

'THE SAGE'--MARCH 2012

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

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THE MAD GARDENER

"Madison's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"

Ask any of your gardening questions by e-mailing them to us at madgardener@kleinsfloral.com. 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 or Sue at sue@kleinsfloral.com. Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Our readership is ever-growing so this is a great opportunity for free advertising. Events must be garden related and must take place in the immediate Madison vicinity.

A QUICK NOTE:

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

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

Thanks again! The Staff at Klein's

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MARCH STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday: 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 8--Full Moon

March 11--Daylight-Saving Time Begins.

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

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

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

I wandered lonely as a cloud

That floats on high o'er vales and hills,

When all at once I saw a crowd,

A host, of golden daffodils...

William Wordsworth

Before you know it, our gardens will be bursting with the first heralds of spring--first the snowdrops and early crocus and in short order, the daffodils and tulips. Already at Klein's, fresh cut tulips and daffodils fill our coolers and mixed bulb gardens are in high demand. By early March our customers long for spring.

Tulips and daffodils are some of our most desirable cut flowers in the springtime--whether purchased at a flower shop, from the local supermarket or picked from one's own garden. Here are a few important tips when using both tulips and daffodils in fresh arrangements.

Cut Tulips:

Tulips are best purchased or cut from the garden when the flower bud is showing color but still closed. Harvested earlier, the color won't fully develop. Purchasing or harvesting later reduces the life in the vase.

Once ready for the vase, line up the tops of the tulips and cut off the stems so all tulips are the same length. Bunch the tulips upright and place in a tall vase or bucket of very cold water for at least 30 minutes to rehydrate. It's important that the stems are kept straight during this step. Tulip stems will assume whatever shape the stems are in during the rehydration process.

Once placed in a vase on their own or mixed with other cut flowers, tulips will continue to grow and elongate; creating a dramatic and ever changing display. Unlike most cut flowers, tulips should not be placed in a floral preservative. A tulip arrangement will last much longer if placed in a cold (but not freezing) location during the night.

Cut Daffodils:

Fresh cut daffodils exude a sticky sap that is toxic to most other cut flowers. To eliminate this problem, simply place your fresh cut garden daffodils alone in a vase or bucket of cold water in a cool location for at least 24 hours. After this time, the daffodils can be safely arranged with other flowers. Daffodils purchased at flower shops or at the supermarket have already been conditioned so this step can be skipped.

Daffodils will continue to open so long as the flower buds are showing good color and are about to crack open. Harvested too early, they may not open fully. Unlike tulips, daffodils will last longer if a floral preservative is used in the vased arrangement. Placing the arrangement in a very cool (but not freezing) location at night can double the lifespan of your bouquet.

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER . . .

I have an 'Endless Summer' hydrangea. For the last two years I have not gotten any blossoms. My thoughts were that the blossoms had been stunted from freezing in the early spring. Now this year the weather is so different, I am wondering what I should be doing to assure that I have blossoms this year. Thank you, Karon

Hi Karon,

You're right. 'Endless Summer' hydrangea flower buds are easily damaged by late spring freezes. I believe we've had late freezes each of the last two springs. In addition, last summer was also hot and dry--less than ideal conditions for most hydrangea varieties. My own 'Endless Summer' shrubs had no early flush of blooms last June and then had just a few blooms later in the summer.

I've had success in the past by paying close attention to the weather and throwing a blanket over the shrubs once they begin to leaf out in late April and early May and I know temperatures are going to go below freezing. Deep waterings in late May and June will also help.

We have to keep in mind that we are on the northern edge of 'Endless Summer's' range. In severe winters, mine have died completely back to the ground and had to resprout from the base. I had no early season blooms during those seasons either.

We'll have to wait and see what the rest of winter has in store. We have reports that bulbs are up all over the city of Madison!

Good luck and let me know what happens come June!
The Mad Gardener

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DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that all of Dane County was recently moved into Zone 5a in terms of plant hardiness by the USDA?

Previous to 1990 our entire area was considered a solid Zone 4 in terms of plant hardiness. During the following two decades the city of Madison proper (especially nearer the lakes) was moved into Zone 5a. Increasingly we've been able to grow plants in our gardens that previously weren't considered hardy this far north. Just this past January the USDA released new hardiness maps that pushed the line between Zone 4 and 5 well north of Madison into Juneau and Adams Counties. The change is subtle when discussing actual plant hardiness and annual climate cycles and fluctuations. More importantly it shows us trends for the future.

The following article comes to us from The Huffington Post @ www.huffingtonpost.com.

Global warming is hitting not just home, but garden. The color-coded map of planting zones often seen on the back of seed packets is being updated by the government, illustrating a hotter 21st century.

It's the first time since 1990 that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised the official guide for the nation's 80 million gardeners, and much has changed. Nearly entire states, such as Ohio, Nebraska and Texas, are in warmer zones.

