and hummingbirds are stopping incessantly at my potted specimen just outside the TV room patio door.

'Pomegranate Punch' *Calibrachoa*—Rosy red flowers dramatically accented with black eyes and yellow centers densely cover cascading plants all season long. This has been among the best of the calibrachoa's I've grown. Plants are strong and a little more upright than most. Foliage has remained green all summer and the plants have been loaded with flowers nonstop.

'Margaret's' Sweet Pepper—The sweetest, biggest, most beautiful sweet pepper you'll ever grow. The fruits are huge, about 7 inches long, with color that transitions from green to orange to bright red and finally to deep red. They have thick walls and outstanding mild, sweet flavor. The plants bear early and prolifically. Because I grow all of my peppers in containers, I'm

always looking for sturdy AND productive plants. Margaret's doesn't disappoint. Plants are stocky and heavily laden with large fruit. From Jung's.

'Homeslice' Tomato—Compact plants yield bumper crops! Perfect for patio containers or small gardens. Bright red slicers ripen early and are firm and meaty with well-balanced tomato flavor. Vigorous, determinate plants grow 18 to 24 inches tall. Perhaps the best tomato I've grown to date in containers (and I've tried a lot!). Fruits are large and plants are strong and stocky. So far I've seen no sign of disease on either plants or fruit.

'Blushing Belle' Flowering Maple—This new abutilon hybrid surpasses many of the older cultivars in bloom and form. The abundance of two-toned bells of pure pink-blushed petals and white centers is outstanding especially during the short days of winter. Its upright yet compact habit lends well to a windowsill or small space growing area. I've always collected flowering maples and this is a keeper. It's the pinkest abutilon I've seen and has never stopped flowering! From Logee's Greenhouses.

'Pink Zazzle' Gomphrena—'Pink Zazzle' has knock-your-socks-off color to grab your attention. The large, hot pink to fuchsia blooms are 3" wide and last several weeks in the garden or as cut flowers. It's a day-neutral bloomer so it flowers consistently from spring through fall performing best in warm weather and high light. One of the flowers on my potted plants appeared in early June and looks the same today (in late August) as it did the day it opened. In the meantime, tons of weird almost prickly blooms have covered the plants. This is one crazy durable plant!!

Sarita Series Geranium—I'm a sucker for single flowered geraniums (rather than the big flowered gaudy masses that turn to masses of slimy mold during rainy spells). Flowers are simple and elegant. Sarita surpasses all others I've grown in sheer flower size. In addition, flower colors are bright, clean and unique. This has been my surprise favorite of the season!! Plants have never stopped blooming!!

'Maribor' Kale—Almost too pretty to eat, but I urge you to indulge! This frilly leaf kale has dark outer leaves and extra deep-red central foliage. Plants stay compact for denser plantings. Cooler weather intensifies the brilliant color and also brings out its remarkable, sweet flavor. I have this both in pots and beds. I've harvest tons with early greens and sautés. Plants have bounced right back and are absolutely beautiful—very dense and stocky. From Territorial Seed Company.

'Mellow Yellow' Cuphea—Adorable bright yellow flowers cover compact trailing dark green foliage. Continuous blooming throughout our hot summer weather. Loved by butterflies and hummingbirds. This is a quiet and subtle plant that is tough as nails. I have a pot on my deck railing that has been loaded with little yellow blooms all summer. Bumblebees LOVE the cuphea!

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

Growing mushrooms indoors year round continues to grow in popularity-especially during the winter months when we can grow little else. Easy to grow kits are available locally and from many seed companies including Territorial Seed Co. ([www.territorialseed.com](http://www.territorialseed.com)). Growing your



own mushrooms is not only rewarding, but makes for a fun family project. The following are some of our very favorite mushroom recipes.

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

3 cups water  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
1/4 cup butter  
2 TBS. flour  
1-2 cups sliced mushrooms  
1 cup chopped celery  
1 cup sliced carrots  
1 cup half and half  
2 cups vegetable broth  
1 cup raw wild rice, cooked  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
1/4 cup parmesan  
a little sherry to taste (optional)

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

**PITA PORTABLES**—For a refreshing summer meal, this recipe took first place in the 1988 Wisconsin State Journal Cookbook and has been a favorite of ours ever since. An excellent and easy choice for large get togethers.

1 cup shredded lettuce  
1 cup sliced mushrooms  
1 cup finely chopped green pepper  
1 cup finely chopped cucumber  
1 cup finely diced carrot  
1 cup finely diced celery  
1 cup sliced black olives  
1 cup chopped tomatoes  
1 cup chopped avocado  
1/2 cup chopped green onion  
1/2 cup alfalfa sprouts  
2/3 cup mayo  
1/2 tsp. honey  
1/2 tsp. mustard  
Pita bread

Combine the veggies in a bowl. Whisk together the mayo, honey and mustard and pour over the veggies and mix well. Chill until ready to serve. Serves 6.

