

'THE SAGE'--NOVEMBER 2009

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights: **SELECT SPRING BULBS NOW ON SALE**

Klein's Holiday Open House: December 4-6, 2009

2010 Bucky Books Now Available at Klein's

2010 Wisconsin Garden Journal Now in Stock

'Botanical Bliss' in the Cottage Garden

Birth Flowers & Their Meanings

Favorite Sweet Potato Recipes (Website Only)

12 Months of Fresh Flowers from Klein's

About Klein's Famous Homemade Compost

Brilliant Bloomers™ from Red Carpet Studios

Notes from Rick's Garden Journal-- from October 2009

--Winter Birdfeeding Begins

--Perfect Paperwhites

--Seed Catalogs for 2010

Plant of the Month: Amaryllis

You Asked the Mad Gardener About Plumbago

November in the Garden: A Planner

Gardening Events Around Town

Become a Fan of Klein's on Facebook

Delivery Information

The City of Madison Recycles Used Plastic Pots

Related Resources and Websites

Plants Harmful to Kids and Pets

SPRING BULBS NOW ON SALE!

Check out our ongoing specials on spring bulbs. Shop early while supplies last and the weather remains good for getting into the garden.

We have all of your favorites--tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, alliums--and a few not-so-well known treasures for your garden. November is the **BEST time to plant your spring bulbs and nothing could be more uplifting after a long winter than crocus, snowdrops and winter aconite blossoms peeking through the snow come spring. Allow the Klein's staff to share planting tips and ideas to keep those pesky squirrels from digging up those newly planted bulbs. And for indoor blooms, don't forget a few hyacinths, paperwhites and amaryllis for indoor forcing. We carry a lovely assortment of forcing glasses, vases and decorative pottery. Forced bulbs**

make for a n inexpensive and treasured holiday gift. Any bulb questions? Don't forget our **Mad Gardener** . . .!

BUCKY BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT KLEIN'S

Klein's is again showing our proud support of UW athletics and academics with advertising and coupons in the 2010 edition of the **Bucky Book**. For the very first time, Klein's is selling the 2010 edition in-store. The Bucky Book makes the perfect holiday gift! Visit www.buckybook.com for more information.

THE MAD GARDENER

"Madison's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"

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

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

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

NOVEMBER STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Holiday Hours Begin Friday, November 27

Monday thru Friday

8:00-7:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Holiday hours run through Wednesday, December 23

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Watch for great specials on all remaining spring bulbs. November is the perfect month for planting next spring's bloomers. Selection becomes limited and includes daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, crocus and more. Sale does not include paperwhites, amaryllis, forcing hyacinths and gift boxes.

November 1--Daylight Savings Time ends

November 2--Full Moon

November 11--Veterans' Day

November 13--Full Moon

November 26--Thanksgiving Day

November 27--Klein's Holiday Hours begin

December 4 thru December 6--Klein's Holiday Open House. Join us for one time savings on our famous homegrown poinsettias--for carry out or delivery anytime during the holiday season. Also save on Wisconsin grown pine boughs, evergreen roping and wreaths. Enter a winter wonderland filled with holiday plants and gift ideas. Let us inspire you with our extensive collection of ornaments for all your decorating needs. Free refreshments on hand.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

Birth Month Flowers

Did you know that every month has a birth flower and that, like birthstones, each one has special meaning? Like people, each birth flower is distinctive – filled with significance and wonderful stories. So whether you're looking for a creative way to celebrate someone's birthday, or you would like to add a personal touch to a flower arrangement for any occasion, our Birth Flower Guide will help you find out which flower is uniquely theirs. Source: Teleflora's website @ www.teleflora.com.

JANUARY: CARNATION

Representing pride, beauty, admiration and gratitude, the carnation's multilayered, feathery soft petals conceal a hardy core – an appropriate paradox for this first-month-of-the-year flower. Originally from Asia, where they've been cultivated for the last 2,000 years, today this winter birth flower is a richly colorful and fragrant gem.

FEBRUARY: IRIS

It should come as no surprise that the iris's three upright petals symbolize faith, valor and wisdom. With its majestic purple hues and soaring slender stem, this dignified and graceful February birth flower dates back to Ancient Greece, when Iris, the messenger of the gods and the personification of the rainbow (the Greek word for Iris), acted as the link between heaven and earth.

MARCH: DAFFODIL

When the bright yellow daffodil pokes through late winter's ground, it's like a long-awaited friend returning home and a birth flower anyone would be proud to call their own. Symbolizing rebirth and new beginnings, particularly when presented in an abundant bouquet, daffodils promise happiness and joy.