The new guide, unveiled Wednesday, January 25, at the National Arboretum, arrives just as many home gardeners are receiving their seed catalogs and dreaming of lush flower beds in the spring.

It reflects a new reality: The coldest day of the year isn't as cold as it used to be, so some plants and trees can now survive farther north.

"People who grow plants are well aware of the fact that temperatures have gotten more mild throughout the year, particularly in the wintertime," said Boston University biology professor Richard Primack. "There's a lot of things you can grow now that you couldn't grow before."

The giant fig tree in his suburban Boston yard stands as an example: "People don't think of figs as a crop you can grow in the Boston area. You can do it now."

The new guide also uses better weather data and offers more interactive technology. For example, gardeners using the online version can enter their ZIP code and get the exact average coldest temperature.

Also, for the first time, calculations include more detailed factors such as prevailing winds, the presence of nearby bodies of water, the slope of the land, and the way cities are hotter than suburbs and rural areas.

The map carves up the U.S. into 26 zones based on five-degree temperature increments. The old 1990 map mentions 34 U.S. cities in its key. On the 2012 map, 18 of those, including Honolulu, St. Louis, Des Moines, Iowa, St. Paul, Minn., and even Fairbanks, Alaska, are in newer, warmer zones.

Those differences matter in deciding what to plant.

For example, Des Moines used to be in zone 5a, meaning the lowest temperature on average was between minus 15 and minus 20 degrees. Now it's 5b, which has a lowest temperature of 10 to 15 degrees below zero. Jerry Holub, manager of a Des Moines plant nursery, said folks there might now be able to safely grow passion flowers.

Griffin, Ga., used to be in zone 7b, where the coldest day would average between 5 and 10 degrees. But the city is now in zone 8a, averaging a coldest day of 10 to 15 degrees. So growing bay laurel becomes possible. It wasn't recommended on the old map.

"It is great that the federal government is catching up with what the plants themselves have known for years now: The globe is warming and it is greatly influencing plants (and animals)," Stanford University biology professor Terry Root wrote in an email.

The changes come too late to make this year's seed packets, but they will be in next year's, said George Ball, chairman and CEO of the seed company W. Atlee Burpee, which puts the maps on packages of perennials, not annuals. But Ball said many of his customers already know what can grow in their own climate and how it has warmed.

"Climate change, which has been in the air for a long time, is not big news to gardeners," he said.

Mark Kaplan, a New York meteorologist who helped create the 1990 map, said the latest version clearly shows warmer zones migrating north. Other experts agreed.

The 1990 map was based on temperatures from 1974 to 1986, the new map from 1976 to 2005. The nation's average temperature from 1976 to 2005 was two-thirds of a degree higher than it was during the old time period, according to the National Climatic Data Center.

USDA spokeswoman Kim Kaplan, who was part of the map team, repeatedly tried to distance the new zones on the map from global warming. She said that while much of the country is in warmer zones, the map "is simply not a good instrument" to demonstrate climate change because it is based on just the coldest days of the year.

David W. Wolfe, a professor of plant and soil ecology at Cornell University, said that the USDA is being too cautious and that the map plainly reflects warming.

The revised map "gives us a clear picture of the 'new normal' and will be an essential tool for gardeners, farmers and natural resource managers as they begin to cope with rapid climate change," Wolfe said in an email.

The Arbor Day Foundation issued its own hardiness guide six years ago, and the new government map is very similar, said Woodrow Nelson, a vice president at the plant-loving organization.

"We got a lot of comments that the 1990 map wasn't accurate anymore," Nelson said. "I look forward to (the new map). It's been a long time coming."

Nelson lives in Lincoln, Neb., where the zone warmed to a 5b. Nelson said he used to be in a "solid 4," but now he has Japanese maples and Fraser firs in his yard — trees that shouldn't survive in a zone 4.

Vaughn Speer, an 87-year-old master gardener in Ames, Iowa, said he has seen redbud trees, one of the earliest blooming trees, a little farther north in recent years.

"They always said redbuds don't go beyond U.S. Highway 30," he said, "but I'm seeing them near Roland," 10 miles to the north.

To view the new USDA Zone Hardiness Maps visit www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb.

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

ENTRY: FEBRUARY 11, 2012 (A Truly Squirrel Proof Bird Feeder?)

After decades of feeding backyard birds, one question remains . . . is any bird feeder truly squirrel proof? If so, I have yet to find it!

From personal experience (and after years of battling), I've come oh-so close, but there's always one pesky squirrel (of the dozens that visit my feeders) that seems smarter--or is at least more persistent--than all the rest. He's the one who patiently sits on a nearby branch watching all the other squirrels fail as if trying to figure out how to best attack my well-guarded feeders. He tries and tries and tries again. He's more agile than the rest. More daring. If he reaches the feeder just once, he'll never give up again. Eventually, he always achieves his goal.