**MONTY'S BLUE PLATE ARTICHOKE SANDWICH**—A long time favorite restaurant on Madison's near east side, Monty's Blue Plate Diner shared this recipe with the Wisconsin State Journal in September 2000.

2 TBS. olive oil  
1 medium onion, diced  
2 medium leeks, thin sliced  
4 cups sliced mushrooms  
1 x 8 oz. can artichokes (not marinated), drained  
1 red pepper, diced  
4 fresh tomatoes, diced  
1 cup prepared pesto (jarred is fine)  
1/2 cup pine nuts  
1 oz. soy sauce  
4 sliced baguettes or similar good bread  
grated parmesan

Preheat the oven to 400°. Using a non-stick fry pan, heat the oil and sauté the onions and leeks until caramelized. Add the mushrooms and artichokes and cook 15 minutes over medium-low heat. Add the red pepper, tomatoes, pine nuts and pesto and cook 5 minutes. Add the soy sauce and stir. Place the bread halves on a cookie sheet(s). Place the mixture on the bread halves and sprinkle with parmesan. Bake 8-10 minutes. Rotate as needed to toast evenly. Yields 8 halves.

**SPINACH MUSHROOM ENCHILADAS**—We picked up this family favorite from the Channel3000 website in August 2008. This is a super-delicious family favorite.

4 tsp. canola oil  
2 medium onions, finely chopped  
16 oz. mushrooms, finely chopped  
4 cloves minced garlic  
2 x 10 oz. packages frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed dry  
2 cups ricotta  
1 cup sour cream  
2 tsp. chili powder  
1/2 tsp. cayenne  
1/4 tsp. pepper (white if available)  
salt to taste  
4 cups shredded Monterey jack or Mexican blend cheese  
16 x 8" flour tortillas prepped per package instructions  
20 oz. enchilada sauce  
the usual garnishes . . . lettuce, black olives, tomatoes, onions, etc.

Preheat the oven to 350°. Prep a 10 x 15" baking dish with cooking spray. In a large skillet, sauté the onion. Add the mushrooms and cook until tender. Add the garlic and cook 1 minute more. Add the spinach, ricotta, sour cream, chili powder, cayenne and pepper. Stir well and season as desired. Add 2 cups of the shredded cheese to the mixture. Spoon onto the warmed tortillas, roll and place into the prepped pan. Pour the enchilada sauce over the top and sprinkle with the remaining cheese. Bake about 40 minutes until hot and bubbly. Can be prepped ahead and refrigerated, but add 5-10 minutes to cooking time. Serves 10.

MUSHROOM BARLEY SOUP—This classic comes from the original Moosewood Cookbook.

1/2 cup raw pearled barley  
6 1/2 cups stock or stock and water combo  
1 tsp. salt  
3 TBS. tamari (Japanese soy sauce)  
4 TBS. sherry  
3 TBS. butter  
1/2 tsp. dried thyme  
3 cloves minced garlic  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 lb. sliced mushrooms  
fresh ground pepper

Cook the barley in 1 1/2 cups of the stock until tender right in the soup kettle, about 45-50 minutes. Add the rest of the stock, tamari and sherry. Meanwhile, sauté the onions, garlic and thyme in a separate skillet. When softened add the mushrooms and salt. When all is tender, add to the cooked barley, keeping all of the expressed liquid. Add a generous amount of fresh pepper and simmer over the lowest heat possible. Adjust the seasonings. Serve with a crunchy warm bread and a side salad for the perfect meal! Serves 6-8.

MUSHROOMS IN GINGER SAUCE—Serve alone as a side or poured over green beans or rice. NUM! From Better Homes and Gardens magazine, May 2007.

2 TBS. butter  
1/3-1/2 cup chopped onion  
1/3-1/2 cup chopped cilantro  
4 cloves minced garlic  
1 TBS. grated fresh ginger  
16 oz. sliced mushrooms  
2 TBS. soy sauce  
1/4 cup unsweetened coconut milk (for cooking, not baking)  
1 TBS. lime juice  
Steamed beans or cooked rice, if desired

In a large skillet, heat the butter on medium-high. Add the onions, cilantro, ginger and garlic. Cook and stir 1 minute. Stir in the mushrooms and the soy sauce. Simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes or until the sauce thickens. Remove from the heat and stir in the lime juice. Serve alone as a side or poured over green beans or rice. Serves 6.

## NATURAL NEWS--

When to Harvest Garden-Fresh Produce

By Kris Wetherbee

Source: Mother Earth News @ [www.motherearthnews.com](http://www.motherearthnews.com)

The secret to enjoying garden-fresh produce at its prime is knowing when to harvest. If you've ever eaten a melon that lacked sweetness or green beans that were fibrous and tough, you

know how crucial timing can be. Just as different vegetables have their own distinct needs for planting, fertilizing and growing, each also will give certain clues when it is ready to pick.

