

'THE SAGE'--AUGUST 2009

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights:

[Most Beautiful Garden Contest](#)

[Coming Soon: Semi-load of Houseplants from Florida!](#)

[Is Your "Local" Florist Truly Local?](#)

[Ordering Fresh Flowers--A How-To](#)

[Favorite Cabbage Salad \(Slaw\) Recipes](#)

[12 Months of Fresh Flowers from Klein's](#)

[Japanese Gardens by Jennifer Simon](#)

[Notes from Rick's Garden Journal-- from July 2009](#)

--The Genus Silphium

--My Unpredictable Butterfly Weed

--Favorite New Annuals in the Garden

[Herbicide-Free Weed Control](#)

[Plant of the Month: Goldenrod \(Solidago\)](#)

[You Asked the Mad Gardener About Ant Remedies](#)

[August in the Garden: A Planner](#)

[Gardening Events Around Town](#)

[Become a Friend 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](#)

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.

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.

AUGUST STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Open Labor Day, Monday, September 7: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Throughout August, visit Klein's and check out our specials on annuals, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets and containers. Specials and selection change weekly so give us a call for the most up-to-date information at (608) 244-5661 or toll free at 888-244-5661. We pride ourselves in having the best cared for plants in even the hottest weather and throughout the month we'll continue to offer a full selection of annuals and perennials.

August 5--Full Moon

Mid-August--Watch for the arrival of our semi-load of indoor houseplants. Select from all shapes and sizes; from tropicals to succulents. The showrooms become a veritable jungle overnight.

August 22--Ramadan Begins

September 7--Labor Day. Special Store Hours: 10:00-4:00.

MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDEN AND CONTAINER CONTESTS

Enter your garden in our "Most Beautiful Garden Contest" or your container in our "Most Beautiful Container Garden Contest". Submit up to three photos per entry. Each entrant can submit photos for only one category. One entry per household. Most Beautiful Garden Prizes: 1st place \$75 Klein's gift card, 2nd place \$50 Klein's gift card, 3rd place \$25 Klein's gift card. Most Beautiful Container Garden Prize \$50 Klein's gift card. Print off an entry form on our home page. Drop off the entry form and your photos before August 17. Winners will be announced August 18 on our website.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

With all the talk about sustainability and buying local, it's equally important to search for a truly "local" florist when ordering fresh flowers for delivery. From the Society of American Florists at www.aboutflowers.com comes the following advice and guidelines:

Making Sure Your "Local" Florist is Local

Not all "local" florists are local. Some out-of-state telemarketing and online firms pose as local florists. These companies mislead consumers into feeling they are ordering flowers from a local florist, but without their knowledge, are being call-remote forwarded to another state. These firms charge higher fees and take business away from legitimate local florists. Consumers are deceived into thinking they are doing business with a local company when they're not. That's unethical and unfair.

To make sure you are doing business with a local professional florist, just follow these tips from the Federal Trade Commission:

- Ask neighbors, family, friends, and coworkers for florist recommendations.
- Deal only with shops that list a street address with their phone number. If you're asking directory assistance for a number, also ask for the street number and address. If there isn't one, consider doing business with another florist.
- Ask the florist for directions to the shop. If they hesitate or refuse, consider this a red flag, and avoid doing business with the florist.

Once you've chosen your local florist, your choices of what to send are nearly endless. It's best to be somewhat prepared when placing an order.

What to Tell Your Florist

Florists are experts in many areas but they can't read minds. So if you have specific flower or color preferences, be sure to communicate that to your florist. And don't worry if you are not familiar with the names of the thousands of flowers available. By following these simple tips from the Society of American Florists, you can order flowers from a florist with confidence:

- When ordering floral gifts, describe the recipient's personality type, as well as his/her favorite hobbies or colors if you know them. Your florist can match the floral arrangement with the recipient's personality.
- Tell your florist if the gift is for a special occasion (birthday, anniversary or other personal milestone). He or she can offer suggestions on how to best celebrate with flowers.
- If the flowers are for decorating or entertaining, describe the environment where the arrangement will be placed so your florist can create an arrangement that complements the style and colors of your home.

- Consider bringing in your own vase or container for an added personal touch. Ask your florist for specific colors or color themes.
- Let your florist know if you prefer a mixed flower arrangement or an arrangement made up of just one type of flower.
- Provide your florist with the necessary basic information - the name, full address and phone number of the recipient, the delivery date, your card message and payment information.

Whether sending flowers across the country or around the corner, your florist provides the expertise, convenience and service today's on-the-go consumers are looking for.

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 themed gardens and/or themed living spaces within a garden continue to be a growing and important trend in garden design?