I've used them all; squirrel baffles on poles, baffles on hanging feeders, multi-baffles on hanging feeders, feeders in "squirrel proof" cages and feeders dangling from thin wires strung between trees. Somehow each and every defense has been penetrated. Then last summer I inherited what I thought might be the ultimate squirrel proof feeder.

Last June I helped out with some landscaping at a friend's house in Oak Park, Illinois. When she bought her house she inherited a rather expensive, weight-activated bird feeder. When a heavier-than-a-bird animal crawls onto the feeding perch, the feeder closes making the seed inside inaccessible. My friend had no interest in feeding birds so gave me the feeder. Once home, I mounted the feeder just outside the TV room window for good viewing. I filled the feeder with peanuts--the most delectable of all wild bird foods. Let the games begin!

At first the feeder worked perfectly. Every squirrel that tried to reach the peanuts had the door slammed shut on them or fell to the ground as they tried to get in. Cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers all enjoyed their special peanut treat.

Then the day came when that one persistent squirrel figured it all out. He learned that by grasping the top of the feeder with the very tips of his claws on his back right foot and by draping his body fully extended over the feeder, he could dangle above the perch; thereby placing no weight on the perch itself. He casually lies there eating peanut after peanut uninterrupted for minutes on end.

Drat! Foiled again!

ENTRY: FEBRUARY 17, 2012 (www.simplyarbors.com)

A few months back I wrote a little blurb for the newsletter about vertical gardening and mentioned the use of arbors, arches, trellises and any other structure that would support tall growing plants and vines. Well, I have a birthday coming up and decided to buy myself a gift--a replacement for one of the very first garden arches I purchased over a decade ago. The archway that needs replacing provides a beautiful separation between the woodland garden on the north side of the house and the sunny backyard. Each summer this simple metal arch is covered with malabar spinach--one of my very favorite vining plants. The arch probably has a few good years left, but rust is starting to weaken one of the supports. It would be nice to have a replacement on hand . . . just in case.

While looking online for a replacement arch I stumbled upon a fantastic website devoted exclusively to arbors, trellises and pergolas. SimplyArbors.com not only offers the best selection I could find anywhere, but also at the best prices--and with free shipping! I found the exact Gardman Charleston Arch I had purchased many years earlier through a catalog. After placing my order I found service to be fast and efficient. My new arbor showed up on my doorstep just days later. The same Charleston arbor was oftentimes more than \$20 more expensive on other websites and with additional shipping fees.

ENTRY: FEBRUARY 19, 2012 (All About Clivia)

My two large and very old clivias are now in full bloom at the greenhouse and have been drawing a lot of attention from customers and coworkers alike. The huge orange blooms and large, strap-like leaves are very eye-catching. These very durable plants are extremely long lived and easy to care for. Most times they will outlive their owner.

I purchased my two clivias back in the early 1990's. Back then they were even harder to find than today. Only a handful of catalogs made clivias available and then at a very steep price. I purchased mine for about \$70 a piece in a 6" pot. Though they are still seldom found at garden centers, internet access has made them more readily available and at a more reasonable price. Plants (though usually small) are often found in the \$25-\$40 range. The flowers on this amaryllis relative are usually orange, but are available in yellow, peach and a few related shades. Varieties with variegated foliage are also becoming available. Plants are very slow-growing and it can take years for plants to flower for the first time. Once they do, they'll flower annually (usually during the winter) from that point forward. Flower heads can be up to an impressive 6" across and are held on sturdy stalks. Plants flower best once the plants are completely root bound. Cool temperatures and dry conditions stimulate blooming.

I'm lucky to be able to force my clivias to bloom twice a year. I keep them outside in the garden as late as possible in the fall--once nighttime temps fall consistently into the 30's but above freezing. Then in mid-October I bring my plants to Klein's for overwintering. The plants are way too big for my house. At the greenhouse, I keep them in the coolest location possible. Just after the holidays the first flowers appear and they'll continue flowering into mid-March. It's during this time that my clivias get all the oohs and aahs from visiting customers. The display can be spectacular.

In late April I take my plants back home and put them outside so long as the nighttime temps stay above freezing. On cold nights I'll move them into the garage. The cool springtime temperatures stimulate another round of blooming in mid-June. The plants spend the summer in my shaded north side woodland garden nestled amongst the hostas. In their native South Africa clivias are forest undergrowth plants and are, therefore, most happy in dense shade. Direct sunshine burns their wide leaves.

Clivias like to be kept very dry during the winter months for best blooming. Once plants become extremely root bound (after a decade or so) they can be easily divided, but they may not bloom again for a few years while rooting out into their new pots. Plants like to be fertilized regularly during the summer.

Klein's sometimes has clivias available during the late winter. More reliable sources are found online at www.logees.com, www.whiteflowerfarm.com, and www.amazon.com.