A few vegetables are very accommodating and can stay in the ground for weeks until you're ready to eat them. Others need continual picking to ensure ongoing production of a crop, but most have a short window of time during which they can be gathered at peak flavor. After a vegetable passes its prime, it undergoes permanent changes that alter its taste, appearance, quality and, sometimes, its future production. Sugars turn to starches, and the texture becomes mushy, like an overripe melon or chewy green beans.

On the other hand, if you pick too soon, you'll harvest a vegetable that has not had adequate time to develop peak flavor, substance or nutrition.

The following is a guide to help you know precisely when your summer and fall fruits and vegetables have reached their peak of perfection and are ready to be picked and eaten.

Beans should be checked daily for harvesting. Snap beans/green beans are ready when the pods have filled out but the seeds are still tiny, which, depending on weather conditions, is usually some two to four weeks after bloom. The pods should be firm and crisp, with pliable tips. Pick haricot (French filet) types when the pods are about one-eighth inch in diameter, while they're still young and very slender.

Beets can be picked when the roots are from 1 1/2 to 3 inches in diameter, and most taste best when they are about the size of a ping-pong ball or golf ball. White and golden varieties are tasty and tender until they reach baseball size, but storage (winter-keeping) varieties remain tender until they reach softball size or even slightly larger. When harvested past their prime, beets have a strong taste and a tough, pithy texture.

Broccoli should be harvested when the buds are still tight and before the florets begin opening their yellow flowers. For the first harvest, cut the central stalk at a slant about 5 to 6 inches below the base of the head. This prevents rot and encourages production of new side shoots, which can be harvested at a later date.

Brussels sprouts develop a sweet flavor after the plant has gone through a couple of mild frosts. The buds at the base are the first to mature, so pick from the bottom up when sprouts become firm and are about 1 inch in diameter. To encourage larger sprouts, which mature more uniformly, cut the top of the plant back by about 4 inches about four weeks before the harvest is to begin.

Cabbage offers some leeway as to when it can be picked at perfection, though larger heads are more likely to split than smaller ones. If a head is threatening to split, twisting it a quarter turn will slow down the splitting. Cabbage heads that have split are still tasty and should be picked; they just won't store as well as solid heads. Begin harvesting cabbage anytime after developing heads have become solid and firm.

Carrots usually hold well in the ground and can be harvested over a long period of time. Begin as soon as the roots color up and grow to from a half to 1 inch in diameter. Continue harvesting until the last frost-sweetened carrots are dug before the ground freezes for winter. Careful digging — rather than pulling — is best as a harvest method; only pull the roots if your soil is

extremely friable. The texture of a fresh carrot is at its finest in the young ones, but the sugar content heightens as they mature.

Cauliflower is at its best when 6- to 8-inch, fully formed heads are firm and the curds in them are solid. If you wait until after the curds have opened (they resemble rice grains), you have passed the window of opportunity for harvesting optimum-quality heads.

Corn should be picked when the kernels have swollen to their maximum juiciness, usually about 20 days after the first silk strands appear. When the silks begin to turn dry and brown, partially peel back the husks and pierce a kernel with your thumbnail. If a milky juice squirts out, the corn is ready to eat. To harvest, snap off the ear by pulling it downward, then twisting and pulling again. If allowed to overripen, corn will lose its sweet flavor and become starchy.

Cucumbers grow fast, so check them daily if you plan to keep up with the peak of harvest and ensure continued production. For fresh use, a cucumber should be filled out enough to be crisp and juicy, and should measure from 6 to 9 inches long. For sweet pickles, cucumbers are best harvested when they measure from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long; for dill pickles, the ideal length is from 3 inches to 4 inches.

Eggplant has received a bad rap as a bitter-tasting vegetable because of the oversized fruits often sold in supermarkets. Eggplant past its prime is soft, pithy and laden with seeds, which are what give it the bitter taste. Fruit harvested while still young and firm is actually rather sweet and very tender; that's when the vegetable measures from 4 inches to 8 inches in length, or about one-third of its mature size. Use strong scissors or pruning shears to harvest the fruit rather than pulling it, which will injure the plant.

Kale leaves — a fall green — can usually be harvested about 40 days after planting, although a frost really sweetens and enhances the flavor, so wait until then if you can. Harvest by taking off outer leaves as needed; because the plants are frost-hardy, in mild winter areas, you can pick fresh kale at its prime well into December.

Leeks can be pulled from the ground anytime the stem is an inch in diameter or larger. Use them when they are still very small for the mildest, most delicate flavor. Cut off the roots and most of the top green portion before storing in the refrigerator. (Save the green part to use in soup stock.) Many varieties will overwinter in mild climates and remain harvestable into March. After that, they can develop a hard core in the center that will not soften even when cooked.