APRIL: DAISY

Legend has it that the daisy originated from a nymph who transformed herself into a charming but unassuming wildflower to escape unwanted attention. Epitomizing childlike joy and playfulness, this April birth flower captures the essence of spring's happy-go-lucky, forever-young attitude.

MAY: LILY

Lilies were so revered by the ancient Greeks that they believed they sprouted from the milk of Hera, the queen of the gods. Long tied to the Virgin Mary, the white Madonna lily represents virtue, while the lily of the valley conveys sweetness and humility. In the language of flowers, this May birth flower expresses purity of heart, majesty and honor.

JUNE: ROSE

Long a symbol of love and passion, the rose is rich with history and meaning. Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, presented a rose to Eros, and Cleopatra lured Mark Antony with a room knee-deep in rose petals. Though each color offers a distinct meaning – and the number of stems offers a singular message – this June birth flower signifies beauty and perfection.

JULY: DELPHINIUM

With its lush, dolphin-shaped flowers, the aptly named delphinium – or larkspur – symbolizes an open heart and ardent attachment. Also signifying a feeling of lightness and levity, the gentle hues and refreshing fragrance of this summer birth flower give it a refreshing and distinctive natural beauty.

AUGUST: GLADIOLA

Gladiola, the August birth flower, represents strength and moral integrity – not surprising when you consider that its name comes from the Latin word for sword, “gladius.” But while its sword-shaped stems may imply Roman gladiators, its romantic flowers are capable of piercing a heart with their beauty – explaining why infatuation is another one of its meanings as well.

SEPTEMBER: ASTER

With their lush texture, rich hues and wildflower beauty, it's easy to see why asters have had a long association with magical powers. In ancient times, it was believed that when aster leaves burned, their perfume could drive away evil. Today, this autumn birth flower is known as a talisman of love and an enduring symbol of elegance.

OCTOBER: MARIGOLD

With their rich, autumn-colored hues, marigolds are the quintessential October birth flower. Early Christians called marigolds Mary's Gold, and placed it by statues of the Virgin Mary. Brilliant and colorful, with a late-harvest warmth and a broad open bloom, marigolds signify affection and grace.

NOVEMBER: CHRYSANTHEMUM

Chrysanthemums, a symbol of the sun, have held many noble positions in ancient cultures. The Japanese consider the orderly unfolding of their petals to represent perfection, and Confucius suggested they be used as an object of meditation. Signifying optimism and happiness, it's said that a single petal of this November birth flower placed at the bottom of a wine glass will encourage a long and healthy life.

DECEMBER: POINSETTIA

Also known as the Christmas flower, legend has it that poinsettias began as a humble weed. When a little girl – with no means for a grander gift – placed weeds on a church altar, they turned into brilliant red blooms. Symbolizing good cheer and merriment, this December birth flower is a fitting tribute to December's joyful celebrations.

Klein's "12 Month Blooming Plant or Fresh Flower Club"

Send or receive a whole year 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 \$300, we'll send 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 \$350, 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. For delivery details click on "**Delivery Information**" on the left side of our home page. 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.

Order your **12 Months of Flowers** 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 the prices do not include sales tax.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . that Klein's makes our own homemade compost onsite?

Most of the annuals, vegetables, perennials and herbs you buy from Klein's in the spring are grown in a balanced combination of our own compost, rice hull or coir mixes and a slow release fertilizer. **Nothing biodegradable goes to waste at Klein's** (including the fiber pots in which we grow most of our product). All throw-away plants, leftover cut flowers, excess spring product, broken soil bags, removed foliage or spent flowers is carted daily to the back of our property to our compost

heap. In addition, the city brings us truckloads of leaves collected from city streets annually in the fall.

The east end of our compost heap is the new material, the west end is the finished product; our dark, rich and fertile compost. Throughout the summer and fall we rotate and shuffle the heap with our tractor, continuously adding new material to the east end of the pile. Buckets from the west end of the pile are then brought into our soil mixing room where we sterilize our compost in a **soil sterilizer**--a large, metal box that contains numerous heating elements that bring the compost up to 185 degrees for a few hours. Sterilizing the compost eradicates all viruses and diseases and kills off any weed seeds. The smell of cooking compost permeates the greenhouses daily during late winter and early spring and for the employees and customers at Klein's that scent means the busy days of spring are close at hand.

Much of the product you buy at our competitors is planted in lighter, soilless mixes and people often ask us why we still add compost/soil to any of our recipes at all. The answer becomes apparent when you see the quality of our product.

Adding compost makes the soil fertile and natural, it adds weight and bulk and for some plants it helps control watering--pots simply won't dry out as quickly. The compost also acts as a buffer against water impurities that may otherwise hurt your plants and it makes certain minerals more readily available for the plants' nutritional needs. If you compost at home you already know the difference adding compost to beds and planters makes.