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

Though lentils are a common ingredient in many soup, stew and vegetarian recipes, most people know very little about this bean and pea relative. In most supermarkets bags of lentils are found alongside dried beans. But unlike dried beans, lentils don't need to be soaked before cooking.

Like beans and peas, lentils are a legume. This annual viny plant has compound leaves with white, pink or pale blue flowers. The small seed pods are broad and flat and contain one or two flat seeds that are green, yellow, orange, red or brown. Some cultures prefer a certain color lentil over others, though differences in taste and texture are minimal. Lentils can be grown in the home garden, but small harvests in the amount of space required to grow them makes their culture restrictive to most gardeners.

Lentils originate from Turkey and areas east and south to Afghanistan and the Arabian Peninsula. Lentils are one of the oldest food crops in cultivation; starting around 7000 B.C. Modern lentils have changed little from ancient times and remain one of the most popular of the legumes worldwide. India is the main producer of lentils; followed by Pakistan, Turkey and more recently Argentina, Chile and the U.S. Seeds are difficult to harvest by mechanical means so are often handpicked. In vegetarian diets, lentils are often used as a meat substitute because of their high protein content.

Lentil soups and stews are hearty and delicious and pair well with warm, earthy breads. Here are a few of our favorites.

LENTIL BEEF VEGETABLE SOUP--We saw this recipe while watching Channel 3 (WISC-TV) last fall and knew it would be an instant hit.

2 TBS. canola oil, divided
2 large onions, diced
2 red peppers, thinly sliced
2 tsp. minced garlic
16 oz. sliced mushrooms
salt and pepper to taste
1 lb. ground beef
2 x 15 oz. cans petite diced tomatoes
2 x 49 oz. cans chicken broth
1 cup lentils
1 cup bulgar
1 tsp. dried thyme
1 tsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. paprika

Heat 1 TBS. oil in a large soup pot. Saute the onion, remove from the pot and set aside. Add the peppers and the garlic to the pot. Saute until tender, remove and set aside. Add the rest of the oil and saute the mushrooms. When nearly cooked, sprinkle the mushrooms with some salt and pepper. Continue cooking until tender, remove from the pot and set aside. Add the beef to the pot and brown. Season with salt and pepper. Add all of the veggies back to the pot. Add the remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer gently for 30 minutes or until the lentils are tender. Reseason and add more broth or water until of desired consistency. Makes 12 servings.

LENTIL ASPARAGUS SOUP--From the pages of Country Living magazine, May 1999.

2 TBS. olive oil
2 medium onions, chopped
2 stalks of celery, chopped
2 carrots, chopped
2 cups red lentils
2/3 cup dry red wine
8 cups water
1 TBS. chili powder
2 bay leaves
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. allspice
1/2 lb. asparagus cut diagonally into slices
2 large Italian tomatoes, chopped

Heat the oil in a soup pot. Add the onion, celery and carrots and saute until tender. Add the lentils and the wine. Heat to a boil. Cook on high until the liquid is nearly evaporated. Stir in the water, chili powder, bay leaves, salt, pepper, allspice, asparagus and tomatoes. Heat to a boil, reduce to low and simmer 20-30 minutes. Discard the bay leaves. Serves 8.

LENTIL SOUP--This recipe appeared a long time ago in a St. Albert the Great parish cookbook. This is one of the best basic lentil soup recipes around.

2 cups lentils
8 cups chicken broth
2 slices bacon, diced
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup chopped celery
1/4 cup chopped carrots
3 TBS. fresh parsley
1 clove minced garlic
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. oregano
1 x 15 oz. can diced tomatoes
2 TBS. red wine vinegar

Combine all but the tomatoes and the vinegar in a soup pot and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat, cover, and simmer 1 1/2 hours. Add the tomatoes and the vinegar, cover and continue simmering 30 minutes. Serves 8-10.

GINGER LENTIL STEW--A flavorful and simple recipe from an old vegetarian cookbook called The Occasional Vegetarian.

2 cups chopped leeks
1 diced carrot
4 stalks diced celery
2 TBS. olive oil
2 TBS. minced ginger
2 TBS. minced garlic
6 cups vegetable broth
2 cups lentils
2 tsp. ground cumin
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. salt
4 TBS. soy sauce
cooked rice

In a soup pot, saute the leeks, carrot and celery in hot oil over medium heat until they begin to wilt--about 8-10 minutes. Add the ginger and garlic and saute 2 minutes more. Stir in the broth, lentils, cumin and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat, cover and simmer 30 minutes. Add the salt and the soy sauce. Cover and cook 20-25 minutes more. Serve over cooked rice. Serves 8.

LENTIL STEW WITH CURRY--From the Wisconsin State Journal, April 2001.