JAPANESE GARDENS

by Jennifer Simon

When you enter a Japanese Garden you are entering a world of peace and harmony. Walking through on curved paths and over bridges you are surrounded by elements of nature and the natural world. You may notice that Japanese Gardens have no straight paths, that they favor asymmetry or in other words there is not a pattern to the placement of plants or hardscape. Japanese gardens are mainly green but blooms and foliage may show seasonal changes and this is only for a short time. Structures are built of natural materials like bamboo, stone and wood.

There are many symbols in the Japanese garden such as trees, rocks, water, lanterns and air which all represent the natural world. A single tree can represent the forest, rocks or boulders represents the earth. Water means purity and is represented in lakes, rivers, pools, fountains, or a simple water garden in an urn. Water can also be imagined in an area of raked gravel and a boulder to make it appear as an island in the sea. The fire element can be as simple as lanterns scattered in the yard with a soft candle glow. Air is moving throughout the garden and it brings the flow of positive energy as it goes over and through bamboo gates and fences. You can hear the breezes as it passes by the bamboo wind chimes hanging in the tree.

There are five main Japanese garden styles that represent some or all of the points mentioned so far. They are as follows:

1. Strolling Pond Garden *kaiyu-skiki*- is usually a large piece of property or park for taking walks in. It will contain a flat, still pond of irregular shape as its primary focal point. There will be a stone or gravel path that will lead up to an overlook and down to the water as well. A curved or moon bridge would take the visitor over the pond for beautiful views.

2. The Natural Garden *shukei yen*- is to give the visitor a feeling of being in the woods with untrimmed trees and woodland paths and streams. Moss is usually the ground cover here and you will not find many lanterns or bridges. Water is crossed by use of stepping stones instead.

3. The Tea Garden *rojiniwa*- usually surrounds the ceremonial tea house. This garden is usually divided into two gardens. The outer garden is the entrance and is for the guest to walk around and enjoy up close. The outer garden will have a water basin, a single potted bonsai on a stand, a crooked path, and a half opened gate. There is usually a low overhead beam at the entrance to the tea house to force the visitor to bow before entering and leaving. The inner garden is considered sacred which the guests are not allowed to enter but can be enjoyed from a window or deck. The inner garden will most likely have a small water feature or a dry well.

4. The Sand and Stone Garden *seki tei*- is a walled garden with the sand and stone telling a story. Without the wall the garden would lose out to the the distant view. The sand is very coarse for stability and ease of raking. Sometimes the stones are placed so it tells a tale of a past battle or dragon of legend. Usually the tallest rock is represented as the Buddha and all the smaller stones are the children or young animals. There should be a bench for sitting and meditating.

5. The Flat Sea Garden *hiraniwa*- is a flat expanse of raked sand or fine gravel that represents the sea. Using a rake in a skillful way is the key to this garden. The gravel edge up to the path can be raked to appear like waves up to a shoreline. Stones and boulders are positioned halfway out in the raked area to mimic islands in the sea. This is similar to the walled garden but it has low growing shrubs and hedges as well as small flowering trees in the background instead of the wall.

If you have the following already in your garden, you can use it as a starting point for a Japanese garden: natural stream or pond, natural boulders with moss, stepping stone path that curves, gravel or pebble area, maple tree, flowering plum or cherry tree, bamboo, magnolia or pine tree, azaleas, rhododendrons or camellias. A Japanese garden is an excellent choice for a small shady green yard. In a place with no plants, water or very little light then a gravel and boulder garden would be perfect. Aside from the initial work of creating the Japanese garden and once established it demands little maintenance except for tree pruning and raking the gravel.

PLANTS FOR JAPANESE GARDENS

Azalea
Camellia
Fern
Ginkgo
Bamboo-clump variety
Japanese Flowering Plum and Cherry trees
Japanese Maple
Mondo Grass
Moss
Pine
Star Magnolia
Yew Pine

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

ENTRY: JULY 3, 2009

Like every other year, the perennials at Klein's just went 25% off for the 4th of July holiday weekend. I couldn't pass up this opportunity to purchase a few fill-in perennials now that the sale is better than my employee discount. Selection is still excellent and the plants haven't succumbed to the summer heat and nonstop watering. One group of

perennials I've been wanting to explore for years are those from the Silphium genus of Wisconsin native prairie plants. The most well-known members of these members of the aster family include compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), cup plant (*S. perfoliatum*), prairie dock (*S. terebinthinaceum*) and rosinweed (*S. integrifolium*). Plants from this group are extremely rugged, tall and dramatic and will add a lot of flare to the back of my perennial border out back. Flowers from all species are yellow and set high up on thick stalks and all attract beneficial insects to the garden.

The following descriptions are from the University of Texas Austin website at www.wildflower.org

Compassplant is a tall, coarse, sunflower-like perennial, growing 3-12 ft. high. Deeply cut, hairy leaves, up to 2 ft. in length, usually orient themselves north and south to avoid the heat of the noonday sun. Scattered along the top half of the stout, sticky stem are 2-5 in. wide, yellow, radiate flowers. A tall plant bearing yellow flower heads with large, hairy-edged, green bracts; stem exudes resinous sap.