And just a reminder:

Never add garden soil to your containers instead of compost. Garden soil tends to be more mineral rather than humus, therefore adding little in the way of fertility, making your soil hard and unmanageable and possibly introducing diseases and unwanted weed seeds.

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

ENTRY: OCTOBER 19, 2009 (Winter Birdfeeding Begins)

This afternoon I spent much of my time setting up my winter bird feeding station on the north side of my house. During the summer months I remove nearly all of my birdfeeders from the yard, save for one safflower platform feeder for cardinals, mourning doves, chickadees and house finches; a niger seed feeder for goldfinches and, of course a few hummingbird feeders. More extensive birdfeeding during the summer months brings a lot of unwanted visitors to the yard (grackles, cowbirds and

red-winged blackbirds). The feed spoils quickly in the summer heat and humidity and attracts nuisance insect pests. I usually wait for the arrival of the visiting white-throated sparrows in mid-October before I set up my winter feeders. Their arrival signifies that in short order, the rest of my winter visitors will follow: juncoes, red-breasted nuthatches, pine siskins and a variety of woodpeckers. The number of feeders in the yard jumps from perhaps 5 in summer to 25 during the winters months!

During the winter I offer, in addition to safflower and niger; oil sunflower, shelled peanuts, ears of corn, millet and raw suet. The winter feeding station on the north side of the house is nestled in a grove of white pines and near the TV room window for close up observation. The station contains all types of feeders and at all levels, including feeders specifically designed for ground feeding birds. Every bird species has specific preferences for the type of feed and feeder used. In using the widest variety of each possible, I also ensure the widest variety of visitors.

ENTRY: OCTOBER 21, 2009 (Perfect Paperwhites)

I brought out my first pot of paperwhites from the basement refrigerator today in order to have my first blooms of the holiday season right around Thanksgiving. For the next 5 weeks I'll pull one pot per week from the refrigerator for ongoing blooms all the way through Christmas and beyond.

About 10 days ago I planted 5 'Ariel' (a shorter variety available from McClure & Zimmerman at www.mzbulbfall.com/sp.asp?c=136) paperwhite bulbs in six 6" pots, watered them in, and placed them in the basement refrigerator. Though paperwhites do not need a cooling period to bloom, unlike most other forced bulbs, doing so ensures two things: **good rooting**, which prevents the bulbs from heaving themselves out of the soil, and **control of growth and bloom time**. Keeping them cool allows me to stagger their performance over months of time instead of a few short weeks.

ENTRY: OCTOBER 27, 2009 (Seed Catalogs for 2010)

Like clockwork, the first of my 2010 spring seed catalogs arrived today and as always, the first to arrive is the Thompson & Morgan catalog (www.tmseeds.com). Seed companies begin sending out the next season's catalogs while memories of the past season's garden are still fresh. As the catalogs arrive in the upcoming weeks (from now until the first of the new year), I page through them and highlight the items that peak my interest. Once they've all arrived, I revisit the catalogs and compare seed quantity per pack and pricing. For best selection and to make sure I get seed for early sowings like geraniums, pentas and lisianthus, I place my orders by mid-January. Most companies offer added discounts on these early orders.

Why order seed? My choices are FAR greater than any garden center could possibly offer. In addition, I'm able to experiment with new plants and at a very low cost.

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

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

Though not new to the Thanksgiving dinner table in Wisconsin, the sweet potato is a relative newcomer to the Wisconsin garden. Locally grown sweet potatoes are showing up more frequently at farmers' markets and in area CSA vegetable shares. Traditionally served sweet, with brown sugar or maple syrup, juice, fall spices, pecans and topped with marshmallows, there are also many wonderful and savory sweet potato recipes to be found. In many soups and stews, sweet potatoes and winter squashes, like pumpkins or butternut squash, can be used almost interchangeably and, in fact, some sweet potato pie recipes taste nearly identical to their pumpkin counterparts.

In the garden, sweet potatoes (sometimes called yams in the south, but not related to true yams) are a member of the morning glory family of plants (Ipomoea) and are actually the same ornamental sweet potato vine species found at all garden centers in the springtime. Though ornamental sweet potato vines produce small edible tubers, they are grown for their robust and colorful foliage. Like their ornamental siblings, edible sweet potatoes require a lot of room in the garden and do best in a long and hot growing season. Though we're able to grow sweet potatoes here in the north, they fare better in the southern parts of the country. For that reason, most store bought sweet potatoes originate from Louisiana, North Carolina and Georgia. Sweet potatoes do quite poorly under cool conditions and are unable to tolerate even the lightest frost. Sweet potatoes are a native to Central and South America and were brought to Europe by Columbus.