Lettuce can be picked in stages: tiny leaves for a gourmet salad mix or larger leaves for a main dish. For loose-leaf varieties, pick outer leaves as needed, or cut the head an inch aboveground for a cut-and-come-again crop. Butterheads, romaines and crispheads should be harvested when the head begins to form, and — for peak perfection — before the center begins to elongate, which means that the plant is preparing to flower. After that point, the lettuce will taste bitter. For refrigerator storage, run washed leaves through a salad spinner, place in a sealable plastic bag with a paper towel or tea towel, and store in the crisper section of your refrigerator.

Melons can be a challenge, but several telltale signs can help you decide when the fruit is perfectly ripe. On some cantaloupes, which may also be called “muskmelons,” “netting” (“venation”) that overlays the skin becomes more pronounced, and the melon will separate easily from the vine when it has fully ripened. True cantaloupes and honeydew-types

soften and give slightly to pressure on the blossom end, and the background color will change. Cut these from the vine, as they will not slip from the stem. Pick for optimal quality after the tendril closest to the fruit has turned completely brown. On watermelons, the surface of the fruit loses its gloss, the belly side touching the ground changes from white to creamy yellow, and the tendril turns brown and begins to shrivel. Thumping as a measure of ripeness is a matter of luck; it works for some and not for others. Those who claim the gift say the thump should sound hollow and deep.

Onions can be harvested in two stages: the green “scallion” stage or the bulb stage. Green onions are best when tops are 6 to 8 inches tall and stems are the thickness of a pencil. For maximum size and mature bulbs, wait until more than half of the tops have fallen down, then push over the remaining tops. A week later, harvest the bulbs and set them in the sun for a day or two (cover at night). Cure the bulbs with tops intact for about a week in a sheltered, dry area; during this time, the outer layers will form a dry skin. After that, cut the tops about an inch above the bulbs, trim off the roots, and store the onions in a well-ventilated, dry, cool and dark location.

Peas are best harvested in the early morning or early evening, but the stage at which to harvest the pods depends on the type. Snap peas and snow peas are both eaten pod and all. For best flavor, pick snap peas when plump and well-colored but not as fully filled as garden peas. Pick snow peas before the pods fill out, when they are young, tender and thin. In contrast, garden peas, often referred to as “shell peas,” are ready to harvest and shell when the pods are bright green and fully filled. Then, the peas inside are sweet, plump and tender — a true taste treat of the early summer garden.

Peppers can be harvested anytime in the immature green stage — the more you pick, the more your plant will produce. However, for a fully flavored and sweet pepper, wait until it changes color. (Some varieties turn red, others gold, some yellow and still others orange.) Hot peppers also usually take on more flavor when their color changes as they mature.

Potatoes give an easy signal as to when they're ready to harvest: Their tops die down. About two weeks after that happens, dig the potatoes; the delay gives them time to toughen their skins for long-term storage. You can leave potatoes in the ground longer — just be sure to dig them before rain or frost sets in. Carefully dig tubers with a spading fork, allow them to dry for a few hours in the sun, and then cure them for about two weeks at 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit in a sheltered, well-ventilated, high-humidity area. After they have been cured, potatoes store best at 40 to 50 degrees.

Summer squash is at its best if harvested on the small side, while skins are still tender. For zucchini, straightneck types and crookneck types, harvest when fruits are 4 to 8 inches in length; for pattypan varieties, up to 3 inches in diameter. Don't let your squash get too big, or the plant's production will falter.

Tomatoes are tops if picked between the semi-firm and semi-soft stages, when the fruits are fully colored (whether gold, pink, orange, red, black or white). Second best is to pick fruits a few days early and allow them to finish ripening indoors, a great option when temperatures are too hot or frost threatens. Tomatoes are best stored at temperatures higher than 50 degrees — never in the refrigerator, which will turn their texture to mush.

Winter squash that passes the thumbnail test (the skin should resist puncture from your thumbnail) usually is fully ripe and ready to harvest. The stem hardens and the skin color deepens: Spaghetti squash turns a mellow golden yellow, butternut deepens to a subtle orange-tan, and a splotch of orange-yellow will often appear on the underside of acorn, delicata and buttercup types. Most winter squash will keep up to four months after harvest if you follow these tips: Harvest after the first light frost to enhance sweetness but before a hard frost; never handle squash by the stem (fruits can rot in just a few weeks after the stem breaks); cut — don't pull — squash from the vine, and leave 2 inches of the stem attached; wipe off any dirt but don't get the fruits wet; cure fruits in a warm place (80 to 85 degrees is ideal) for a couple of weeks. Once cured, store in a cool, dry location at 50 to 55 degrees.

#### SEPTEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius* and *A. gerardi*)

Ornamental grasses are fundamental to the four-season garden. In spring their emerging leaves arrive just in time to help conceal yellowing bulb foliage. As summer progresses, their clumping mounds, upright habits, or spiky tufts progress to vertical accents, which provide structure and delicate line to perennial borders. Flower heads make a late-season entrance, adding plumes or spikelets to the garden silhouette. Fall colors nip grasses with the same tones that echo across the landscape. Even when winter strikes, grasses offer their subtle charms. We are glad for their creamy tones and their graceful forms as they catch puffs of snow at random angles and rustle in the winter wind.

Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) is a four-season wonder. A true native of the tallgrass prairie, this rugged, warm-season grass grows throughout the eastern and central states, in prairie remnants, dry hills, and open woods. Its cold and drought tolerance, along with its ornamental attributes, make it a good choice for naturalistic or more formal plantings, massed in hilly drifts, aiding in erosion control as a ground cover, or highlighting mixed borders. The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program has recently introduced 'Carousel', a compact selection of little bluestem that features outstanding ornamental traits year-round.

Little bluestem prefers full sun but is not fussy about soil as long as it is not too rich or wet. In spring, just as the narcissus emerge, cut the dried clump back to a few inches. This grass is a good companion to bulbs since both prefer dry summer conditions. Later in the season, little bluestem looks especially fine when paired with sedums, goldenrods, asters, and other favorite late bloomers.

Some have referred to little bluestem as "neither little nor blue." It grows close to 3 feet, with most of that height taken by the stems that remain erect even in winter, and the seedheads that provide food for hungry birds. But it is the constantly changing color of this grass that is so impressive. Emerging pale gray green in spring, the stems and foliage darken throughout summer but retain a hint of blue at their base. Other gardeners report a deepening blue, almost into purple, as summer progresses. Silvery flower stalks appear July to September. Autumn brings out the reds, as dipping temperatures increase the flame to brilliant orange. Winter color can remain coppery brown, so lovely when set against evergreens in the snow. Because of the considerable color variance of this grass, delightful surprises are in store for the gardener!

The king of native grasses, Big Bluestem or Turkey Foot has handsome gray to blue-green stems in spring turning to green alternating with deep red in summer then to coppery red in fall. Three fingered seed heads top tall stems in August. Clump forming with excellent drought tolerance once established. *Andropogon gerardii* can be found in moist meadows and along side roads and rivers from Canada to Mexico. Big bluestem produces better quality and greater amounts of forage than any other native American prairie grass. Cows and bison love it. Big bluestem once dominated the tall-grass prairies of North America, forming rippling waves of amber taller than a man on horseback from the Rocky Mountains to the eastern forests.

*Andropogon gerardii* is very tolerant of diverse conditions, but is most often found in full sun, dry and sandy to clay soils. It grows quickly in moist fertile soils, but is more likely to bend and fall over. Clumps can be divided in early summer.

Sources: [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org) and [www.northcreeknurseries.com](http://www.northcreeknurseries.com)

#### 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](mailto:rick@kleinsfloral.com) or Sue at [sue@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:sue@kleinsfloral.com). Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Events must be garden related and must take place in the Madison vicinity and we must receive your information by the first of the month in which the event takes place for it to appear in that month's newsletter. This is a great opportunity for free advertising.

#### Guided Garden Strolls

Sundays, June thru September, 1:30-3:00

Get an insider's view of Olbrich's outdoor gardens during a free guided garden stroll. All ages are welcome for this casual overview of the Gardens. Guided garden strolls will vary somewhat according to the season to reflect the garden areas that are at peak interest.

Strolls start and end in the lobby near the Garden entrance and are about 45 to 60 minutes in length. No registration is required; strolls are drop-in only. Strolls are held rain or shine and will be cancelled only in the event of dangerous lightning.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

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

Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Integrated Pest Management

August 12 thru October 26, 2014

Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00

In the Bolz Conservatory



Beneficial insects have been used in the Conservatory since it opened in 1991. These bugs provide control of plant-damaging insects, minimizing the need of more dangerous traditional insecticides. These controls, along with several others, are part of the Conservatory's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. This widely accepted program strives to use the least toxic method of insect and disease control to be more environmentally sensitive. Learn about Olbrich's environmentally friendly pest control methods and get ideas you can use to reduce or eliminate pesticide use at home.

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

16th Annual Fall Plant Sale  
Saturday, September 6, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, September 7, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
At the Horticulture Center

Featuring:

- Hundreds of varieties of perennials for all garden situations
- Huge garden mums
- Spring blooming bulbs
- Shrubs
- Roses
- Bagged Compost

Rotary Botanical Gardens  
1455 Palmer Drive  
Janesville, WI 53545  
608/752-3885 or [www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org) for details.