1 1/2 TBS. vegetable oil
3 cups finely chopped carrot
2 cups chopped onion
4 cloves minced garlic
2 tsp. ground ginger
4 x 14.5 oz. cans chicken broth
3 cups lentils
2 TBS. curry powder
1 tsp. pepper
2 cups frozen peas
2 cups sliced mushrooms
1/4 cup lemon juice

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium high heat. Add the carrots, onion, garlic and ginger. Cover and cook 10-12 minutes until the veggies are softened, but not brown. Add the lentils, broth, curry and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to low, cover and simmer about 35-40 minutes. Add the peas and mushrooms and cook about 15 minutes more. Stir in the lemon juice. Makes 8 servings.

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NATURAL NEWS--

Recently we were again asked this question by one of our readers. We thought we'd revisit the topic by tapping into our archives from our February 2009 newsletter.

I've noticed that in the 'Calendar of Events' section of every newsletter you list the date of the full moon each month. Why do you do that?

Old-time gardeners have long known that there seems to be a connection between the phases of the moon and success in the garden. There's no proof, of course, but there seems to be a certain amount of logic to that observation. The effect of the moon on the earth and all of its creatures is undeniable and there are plenty of reasonable examples to support this claim. It's been said there are more incidents of certain types of crime during certain phases of the moon and psychologists have noted connections between the lunar cycle and human behavior. The moon's effect on plants is equally fascinating. The grandparents of a Klein's staff member followed rigorous guidelines as to when to plant not only their vegetable and flower gardens, but also the field crops on the family farm. Planting in the wrong phase produced weak plants or plants that bolted or went to seed too quickly. They said the effects are most noticeable with root vegetables like radishes, carrots and potatoes and members of the cabbage family.

One cycle of lunar phases lasts approximately 29.5 days. Therefore, the new moon occurs 14-15 days after the full moon. We list the full moon because it supposedly has the greatest effect on plants and animals. The moon's phases are shown on many wall calendars and day planners.

Lunar agriculture (or Moon Gardening) works because of the gravitational pull of the moon. The sun exerts its own magnetic force on earth, but because the moon is closer, its pull has greater affect. We know that the moon's gravity causes the tides we experience daily. These same forces are at work in the soil, pulling water to the surface which makes it more available to plant. In a ten year long study, Dr. Frank Brown of Northwestern University found that plants absorb more water at the full moon, the phase at which the moon exerts its strongest pull. Even though Dr. Brown's plants were housed in a laboratory and not under direct moonlight, he found that they were still strongly influenced by the moon.

Gardening author John Jeaves goes further, dividing the influence of the moon according to its waxing and waning phases. He reports in his book **How to Grow More Vegetables** that when the moon is waxing its increasing light stimulates leaf growth. When the moon begins to wane, he recorded that leaf growth slowed while root growth was stimulated. For practical application, plant leafy vegetables, annuals and those plants whose greatest value is above ground between the new moon and full moon. For those plants whose value is underground, such as potatoes, herbal rhizomes, and bulbs during the waning half of the lunar cycle.

Modern research is validating what humans have known innately for thousands of years. For those who live close to nature, plant gardens every year or tend acres of farmland, the validation is unimportant. What is important is that when plants are sown in the correct moon phase, the plants grow quickly and more heartily and harvests are more abundant. Put simply, lunar agriculture works – try it and see!

Planting by the Moon's Phases:

New Moon

Characteristics of the Phase: The gravitational pull of the moon is increased during the New Moon phase, causing water to be pulled upward through the soil. This allows the plant to draw water easily through the roots and causes newly planted seeds to swell with water and burst open. As the moon increases in light, it draws the plant upward, enhancing growth.

What to Plant:

- * Above ground crops that produce their seeds and fruits on the outside.
- * Leafy vegetables with shallow root systems, annual flowers and herbs.

Specific Plants: Annual flowers, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, cucumbers, grains, herbs, lettuce, spinach.

Garden Chores:

- * Mow lawns and prune to promote growth
- * Sow new gardens or beds
- * Transplant those plants that need available water to help their root systems develop

First Quarter

Characteristics of the Phase: The gravitational pull of the moon decreases during this phase because the moon lies at a 90 degree angle to the sun. This phase promotes strong leaf growth and is a good time for planting, especially as the moon moves closer to the full phase.

What to Plant: Annuals that produce above ground, but set seed inside a pod or fruit

Specific Plants: Beans, melons, peas, peppers, squash, tomatoes

Garden Chores:

- * Mow lawns and prune to promote growth
- * Nurture newly sown seeds and tend new growth

Full Moon

Characteristics of the Phase: The pull of the moon is at its greatest during this phase, creating more moisture in the soil and drawing water upward to the fruit, seeds and leaves. As the moon begins to wane, attention is turned from the above ground growth to the roots.

What to Plant: Root crops and those plants that have highly developed and extending root systems, such as trees and shrubs

Specific Plants: Beets, biennials, bulbs, carrots, garlic, onion, peanuts, perennials, radishes

Garden Chores:

- * Mow lawns and prune to retard growth
- * Transplant those plants that have developed root systems, such as perennials
- * Harvest herbs while their water content is highest.