SPICY SWEET POTATO WEDGES--This delectable recipe was passed on to us from a Vermont Valley CSA member and says it's a favorite of kids and adults alike and that nothing could be easier!

8 smallish sweet potatoes
4 TBS. extra virgin olive oil

1 tsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. allspice

Preheat oven to 500°. Lightly oil a large and shallow roasting pan (or one lined with foil for quick clean up). Cut the potatoes lengthwise into 8 wedges each. Combine the oil, cumin, salt, pepper and allspice in a large bowl and mix well. Add the potato wedges and toss to coat. Arrange in a single layer in the prepared pan. Place on a rack in the lower third of the oven. Roast, 20-25 minutes or until the potatoes are browned and crisp, turning once. Serves 8.

ROMANI STEW OVER BROWN RICE--This absolutely delicious recipe appeared in the Willy Street Co-op newsletter just this past March (2009) and, though it looks like a lot of ingredients, the reviews say "easy & delicious".

2 TBS. olive oil
4 cups chopped onion
2 stalks celery, diced
4 large cloves garlic, minced
2 sweet potatoes, diced (4 cups)
2 carrots, diced
2 tsp. salt
2 tsp. paprika
1 tsp. turmeric
2 tsp. dried basil
1/4 tsp. cayenne
a large dash of cinnamon
2 bay leaves
2 tsp. tamari (Japanese soy sauce)
6 cups water
2 x 15 oz. cans garbanzoes (chick peas)
2 sweet bell peppers, diced
2 x 15 oz. cans diced tomatoes with juice
Cooked brown rice

Sauté the onion, celery, sweet potato and carrot in a large pot in the oil until tender. Add the garlic, salt, paprika, turmeric, basil, cayenne, cinnamon and bay leaves and cook a few minutes. Add the tamari and the water. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat, cover, and simmer until everything is soft; about 20 minutes. Add the garbanzoes, peppers and tomatoes. Cover and simmer 10-15 minutes more or until of desired consistency. Serve over cooked brown rice.

SWEET POTATO WEDGES WITH SOY DIPPING SAUCE--Another simple and savory sweet potato recipe from one of the Klein's family. Original source unknown.

Sauce:

2 TBS. soy sauce
2 TBS. rice vinegar
1/4 tsp. toasted sesame oil

The Rest:

4 medium sweet potatoes in 3/4" thick wedges
1 TBS. + 1 tsp. olive oil
1/4 tsp. coarse salt
1 1/2 tsp. sesame seeds

Combine the sauce ingredients and set aside. Preheat oven to 500°. Toss the wedges with the oil and salt in a large bowl. Arrange them in a single layer on a rimmed pan and roast, turning once, until tender and lightly browned, about 20 minutes. Transfer to a serving bowl and sprinkle with the seeds. Serve with the sauce. Serves 6.

KALE, SWEET POTATO AND SAUSAGE SOUP--A very simple and hearty recipe that appeared in the March 2007 issue of Cooking Light magazine.

2 TBS. olive oil
4 cups chopped onion
1 tsp. salt, divided
1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
6 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 lb. sweet Italian turkey or pork sausage
8 cups coarsely chopped sweet potato (2 1/4 lbs.)
5 cups water
4 cups chicken broth
1 lb. torn fresh kale
1 x can cannellini (white kidney beans), rinsed and drained

Heat the oil in a pot over medium-high. Sauté the onion until tender. Add 1/2 tsp. salt, the pepper flakes and the garlic and cook 1 minute more. Remove the casings from the sausage and add to the pot. Cook until lightly browned, stirring to crumble. Add the sweet potato, water and broth and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer 8 minutes. Gradually add the kale. Return to a boil, reduce and cook 10 minutes or until the kale is tender. Stir in the rest of the salt and the beans and cook 5 minutes or till hot. Reseason as desired. Serves 10.

Note: No sausage on hand? It's also delicious with leftover cooked chicken or ham.

NEW PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT--Each month we will spotlight some new 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.

This month's spotlight features Brilliant Blooms™ by Red Carpet Studios.

Brilliant Blooms™--“Light Stems for Indoor Decor”

Klein's is happy to announce we have just received a stunning and eye catching collection of indoor lighted stems from Red Carpet Studios. This assortment of LED lit stems and branches is hard to describe unless you actually see them in our store! Each stem, with glowing blooms in shades of plum, yellow, pink, orange or white, will grace any room with its soft and magical glow. Their beauty is truly mesmerizing for young and old alike!