Community Hummingbird Garden Tours  
Wednesday, September 10, 3:00-7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, September 14, 1:00-5:30 p.m.  
5118 Buffalo Trail, Madison, 53705 (near Hilldale & Oscar Rennebohm Park)

New this year will be Wisconsin's new hummingbird bander banding hummingbirds on site and educating people about this important process. The garden has 100+ plants and shrubs on display (including some rare salvias from South America and an experimental nicotiana from Kentucky), 20 hummingbird feeders, a garden pond and a door prize drawing on both days with birding related items donated by Wildbirds Unlimited in Middleton. There will also be printed information available about hummingbird gardening.

For more info please contact Kathi or Michael Rock at [kathijr@yahoo.com](mailto:kathijr@yahoo.com).

Also visit the Hummingbird Gardening in the Upper Midwest website @ [www.hummingbirdgardening.net](http://www.hummingbirdgardening.net)

Family Walk:  
Fun with Fungi  
Sunday, September 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

This family-friendly walk is about mushrooms growing in the natural areas and wood chip mulch of the gardens.

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

Fall Flowers in Grady Oak Savanna and Greene Prairie  
Sunday, September 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a late summer walk through goldenrods, asters, sunflowers and gentians. Meet at the Grady Tract parking lot located at the southeast corner of the Beltline and Seminole Highway.

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

Garden Day at Troy Gardens  
Saturday, September 20, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Come celebrate all things Troy. The day starts at 11 a.m. with a free Composting Work Shop taught by Master Gardener, Marilyn Sallee. Learn about the less traditional ways to compost in a community garden plot or at home without a bin or a pile!

Then, starting at noon, activities will include apple pressing with an antique apple press, cooking demos with free tastings, door prizes, and tours of Troy Gardens, including the Kids' Garden, the chickens, and our native tallgrass prairie. There will be nature crafts for the kids and a scavenger hunt.

Troy Gardens is located in the 500 block of Troy Drive on Madison's northside. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about the event, email us at [info@communitygroundworks.org](mailto:info@communitygroundworks.org) or call 608-240-0409 and ask for Martha. To learn more about Troy Gardens, visit our website at [www.communitygroundworks.org](http://www.communitygroundworks.org).

Olbrich's Garden's Bulk Mulch Sale  
Saturday, September 20, 9:00-1:00  
Saturday, September 27, 9:00-1:00

Buy leaf mulch in bulk and save money during Olbrich's Fall bulk Mulch sale! The shredded, composted leaves enrich soil and provide nourishment and protection for your gardens, shrubs, and trees. While applying mulch to gardens in the spring is most common, applying leaf mulch in the fall helps regulate soil temperatures during the winter, and gives the garden a head start in the spring. Bulk mulch is loose and is loaded with a tractor. Bring your own truck or trailer and Olbrich will load bulk scoops for you. Each scoop is \$40 and covers approximately 350-square feet at a 3-inch depth.

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

Native Plant Garden Tour:  
Fall in the Native Garden  
Saturday, September 20, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Color, fruits, seeds, late blooming plants, late-season insects—we will find these and more in the varied native plant gardens around the Visitor Center.

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

Native By Design:  
Gardening for a Sustainable Future  
Sunday, September 21, 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Experts will lead you step-by-step through developing, maintaining, and improving your garden. Beginners through experienced gardeners are welcome. Come with questions, learn from fellow gardeners, and go home with inspiration and practical resources. Lunch provided. Dress for the weather.

Keynote address by Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, and author of *Bringing Nature Home: How you can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*.

Register @ [uwarboretum.org/events/register\\_1.php?id=2190](http://uwarboretum.org/events/register_1.php?id=2190)

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

Thai Fest  
Sunday, September 21, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

(Rain date is Sunday, September 28)

Celebrate Thai culture surrounding our Thai Pavilion and Thai Garden at our biennial Thai Fest!

Festivities include...

- Traditional Thai dance performances by the Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute of Chicago
- Interactive demonstrations by the UW-Madison Thai Student Association including traditional Thai dance using bamboo poles and a fun game with coconut shells
- Loy Krathong family activity with Olbrich's Education Department (\$2 per person)
- Thai cuisine for purchase from Sa-Bai Thong

Admission at the Thai Garden Bridge is cash only (\$3 ages 13 & up, \$2 3-12 and free 2 & under).

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

Crackle--Fire & Froth in the Gardens  
Friday, September 26, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Be inspired by the beauty of a crisp fall evening in Olbrich's outdoor gardens. Watch the flames from bonfires dance on the Great Lawn, groove to live music, savor a variety of tasty foods from Food Fight restaurants, and sip frothy Wisconsin micro-brews. Food and beverage offered at an additional cost.

Must be 21 years old to attend. In the case of inclement weather the event will be relocated indoors. A limited number of advance tickets are available. Additional tickets may be available the day of the event, weather permitting. Tickets are available at Olbrich's Growing Gifts shop or by calling 608-246-4550. Ticket proceeds benefit the Gardens.