Cup plant is a coarse perennial, 3-6 ft. tall with numerous large, yellow composite flowers. Each flower head has 20-30 yellow rays and darker yellow disks. Stout leaves are joined at stem to form a small cup that holds water and attracts birds. The small cup formed by the leaves holds water and attracts birds.

The very large, wide, spade-shaped basal leaves subtend a 3-8 ft. flowering stalk. Bright yellow, composite flower are numerous on older plants.

Another common name for prairie dock is prairie rosinweed due to the copious resin exuded from injured parts of the plant. Prairie youngsters use the resin for chewing gum. It tastes like carrots and pine.

Wholeleaf rosinweed is a coarse perennial, 2-6 ft. tall with large, yellow composite flowers and rough, paired, oval to lance-shaped leaves.

ENTRY: JULY 11, 2009

A pleasant surprise awaited me in the garden this morning. The third of my butterfly weeds (*Asclepias tuberosa*) has suddenly emerged in the front yard garden. Seeing as it's mid-July, I thought it had certainly died; especially given the fact that one of my butterfly weeds is currently 2 feet tall and ablaze in bloom with its bright orange flowers. I know that this monarch attracting Wisconsin native can be late to emerge in the spring. But mid-July seems a little ridiculous. One of my coworkers theorizes that this late emergence is probably a survival technique for this tough-as-nails prairie plant where rains can be unpredictable, erratic, and, in some years, nonexistent. Butterfly weed, once established, forms a long and very hard taproot that reaches deep into the soil. Even though I thought it was dead, I could feel the top of the carrot-like taproot just below the soil surface. The plant had seemed very healthy last year and given the fact we've had very little rain, the soil near a blue spruce seemed especially parched so a few weeks back I began watering the area where the butterfly weed had been. Suddenly a dense and healthy cluster of new sprouts has emerged.

ENTRY: JULY 27, 2009

The garden is especially gorgeous right now and it's many of the new annuals in the containers and beds that are currently the real standouts. Being the plant collector that I am, I can't help myself but to experiment with dozens of new plants each year. Some are completely new to the American gardener, whereas many others are old favorites that I'm wanting to learn about. A few of my 2009 highlights include:

Ptilotus 'Joey'--This Australian native has lived up to all the hype. The two containers on my deck have been loaded with soft pink plumes this entire season. The blooms seem to last forever. Plants are extremely durable, very well-branched and have a nice upright habit. There's great potential for this newcomer in both mixed beds and containers alike

'BIG' Begonia--This giant wax begonia is a jaw-dropper. Both my dark-leaved pink and dark-leaved red containers are overflowing with huge nonstop blooms. Plants are already 15" tall and are said to have a 2' potential. I've never really been a fan of wax begonias, but 'BIG' as certainly changed my mind!

Nicotiana 'Cranberry Isle'--An heirloom variety from Select Seeds with larger than normal blooms above tall and sturdy, healthy rich green plants that top out at about 3-4'. I think this is the showiest flowering tobacco I've ever grown. Blooms are in shades of white, purple, lavender, red and pink and are more than twice as big as most nicotiana varieties.

Oregano 'Kent Beauty'--A very nice and subtle surprise cascading from pots on the top of the deck's privacy screen. Oodles of hop-like lavender, pink and soft green blooms perform nonstop. The foliage is blue-green and not very noticeable, but none-the-less very fragrant.

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

Summertime, family picnics and fresh, cold, summer salads all go hand in hand. Its now that the early cabbages are making their appearance at local markets and produce stands. Nothing could be easier to make than a fresh slaw. For the easiest of cabbage salads, simply shred a head of cabbage and a few carrots. Chop an onion and a green pepper and toss with one of the many jarred, ready-made slaw dressings available at all grocery stores or make a simple dressing combining mayo, vinegar, sugar and some poppy or celery seeds. For something a little more unique, try one or more of these Klein's employee family favorites.

CABBAGE & APPLE COLESLAW--There are many slaw recipes that combine cabbage, apples and grapes, but we've found this old, tried-and-true recipe from Better Homes & Gardens to be the most flavorful and reliable. Having withstood the test of time, this is a sure crowd pleaser.

- 1/3 cup mayo
- 2 TBS. cider vinegar
- 2 TBS. sugar
- 2 tsp. coarse brown mustard
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 4 cups coarsely shredded cabbage
- 2 medium, tart apples, chopped
- 3 whole dill pickles, chopped (1 cup)
- 1/2 cup halved grapes
- 1/4 cup chopped onion

In a bowl, whisk together the mayo, vinegar, sugar, mustard, salt and pepper. Combine the rest of the ingredients in a large serving bowl. Add the dressing and toss to coat. Cover and chill. Stir before serving. Serves 6-8.