Each elegant stem is approximately 3 or more feet tall depending on the vase or container you choose. The soft glow of the 32 LED lights will add warmth to your living space, especially in the dead of winter. **Brilliant Blooms™** are sure to be the talk of your holiday get togethers and also make the perfect holiday gift. Visit Klein's soon to see what the hype is all about!

NATURAL NEWS--

Now that the 2009 gardening season is coming to a close, it's time to sit back, relax and reflect upon this past season. But more importantly, this is also the time to dream about the next. As gardening styles go, there are few more “**natural**” than the cottage garden. In researching articles about cottage gardening for this newsletter, we came across this delightful piece that sums it all up in a nutshell. As you read it, think about your own yard and consider a cottage garden for yourself. The rewards are many fold.

BOTANICAL BLISS

Wild, Romantic, Historic English Cottage Gardens

By Meredith Grenier

There is no precise blueprint for a typical cottage garden. That's because it is more of a garden ambiance than a specific design. It is crowded and carefree, not formal or pretentious. If it were a person, its name would be Willy Nilly. If it were a holiday, it would be Mardi Gras.

The cottage garden is the stuffy horticultural world's hippie stepchild - a rollicking, uncontrolled riot of plants, all growing in reckless abandon. A botanical free spirit. Chockablock with romantic names such as love-in-the-mist, Sweet William and forget-me-not, this garden style was worshiped by the Victorians, but Modernists hated its tussie-mussie mobocracy. In these lawless gardens, it's not enough to grow 100 different plants, each blooming in its own assemblage of color and texture, spilling onto pathways and hanging out of trees. Cottage gardens cry out for more - crystal-gazing balls and statues of St. Francis with birds on his shoulders. They harken for rose-covered arbors and picket fences, signs with snippets of Wordsworth or Keats, birdbaths, fountains and white wrought-iron benches. There's no such thing as excess. Over-the-top is the norm. At least this is the perception.

But, in truth, cottage gardens only appear to be laid out as if 1,000 pounds of flower seed had been randomly cast. The secret, experts say, is careful planting for "controlled confusion." It's not so much what the English plant, but where they plant it that gives the English cottage look, landscapers joke. Containers of all shapes and sizes are filled with colorful blooms and placed strategically around the property. From every nook and cranny, cheerful plants exalt the senses.

Like the grace notes in a symphony, a cottage garden savors secrets - violets hidden under an old wooden wheelbarrow - a sweetheart rose growing in the tiptop of a bottlebrush tree. These gardens smack with amusing asides, whimsical whatnots of nature. No wonder children thrive in them. So do cats, dragonflies and, if you are lucky, goldfish.

But, experts say, a cottage garden's most important ingredient is its caretaker. Light-years away from "mow and blow" gardeners, these hands-on cultivators endure bad knees and junk-mail fallout from impulsive seed orders. They never make a newspaper run to the driveway without pruners in hand. Their idea of a vacation is hunting down offbeat nurseries to find heirloom plants.

The caretaker is vital even if the design is flawless, because a cottage garden cannot survive without watering, weeding and replacing spent plants. And, although it doesn't look it, constant pruning is necessary to keep plants from choking out their neighbors. The concept originated in 18th century England when workers collected seeds, cuttings or divisions of flowers, herbs and vegetables from the manor house and planted them outside the door of their humble cottages. Eventually, these gardens evolved into an extra, outdoor room, so there was a feeling of a secret garden or getaway. Many are enclosed by trees and hedges or designed in certain color combinations. Pathways lead to a focal point such as statuary or a garden bench.

For the complete article go to

www.signonsandiego.com/projects2/homeimprovement/projects/gl_06.html

NOVEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

AMARYLLIS

November marks the arrival of a holiday favorite. After the poinsettia and the holiday cactus comes the amaryllis in popularity and it's one of the easiest and showiest of the holiday bloomers. Klein's offers the largest and healthiest amaryllis bulbs available on the market. We offer bulk bulbs as well as gift boxes for the holidays. There are no showier flowers for indoor enjoyment!

Amaryllis are large bulbs and form their own family of bulbs. There are different types of holiday amaryllis based on flower structure and bloom time, but cultural requirements are the same for each. More popular types include:

Christmas Flowering (doubles and singles)--Smaller bulbs but still large flowers that bloom only 4-6 weeks after planting. Excellent when blooms are desired by the holidays. Plants grow to 16-20" tall.

Royal Dutch Hybrids (singles and doubles)--Bulbs and flowers are larger, but take 8-12 weeks to bloom after planting. More popular at retail level. The bulbs themselves are given as gifts or in gift boxes with the pot and soil already included. Have the largest of the amaryllis blooms. Flower stalks can grow to 3'.