Headliner: Wheelhouse  
Made up of members of The Mighty Short Bus and The Lucas Cates Band, WheelHouse is a stripped down, Americana powerhouse. Three part harmonies, fiddle and guitar leads, and driving rhythms define the sound of Madison's newest supergroup. The dynamic music ranges from the more cosmopolitan sounds of Motown and Austin, to the down home bluegrass of the Appalachian hills. WheelHouse delivers both original music that is garnering national record label interest, and covers that will keep you entertained all night long.

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)

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

- Continue sowing lettuce, endive, escarole and spinach.
- Plant garlic now! This is the best time in Wisconsin.
- Plant bearded iris rhizomes and transplant peonies.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash.
- Apply a systemic pesticide to plants to be wintered over indoors.
- Continue planting shrubs and trees.
- Plant grass seed. September is one of the best times as nights cool.
- Aerate your lawn.
- Divide and plant perennials as desired.
- Stop deadheading perennials for winter interest, i.e. sedums, grasses, etc.
- Dig tender bulbs as the foliage yellows.
- Give the garden at least 1" of moisture per week.
- Collect seeds for next year's garden.
- Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- Take pictures of your garden for record keeping.

- \_\_\_ Keep an eye on the weather. Water as needed.
- \_\_\_ Shop for spring bulbs, mums and pansies.
- \_\_\_ Bring dormant amaryllis bulb indoors for 3 mo. of rest.
- \_\_\_ Begin checking out the garden centers for spring bulb selection.
- \_\_\_ Take cuttings of geraniums, coleus and other plants to winter over.
- \_\_\_ Late in the month, begin planting spring bulbs, but wait as long as possible.
- \_\_\_ Begin moving houseplants back indoors.
- \_\_\_ Visit Klein's---Great selection of mums, kales, cabbages, pansies & more!

Some of our very favorite seed and plant sources include:

For seeds:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds @ [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com) or 417/924-8887

Burpee @ [www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com) or 800/888-1447

Harris Seeds @ [www.harrisseed.com](http://www.harrisseed.com) or 800/514-4441

Johnny's Select Seeds @ [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com) or 207/861-3901

Jung's Seeds @ [www.jungseed.com](http://www.jungseed.com) or 800/247-5864

Park's Seeds @ [www.parkseed.com](http://www.parkseed.com) or 800/845-3369

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 SEPTEMBER:

---The poinsettias continue grow and thrive in our back greenhouses. They're almost ready to bring into our retail greenhouses before the weather gets too cold.

---Crops arrive for winter sales: cyclamen, azaleas.

---We begin weatherizing the greenhouses for winter.

---All remaining perennials are cut back, cleaned up and put into winter storage.

---We continue stocking fall mums as they go into bloom. We'll continue to have a good selection into November.

---Ordering plants for spring 2015 is going on fast and furious. Our growers order early to ensure best selection. They pore over stacks of catalogs containing the newest plant material for 2015.

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.

Houseplants from Brenda's Tropical Plants of Boca Raton, Florida

You may already know that Klein's is your one-stop, full service florist for any occasion and serving most of Dane County. But being a greenhouse, we also offer an amazing year round selection of blooming plants and houseplants. Whether a housewarming gift, a "thank-you" blooming plant, a condolence peace lily or a potted plant for dorm, home or office, we can fill your needs.

Each August we receive a semi-load of plants in all shapes and sizes fresh from Florida growers. Selection ranges from the smallest plants for terrariums and dishgardens, to tropical trees, to succulents and cactus. Overnight, our greenhouses become a lush, tropical jungle. Our knowledgeable staff will help select the perfect plant for any location and occasion, offering care tips and sound advice. We also have an excellent selection of pottery and baskets to complement any decor. Purchase a pot from us and we'll pot up your plant for free (time permitting).

PERMANENT FEATURES--  
KLEIN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

#### FACEBOOK

Follow Klein's on Facebook where we post updates and photos on a regular basis.

#### TWITTER

Join Klein's on Twitter where we post company updates and photos on a regular basis.

#### SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

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

#### RECYCLING POTS & TRAYS

Plastic flower pots and garden edging can now be recycled as part of the City of Madison's rigid plastic program. Flowerpots and edging must be free of dirt and can be placed in your green recycling bin. For more information call 267-2626 or visit [www.cityofmadison.com/streets/recycling/plastic.cfm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/recycling/plastic.cfm)

#### KLEIN'S "BLOOMING PLANT OR FRESH FLOWER CLUB"

Send or receive 3 month's, 6 month's or a whole year's worth of seasonal blooming plants or fresh flower arrangements and SAVE!!

There's no easier way to give gorgeous blooming plants or fresh flower arrangements, month after month. Each month a seasonal blooming plant or fresh arrangement will arrive on yours or a loved one's doorstep. You choose the start date and we'll make your special delivery the very same day each month.