Last Quarter

Characteristics of the Phase: At this phase the moon again sits at a 90 degree angle to the sun, which decreases the strength of its pull on the waters of earth. The moon is now moving into its final stages, so this is thought of as a resting period. While it is not a time to plant new seeds or transplant existing plants, there are still garden tasks that fare better when conducted under this phase. According to folklore weeds pulled in this phase will not grow back.

What to Plant: Nothing

Specific Plants: None

Garden Chores:

- * Harvest
- * Mow lawns and prune to retard growth
- * Begin compost heaps and vermiculture bins
- * Pull weeds
- * Remove pests and diseased plant material
- * Till under cover crops
- * Cultivate, fertilize and till fields
- * General clean up

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MARCH'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

'LUCKY BAMBOO' (Dracaena sanderiana)

Lucky Bamboo Meaning

You see lucky bamboo everywhere these days. These cute little arrangements in their exotic containers are stalks of *Dracaena sanderiana*, a plant native to the equatorial West African region. They are not bamboo.

So, why is it called the "lucky bamboo"? Most likely, because cuttings of the *Dracaena* look like the bamboo and the Chinese have for centuries associated the bamboo with good fortune, fortitude, and resilience.

The lucky bamboo arrangement is a perfect coming together of the five essential elements of Feng Shui - earth, wood, water, metal, and fire. The rocks or pebbles in the plant container symbolize earth. The vertical stalks symbolize wood. The bamboo stalks are generally placed in water. Metal is found as small ornaments or coins in the container. And fire is any color of red, pink, burgundy, or maroon that can be added.

Place this lucky bamboo arrangement in any spot in your house or office to enhance the good energy, to revitalize the bad, and to bring growth into your life. So, the Feng Shui enthusiasts believe.

You can also customize your lucky bamboo arrangement to bring different kinds of luck to your life.

--Two stalks symbolize love.

--Three stalks symbolize happiness - Fu (happiness), Lu (wealth), and Soh (longevity).

--Five stalks symbolize wealth.

--Seven stalks also symbolize wealth and happiness.

--Eight brings growth.

--Nine symbolizes general good fortune.

--Ten represents completion and perfection.

--21 brings abundant blessings.

Growing Lucky Bamboo

By Willi Evans Galloway

How to Care for Lucky Bamboo

Lucky bamboo charmed its way into the hearts of plant lovers because it requires only basic care to thrive. Just stick the stems in some water, surround them with pebbles for support, and watch them grow. The one complaint about lucky bamboo is that its leaves tend to develop dead, dry, and unattractive tips, or tip burn.

Prevent tip burn by:

1. Limiting the amount of fluoride the plant is exposed to. Many municipalities in the United States add fluoride to tap water to prevent tooth decay. So watering your plants with fluoride-free bottled water may reduce or even eliminate fluoride, chlorine, and salts.
2. Water with bottled water and give your plant the best possible growing conditions.
3. Place your plant in bright, indirect light and change the water once a week.
4. Fertilize only if the plant begins to yellow, and be sure to use an organic fertilizer, because the salts and high phosphorus concentrations often present in synthetic fertilizers can also cause tip burn.

Additional info:

Lucky bamboo is not really a bamboo; it's *Dracaena sanderiana*. "Dracaenas are members of the Lily family, which includes the Easter lily and spider plant," says Alton Pertuit, Ph.D., professor emeritus at Clemson University, in South Carolina. Tip burn is common problem within this family, for a variety of reasons. "Low humidity can cause tip burn," Pertuit says. "But in this family, it's mainly caused by fluoride." For dracaenas, very small concentrations of fluoride can be phytotoxic, meaning that fluoride kills plant cells. As concentrations of fluoride build up in the tips of dracaena leaves, the plant cells die, leaving brown tips.

Although watering with fluoride-free water will help, it may not eliminate tip immediately: "Plants can store elements in their cells, so even if you place your dracaena in water free of fluorides, the phytotoxicity might still occur due to fluorides already present within the plant," Pertuit says.

Sources: www.lucky-bamboo.org and www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/growing-lucky-bamboo

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AROUND TOWN:

For neighborhood events or garden tours that you would like posted in our monthly newsletter, please contact Rick at [\(608\) 244-5661](tel:6082445661) or rick@kleinsfloral.com 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 Winter Farmer's Market

Saturdays, January 7 thru April 14, 8:00-noon
Madison Senior Center
330 W. Mifflin

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Olbrich's Garden's Bolz Conservatory Exhibit - Treasures of the Rainforest

November 12 through March 18, 2012
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00
In the Bolz Conservatory

The rainforests of the world are a tremendous natural resource for people around the world, including Americans. Many of the things consumed every day like fruits, vegetables, ingredients for medicines, and construction materials come from the rainforest. Scientists believe that's just the tip of the iceberg; there are countless species of plants and animals in the rainforests that haven't even been discovered yet! Discover various everyday products that originate in the rainforests and see the plants they come from up close!