Miniature Amaryllis--Available both as Christmas flowering and Royal Dutch Hybrids. Same flower power on smaller plants. Grow to 10-16".

Cybister Amaryllis--A species-type with slender, spidery flowers. Should be grown year round and not allowed to go dormant.

Amaryllis colors range from the ever-popular red to pink, peach, white and bicolors.

Plant amaryllis bulbs in any well-drained, bagged potting soil. Use a terra cotta or ceramic pot for added weight. Amaryllis are notoriously top heavy. Choose a pot that extends no more than one inch from the edges of the bulb. For proper blooming, amaryllis bulbs require the snug fit. Plant the bulb firmly with 1/4-1/3 of the bulb above the soil line. Water in well and place in a warm location. From this point on, water on the lighter side until the flower stalk is 3-6" tall, after which watering can be increased to the point where the soil never dries out. Move your 3-4" tall amaryllis to a bright location, rotating the pot as needed so the plant doesn't lean too much.

After flowering, cut off the flower stalk, leaving the foliage. Continue watering as any houseplant, leaving the pot in a bright location.

Come spring, plant your amaryllis into the garden in a fairly sunny location. Your plant should get rather large with firm, deep green foliage. Dig the bulb in early September and allow it to rest in a warm, dry location for 8-10 weeks. The bulb should be large and firm and completely rejuvenated. The foliage can be removed once it has yellowed entirely. After the 8 weeks replot your bulb as you did the previous season. The cycle begins anew. Amaryllis bulbs can last for many, many years with proper care.

Klein's carries the Royal Dutch Hybrids. For a full assortment of amaryllis choices, check out the following:

www.johnscheepers.com/catview.cgi? fn=Category& category=Amaryllis

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER. . .

Thank you so much for your monthly newsletter. It's always chock full of great information.

I bought a plumbago plant at your greenhouse last spring. I planted it in a large container and placed it on my deck. It flourished and was a beautiful plant to have this summer! What would be the best way to overwinter this plant/shrub? Thank You. Judy

Hi Judy,

Simply prune the plant back very hard to about 6" and either store it semi-dormant (with light) and cool (in the 40's) or as a houseplant--bright, but as cool as possible. It will need a few haircuts through the winter to keep its growth in check, with the last one about March 1 (so it blooms early-ish next summer). If stored semi-dormant, store on the dry side. If kept active, water like any houseplant, but on the lighter side during the dead of winter. When you do water, always water thoroughly. Do not fertilize from now through February, starting again about March 1. Start out dilute and slowly increase to the regular rate by May 1.

Good Luck and let us know how it overwintered. If for some reason it doesn't make it, we'll have plenty more next spring!

Thanks for your question and for the great compliment!
The Mad Gardener

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

Dane County Farmer's Market

Saturdays, April 18 thru November 7, 6:00-2:00
On the Capitol Square

Wednesdays, April 22 thru November 4, 8:30-2:00
In the 200 block of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Olbrich's Garden's Bolz Conservatory Exhibit- - Beasts in the Conservatory: Carnivorous Plants

September 2 through January 3, 2010

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

In the Bolz Conservatory

See the carnivorous plants living in the Bolz Conservatory up close! Learn how carnivorous plants attract and eat live insects. This walk-through exhibit will explain how each plant has its own tricks to attract prey. Some carnivorous plants are brightly colored or sweetly scented, while others have parts that are sticky, making it difficult for prey to escape. The Bolz Conservatory is home to more than 650 species of tropical plants. Enjoy a stroll through exotic plants, bright flowers, a rushing waterfall, fragrant orchids, and free-flying birds.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details

Herb Fair

Saturday, November 7, 8:30-4:00.

Browse through displays of herbal foods, crafts, and books for sale. Sponsored by the Madison Herb Society. For more information call 608-233-6219.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details

Dane County Winter Farmer's Market

Saturdays, November 14 thru December 19, 7:30-noon

Monona Terrace

Saturdays, January 2 thru April 10, 8:00-noon

Madison Senior Center

330 W. Mifflin

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Olbrich Garden's Holiday Express: Flower & Model Train Show

December 5 through December 31

Twinkling lights, festive poinsettias, tiny landscapes, and large-scale model trains: all aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Using large-scale model trains, Olbrich's horticulture staff will showcase miniature landscapes among hundreds of colorful poinsettias. Members of the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society come from all over the state to show off their large-scale model trains during Olbrich's Holiday Express. You'll see different trains, depending on the day. This year, trains wind through an enchanted land of fanciful gingerbread houses created by Madison area bakers. Admire gingerbread buildings complete with candy cane porch pillars, shaved almond roofs, and walkways made of cookies.

Olbrich's Holiday Express is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Olbrich will close at 2 p.m. on December 24, and will be closed all day on December 25 and January 1.