For just \$75, \$150 or \$300, respectively, we'll send 3 month's, 6 month's or a year's worth of seasonal blooming plants--perhaps a bulb garden or azalea in the spring, one of our famous large geraniums or a tropical hibiscus in the summer, a chrysanthemum or Thanksgiving cactus in the fall or one of our homegrown poinsettias or cyclamen for the holidays and winter months. Selection of the blooming plant will be based on availability.

And for just \$90, \$175 or \$350, respectively, receive one of Klein's lovely fresh floral arrangements. All arrangements will be seasonal and will contain only the freshest flowers. All



arrangements are Designer's Choice, but are sure to satisfy the most discerning lover of fresh flowers.

Prices include delivery within our delivery area. Enclosure cards will accompany all gift deliveries if desired. For delivery details visit the "Permanent Features" section of our newsletter below. If your chosen delivery date happens to fall on a Sunday or holiday, we will deliver it on the next available delivery day. All regular delivery conditions apply.

Join our Blooming Plant or Fresh Flower Club by calling Klein's at 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661 or by stopping in. We request that payment be made in full before the first delivery and prices do not include sales tax.

#### DELIVERY INFO

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses delivers daily, except Sundays, throughout all of Madison and much of Dane County including: Cottage Grove, DeForest, Fitchburg, Maple Bluff, Marshall, McFarland, Middleton, Monona, Oregon, Shorewood Hills, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee and Windsor. We do not deliver to Cambridge, Columbus, Deerfield or Stoughton.

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

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

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

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

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

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if requested: 53703, 53704, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, Marshall, McFarland, Monona, Sun Prairie, Waunakee and Windsor.

We begin our delivery day at 8:00 a.m. and end at approximately 3:00 p.m. We do not usually deliver after 4:00 unless specific exceptions are made with our drivers.

Except for holidays, the following west-side zip codes and communities are delivered only during the afternoon: 53705, 53706, 53711, 53713, 53717, 53719, 53726, Fitchburg, Middleton, Oregon, Shorewood Hills and Verona.

During holidays (Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc.) we are able to make morning deliveries to all of the above areas. We are not able to take closely timed deliveries on any holiday due to the sheer volume of such requests.

It's best to give us a range of time and we'll try our absolute hardest. Orders for same day delivery must be placed by 12:30 p.m. or by 2:30 p.m. for Madison zip codes 53704 and 53714.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Please refer all questions, concerns or feedback in the following departments to their appropriate supervisor.

Phone: 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661

Grower, General Manager --Jamie VandenWymelenberg [jamie@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:jamie@kleinsfloral.com)  
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)

#### 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/>

#### PLANTS POISONOUS TO CHILDREN:

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

- Bird of paradise
- Bull nettle
- Castor bean
- Chinaberry tree
- Crocus
- Daffodil
- Deadly nightshade
- Dieffenbachia (dumb cane)
- Foxglove
- Glory lily
- Hemlock
- Holly berry
- Indian tobacco
- Iris
- Jimsonweed
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Lily of the valley
- Marijuana
- Mescal bean
- Mexicanes
- Mistletoe
- Morning glory
- Mountain laurel
- Night-blooming jasmine

- Nutmeg
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Poison ivy
- Poison sumac
- Pokeweed
- Poppy
- Potato
- Privet
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Water hemlock
- Wisteria

#### PLANTS POISONOUS TO PETS:

Below is a list of some of the common plants which may produce a toxic reaction in animals. This list is intended only as a guide to plants which are generally identified as having the capability for producing a toxic reaction. Source: The National Humane Society website @ <http://www.humanesociety.org/>

- Aconite
- Apple
- Arrowgrasses
- Autumn Crocus
- Azaleas
- Baneberry
- Bird-of-Paradise
- Black locust
- Bloodroot
- Box
- Buckeye
- Buttercup
- Caladium
- Carolina jessamine
- Castor bean
- Chinaberry tree
- Chockcherries
- Christmas berry
- Christmas Rose
- Common privet
- Corn cockle
- Cowbane
- Cow cockle
- Cowsliprb
- Daffodil
- Daphne
- Day lily
- Delphinium (Larkspur)
- Dumbcane
- Dutchman's breeches

- Easter lily
- Elderberry
- Elephant's ear
- English Ivy
- European Bittersweet
- Field peppergrass
- Foxglove
- Holly
- Horsechestnut
- Horse nettle
- Hyacinth
- Iris
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Jimsonweed
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Laurels
- Lily of the valley
- Lupines
- Mayapple
- Milk vetch
- Mistletoe
- Monkshood
- Morning glory
- Mustards
- Narcissus
- Nicotiana
- Nightshade
- Oaks
- Oleander
- Philodendrons
- Pokeweed
- Poinsettia
- Poison hemlock
- Potato
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Rosary pea
- Sago palm
- Skunk cabbage
- Smartweeds
- Snow-on-the-mountain
- Sorghum
- Star of Bethlehem
- Wild black cherry
- Wild radish
- Wisteria
- Yellow jessamine

•Yew