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

Olbrich Garden's Spring Show:

A Garden Party

March 10 thru March 25
Daily from 10:00-4:00
In the Olbrich Atrium

Immerse yourself in the splendor of spring!

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

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

Select flowers from the show will be available for purchase on Monday, March 26 at 12 pm until supplies last.

[Olbrich Botanical Society members](#) are the first to glimpse the beauty of spring in this indoor exhibit of spring blooms from 9-11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 10. Enjoy the invigorating colors and scents of spring bulbs, trees, and shrubs, and then enjoy music and light refreshments in the Evjue Commons. Olbrich members also receive 20% off in Olbrich's Growing Gifts shop.

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

2012 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Open House

Sunday, March 18, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Monona Terrace
1 John Nolen Dr., Madison, Wisconsin

--Celebrating 20 Years of making farm fresh, local foods accessible residents throughout southern Wisconsin

Late winter is the time to start thinking about the delicious, fresh fruits and vegetables of the upcoming growing season. All CSA farms are currently accepting 2012 memberships and are happy to have members sign up soon!

Join us, along with Mayor Soglin and County Executive Parisi, at the 20th Annual CSA Open House, in celebration of two decades of building connections between farms and consumers through CSA. The Open House will take place on Sunday, March 18th from 1-4pm at the Monona Terrace. Opportunities for meeting the farmers, kids activities, attending workshops, and winning great prizes in a raffle benefiting the Partner Shares Program are also occurring at the event.

In conjunction with the CSA Open House, we are planning an exciting variety of events and activities to celebrate 2012 as the "Year of CSA". We are providing more opportunities for community members to get to know their farmers, through CSA dinners and socials, and to engage in the many benefits of CSA with our speaker series.

Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition
303 s. Paterson St., Ste. 1B
Madison, WI 53703
[608/226-0300](tel:6082260300)
For more about them visit: www.macsac.org

Annual Spring Symposium: Create an Engaging Garden

Saturday, March 24, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

at Rotary Botanical Gardens

Registration deadline: March 14th

Price:

\$65 for RBG Friends

\$75 General Public

**Note - fee includes lunch **

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

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

Tim Gruner, Garden Curator for Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, IL-ranked the #1 Japanese Garden in North America, will speak on patterns and rhythms in nature that inspire a sense of peace and tranquility.

Evelyn Hadden, a Garden Writer from the Twin Cities, whose book, Beautiful No-Mow Yards, will be published by Timber Press in February, will speak on creating Story Gardens-garden spaces that memorialize a loved one; pass along family/cultural traditions; mark personal journeys; and much more. She will also be available for a book signing that day.

Dr. Norm Lownds, Curator for the 4H Children's Garden at Michigan State University in E. Lansing, MI, will remind us of the important garden-child (of all ages) connection and designing with whimsy in all the right places.

Mark Dwyer, Horticulture Director at Rotary Botanical Gardens, will speak on sensory gardens; showcasing plants that engage our five senses to create a more immersive, interactive experience for gardeners, which studies have shown to be of great therapeutic value.

The fee includes a gourmet box lunch, light refreshments throughout the day and all resource materials. We will also be holding both a raffle and silent auction. For the comfort and enjoyment of all attendees, we will be limiting enrollment. Please register early to ensure your spot.

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

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

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

___Visit Klein's---the showrooms are filling up with spring annuals. Pansies, violas, calendula, cole crops & onion sets become available by month's end.

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A SEED STARTING PRIMER--

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

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

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

All of the above items, except the timer, are available at Klein's.

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

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

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

In addition to the Livingston, Olds & Northrup King available at Klein's, check out the following seed sources:

All offer free print catalogs and easy on-line ordering. Seeds usually arrive within just a few days after an order is placed.

For seeds:

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

For bulbs:

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

For plants:

Heronswood Nursery @ www.heronswood.com or 360/297-4172
High Country Gardens @ www.highcountrygardens.com or 800/925-9387
Logee's Greenhouses @ www.logees.com or 888/330-8038
Plant Delights Nursery @ www.plantdelights.com or 912/772-4794
Roots and Rhizomes @ www.rootsrhizomes.com or 800/374-5035
Wayside Gardens @ www.waysidegardens.com or 800/213-0379
White Flower Farm @ www.whiteflowerfarm.com or 800/503-9624

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

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

IN MARCH:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT--Each month we spotlight some product that we already carry or one that we've taken note of and plan to carry in the near future. Likewise, if you would like to see Klein's to carry a product that we don't currently, please let us know. Our goal is to be responsive to the marketplace and to our loyal clientele. If a product fits into our profile, we will make every effort to get it into our store. In addition, we may be able to special order an item for you, whether plant or hard good, given enough time.