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

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

- ___ Pick up a copy of the 2010 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores.
- ___ Visit Olbrich, Rotary or Allen Centennial Gardens and note plants of fall interest for spring planting and best selection.
- ___ Put up all birdfeeders and fill daily as needed. Begin feeding raw suet.
- ___ Make water available to the birds. Begin using a de-icer as needed.
- ___ Dig new beds now! It's easier now than in spring when super-busy.
- ___ Continue planting spring bulbs till the ground freezes.
- ___ Plant bulbs for forcing and put in a cool location for 10-12 weeks.
- ___ Stop feeding houseplants and cut back on watering.
- ___ Continue planting deciduous shrubs and trees until the ground freezes.
- ___ Clean up stalks and leaves of annuals and vegetables, preventing viruses and pests for next year's garden.
- ___ Continue harvesting brussels sprouts, kale, greens and root crops.
- ___ Cut perennials back to 4-6", leaving those for winter interest.
- ___ Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.

- ___ Mow the lawn at shortest setting for last mowing of the season.
- ___ Ready lawnmower and tiller for winter. Prep the snowblower.
- ___ Keep gutters clear of leaves and debris.
- ___ Clean empty pots and containers for winter storage.
- ___ Purchase marsh hay and rose protection. Wait till the ground freezes to apply.
- ___ Wrap trunks of susceptible trees to protect from rodents.
- ___ Visit Klein's---The poinsettias are just about ready. Look for end of the season savings on all remaining spring bulbs.

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 NOVEMBER:

---Our employees prep the store inside and out for the upcoming holidays.

---The employees have brought to Klein's many of their own tender plants for winter storage--one of the perks of working at a greenhouse. See some of the fascinating things we grow in our own gardens in the back of our Number 1 and 2 Showrooms.

---Our own 80 year old calla lilies begin to bloom. We harvest them every few days for our flower shop. They're more beautiful than anything we get from our wholesalers.

---Wreaths, roping and pine boughs arrive mid-month from northern Wisconsin.

---The first of next year's geraniums are already planted and growing in one of our back greenhouses.

---Violas, hardy annuals and herbs continue to arrive for next February's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center.

---Most plant material has been ordered for the 2010 growing season. We order early to ensure you best selection in spring.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--KATHY LEHMAN

In four words, our floral manager, Kathy Lehman, is literally a jack of all trades at Klein's Floral & Greenhouses. Her experience and knowledge cover the full spectrum of our business. Not only is she a talented floral designer, but she's also an avid gardener and garden consultant, having worked at Jung's (Old's) and America's Best Flowers before joining the Klein's team over a decade ago.

Kathy and her husband, Tom, live on a farmette just east of the city in rural Sun Prairie, and have filled their property with hundreds of plants she's acquired over the years. Kathy says that one her favorite things to do is sit on their deck, overlooking their property, surrounded by her pets and array blooming containers.

Kathy is a local girl, growing up in Madison's Eastmoorland neighborhood and attending LaFollette High School. Her daughter, Amber, is currently employed at the new St. Mary's Sun Prairie Emergency Center and has also worked at Klein's over the years. Son, Adam, is employed at Webcrafters and excels at anything mechanical.

Design skills have come naturally for Kathy, beginning with silks and artificials at one of the local craft markets. The combination of this and her extensive knowledge of flowers from her own garden made the transition to fresh design a natural one. Kathy is an expert at using color and texture in her designs and is adept in all styles of design, from traditional to contemporary, from natural to tropical. She loves to experiment with all the newest techniques and materials on the market and hopes you stop in to see some of her creations in our retail cooler. Kathy and her talented staff of designers are available daily, except Sundays, from 8:00-4:00 and Saturdays until 2:00 and specialize in not just the daily events and celebrations, but also wedding and funeral work.

Kathy can be easily reached by e-mail at kathy@kleinsfloral.com

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

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

THE MAD GARDENER--“Madison’s Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice”

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

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

FACEBOOK

Klein’s has joined the Facebook frenzy. Become a fan of Klein’s by visiting us at www.facebook.com. We continuously post company updates and new pictures

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.

BUCKY BOOK COUPON

Klein’s is again showing our proud support of community UW athletics and academics with advertising and coupons in the 2010 edition of the Bucky Book. We are also selling the 2010 edition in-store--the perfect gift Visit www.buckybook.com for more information and to order your copy.

RECYCLING POTS & TRAYS

The City of Madison will recycle rinsed out hard plastic pots and trays when brought to their drop-off locations at 4602 Sycamore Ave. and 1501 West Badger Rd. They do not accept light plastic or multi-celled packs. White plastic #5’s are also not accepted in city recycling bins or at the drop-off sites. For more information call 267-2626 or visit

www.cityofmadison.com/streets/RigidPlasticRecyclingDropOff.cfm

DELIVERY INFO

Klein’s Floral and Greenhouses delivers daily, except Sundays, throughout all of Madison and much of Dane County including: Cottage Grove, DeForest, Fitchburg, Maple Bluff, Marshall, McFarland, Middleton, Monona, Oregon, Shorewood Hills, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee and Windsor. Current delivery rate on 1-4 items is \$6.95 for Madison, Maple Bluff, Monona and Shorewood Hills, slightly more to the

surrounding communities and for more than 4 items. We not only deliver our fabulous fresh flowers, but also houseplants, bedding plants and sundries. A minimum order of \$25.00 is required for delivery. Delivery to the Madison hospitals is \$4.95. Deliveries to the four Madison hospitals are made during the early afternoon. There is no delivery charge to funeral homes in the city of Madison, although regular rates apply for morning funeral deliveries to Madison's west side. Regular rates also apply for funeral deliveries in the surrounding communities.

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if requested: 53703, 53704, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, Marshall, McFarland, Monona, Sun Prairie, Waunakee and Windsor. We begin our delivery day at 8:00 a.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. Except during holidays, the following west-side zip codes and communities can be delivered only during the afternoon: 53705, 53706, 53711, 53713, 53717, 53719, 53726, Fitchburg, Middleton, Oregon, Shorewood Hills and Verona. During holidays (Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc.) we are able to make morning deliveries to all of the above areas. We are not able to take closely timed deliveries on any holiday due to the sheer volume of such requests. It's best to give us a range of time and we'll try our absolute hardest. Orders for same day delivery must be placed by 12:30 p.m. or by 2:30 p.m. for Madison zip codes 53704 and 53714. We do not deliver to Cambridge, Columbus, Deerfield or Stoughton.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Please refer all questions, concerns or feedback in the following departments to their appropriate supervisor.
Phone: 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661

Floral Department Manager Kathy Lehman

kathy@kleinsfloral.com

Grower, Horticulturist, Hose Jockey Jamie VandenWymelenberg

jamie@kleinsfloral.com

Assistant Manager

Jennifer Simon

jsimon@kleinsfloral.com

House Accounts & Billing Barbara Foulk

barb@kleinsfloral.com

Delivery Supervisor

Rick Halbach

Owner & Manager

Sue Klein

sue@kleinsfloral.com

RELATED RESOURCES AND WEB SITES

University of Wisconsin Extension

1 Fen Oak Ct. #138

Madison, WI 53718

608/224-3700

www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/

www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

Dept. of Plant Pathology

1630 Linden Dr.

Madison, WI 53706

www.plantpath.wisc.edu/

Insect Diagnostic Lab

240 Russell Labs

1630 Linden Dr.

Madison, WI 53706

www.entomology.wisc.edu/

State Soil Testing Lab

5711 Mineral Point Rd.

Madison, WI 53705

608/262-4364

www.soils.wisc.edu

American Horticultural Society

www.ahs.org

Garden Catalogs (an extensive list with links)

www.gardenlist.com

also **www.mailordergardening.com**

Invasive Species

www.invasive.org

Friends of Troy Gardens

Rm. 171, Bldg. 14

3601 Memorial Dr.

Madison, WI 53704

608/240-0409

www.troygardens.org

Community Gardens Division (Madison area)

Community Action Coalition

1717 N. Stoughton Rd.

Madison, WI 53704

608/246-4730

www.cacscw.org/gardens/

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)

www.madison.com/communities/mamga/

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Program

Department of Horticulture

1575 Linden Drive

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Madison, WI 53706

608/265-4504

www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/

The Wisconsin Gardener

www.wpt.org/garden/

Has a list of garden clubs and societies

Allen Centennial Gardens

620 Babcock Dr.

Madison, WI 53706

608/262-8406

www.horticulture.wisc.edu/allencentennialgardens/Index.html

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave.

Madison, WI 53704

608/246-4550

www.olbrich.org

Rotary Gardens

1455 Palmer Dr.

Janesville, WI 53545

608/752-3885

www.rotarygardens.org

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

www.uwarboretum.org

University of Wisconsin-West Madison
Agricultural Research Center
8502 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-2257

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
- Mexicantes
- Mistletoe
- Morning glory
- Mountain laurel
- Night-blooming jasmine
- Nutmeg
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Poison ivy
- Poison sumac
- Pokeweed
- Poppy
- Potato
- Privet
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Water hemlock
- Wisteria

PLANTS POISONOUS TO PETS:

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