Garden Flags from Evergreen Enterprises, Inc.

Rare is it that one garden center calls another garden center to say, "Heh, we carry a great product that you might also think about carrying." That recently happened when K&W Greenery in Janesville let our buyer know that they felt garden flags from Evergreen Enterprises would fit perfectly into Klein's product profile. They said that this product line had been very good for their sales and they wanted to share the news.

Garden flags from Evergreen are top of the line in quality and design. They offer hundreds of designs--many beautifully stitched rather than simply silk screened for added strength and durability. Colors are bold and eye popping.

Among their product lines is a line of collegiate flags. Show your Badger pride with these well-designed and well-made flags. Badger flags are available in two sizes. And, by the way, we also sell high quality Badger wind chimes! Great gift ideas for the Badger fans in your life.

For more information and to view Evergreen's product, please visit them at www.myevergreen.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

Follow Klein's on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Kleins-Floral-Greenhouses where we post updates and photos on a regular basis.

TWITTER

Join Klein's on Twitter at twitter.com/KleinGreenhouse 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

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

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 each delivery 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](tel:6082445661) or [888/244-5661](tel:8882445661) or by stopping in. We request that payment be made in full before the first delivery and prices do not include sales tax.

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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](tel:6082445661) or [888/244-5661](tel:8882445661)

Grower, General Manager --Jamie VandenWymelenberg jamie@kleinsfloral.com

Assistant Manager--Jennifer Simon jsimon@kleinsfloral.com

House Accounts & Billing--Barbara Foulk barb@kleinsfloral.com

Delivery Supervisor--Rick Halbach rick@kleinsfloral.com

Owner & Manager--Sue Klein sue@kleinsfloral.com

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RELATED RESOURCES AND WEB SITES

University of Wisconsin Extension
1 Fen Oak Ct. #138
Madison, WI 53718
[608/224-3700](tel:6082243700)

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/>
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/>

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic
Dept. of Plant Pathology
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/index.php>

Insect Diagnostic Lab
240 Russell Labs
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
<http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/>

U.W. Soil and Plant Analysis Lab
8452 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
[608/262-4364](tel:6082624364)
<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](tel:6082400409)
<http://www.troygardens.org/>

Community Gardens Division (Madison area)
Community Action Coalition
1717 N. Stoughton Rd.
Madison, WI 53704
[608/246-4730](tel:6082464730)
<http://www.cacscw.org/gardens/>

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)
<http://mamgawi.org/>

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Program
Department of Horticulture
1575 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Madison, WI 53706
[608/265-4504](tel:6082654504)
<http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>

The Wisconsin Gardener
<http://www.wpt.org/garden/>

Allen Centennial Gardens
620 Babcock Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
[608/262-8406](tel:6082628406)
<http://www.allencentennialgardens.org/>

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
[608/246-4550](tel:6082464550)
<http://www.olbrich.org/>

Rotary Gardens
1455 Palmer Dr.
Janesville, WI 53545
[608/752-3885](tel:6087523885)
<http://www.rotarygardens.org/>

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

University of Wisconsin-West Madison
Agricultural Research Center
8502 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
[608/262-2257](tel:6082622257)
<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

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PLANTS POISONOUS TO PETS:

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

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

- Horsechestnut
- Horse nettle
- Hyacinth
- Iris
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Jimsonweed
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Laurels
- Lily of the valley
- Lupines
- Mayapple
- Milk vetch
- Mistletoe
- Monkshood
- Morning glory
- Mustards
- Narcissus
- Nicotiana
- Nightshade
- Oaks
- Oleander
- Philodendrons
- Pokeweed
- Poinsettia
- Poison hemlock
- Potato
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Rosary pea
- Sago palm
- Skunk cabbage
- Smartweeds
- Snow-on-the-mountain
- Sorghum
- Star of Bethlehem
- Wild black cherry
- Wild radish
- Wisteria
- Yellow jessamine
- Yew

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The SAGE staff was kind enough to give me advanced access to the database of available games almost a week ago (note to future SAGE organizers: keep doing this), but my bad luck with computer hardware stability means it was not until just today that I could sit down and actually write something about any of them. But I'm not complaining, mind you - it just means that it's business as usual instead of the more relaxed pace I expected to have. But you're not here for my bellyaching anyway! You're here to read about fangames! So let's get to it! Visuals are adequately detailed, but clash a little Forcefully brought over from the modern world to an alternate world, Wang Chong felt detached and lived his life aimlessly. However, when calamity struck and he saw his family and everything he cared for being torn apart, he felt regret. Thus, he stood up and eventually became the Grand Marshal of the Central Plains, leading an army against those who seek to destroy all he cherished. Yet, despite all his efforts, it was already too late to reverse destiny. But before his death, a shooting star, the same one which brought him to this world, appeared before him, and he was given another chance t