ENSALADA DE REPOLLO (Cabbage Salad)--A Spanish twist from a 2004 issue of Cooking Light magazine.

- 7 cups shredded cabbage
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 medium plum tomatoes, chopped
- 1 medium cucumber, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Combine all of the veggies in a large bowl. Whisk together the oil, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Drizzle the dressing over the veggies and toss to coat. Allow to rest at least 30 minutes. Serves 8.

ASIAN COLESLAW--Our employee's review for this salad says "beautiful and unique with strong flavors." Oddly, this wonderful recipe comes from an issue of Horticulture magazine (date unknown).

- 1 head red cabbage, cored and shredded
- 1 green bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 bunch of green onions, chopped
- 3 carrots, shredded
- 1/2+ cups golden raisins
- 1/2 cup toasted sesame seeds

Dressing:

- 3/4 cup toasted sesame oil
- 1/4 cup rice vinegar
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. soy sauce
- 1 tsp. molasses

1 tsp. grated ginger
1 tsp. minced garlic

Combine the salad ingredients in a large bowl. Whisk together the dressing ingredients in a small bowl until the sugar is dissolved. Toss the dressing with the salad ingredients until well coated. Sprinkle with the sesame seeds. Serves 6-8.

GRILLED COLESLAW--Something easy and unique from the July 2008 issue of Bon Appetit magazine.

1/2 cup tarragon vinegar
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup+ canola oil
2 TBS. Dijon mustard
1 tsp. tarragon
1 medium head green cabbage, quartered
1 medium head red cabbage, quartered
1 bunch green onions, trimmed but left whole

Prep grill to medium high heat. Whisk together the vinegar, sugar, 1/2 cup oil, mustard and tarragon in a small bowl and set aside. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Brush the cabbages and onions with oil and season with salt and pepper. Grill the cabbage pieces 3-4 minutes per side until grill marks appear. Grill the onions just 2-3 minutes without turning. Once grilled, shred the cabbage and chop the onions. Toss together with the dressing in a very large serving bowl and reseason to taste.

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 Spring Bulbs from Van Bloem Gardens.

It may seem a little premature to be talking about the spring bulbs (tulips, daffodils, crocus, etc.), but in reality the first of our shipments will be arriving in just a few short weeks and Klein's is happy to announce that we will be drastically improving and expanding our bulb program and selection this fall season in hopes of becoming an area leader for both choice and quality. As part of that process, Klein's is switching to a new supplier for the 2009 fall planting season.

Van Bloem Gardens is one of the world's leading wholesalers of flower bulbs, perennials and horticulture products for the home gardener and the professional grower. They are a marketplace leader with new introductions, outstanding varieties and a comprehensive selection. Klein's began ordering "finished" tropicals from Van Bloem's in the spring of 2008 and added not only the tropicals, but many of our summer bulbs in the spring of 2009. We are not only impressed by their selection and excellent quality, but clear and colorful packaging and presentation for the consumer.

The first of the bulbs to arrive will be the bearded iris and the fall blooming crocus in mid-August. Iris, in particular, are best planted in the fall so take advantage of early selection. The bulk of our spring bulb collection will then arrive in the week just after Labor Day. Though many of our competitors receive their spring bulbs earlier than we do, experience has taught us that most gardeners don't even think about fall until Labor Day has passed. Years back, when our bulbs arrived earlier than early September, we found that some simply withered in the heat of our greenhouses.

In addition to the bulbs, Klein's also carries a complete selection of forcing supplies, hyacinth glasses, bulb boosters and fertilizers, tools and holiday gift bulbs including amaryllis (which arrive mid-October) and paperwhites. And new in 2009, Klein's will be offering garlic bulbs for fall planting (arriving in October).

For more about Van Bloem Gardens, check out their website at www.vanbloem.com.

NATURAL NEWS--

The are many effective ways to control weeds without resorting to the use of chemical herbicides.

A simple mulch is one of the easiest and most accessible. Weed suppressing mulches include grass clippings, hay or straw, wood mulches, recycled rubber tire chips, newspaper, gravel, landscape fabric and others. All are used in different situations, but with the common goals of retaining moisture and controlling weeds. Mulches control weeds by not allowing them to germinate or grow, smothering them or simply making the few that do grow easier to pull by hand.

Mechanical means of weed control includes a variety of hoes and hand tools. Some are more effective than others. For tight spaces, circle hoes are invaluable. Forked hand weeders are excellent for weeds with long tap roots like dandelions, thistles and burdock. There are also propane weed torches on the market, but their use can be limiting.

But it's hand weeding that remains the most effective form of weed control. One thorough weeding during the month of June with lighter follow-up weeding will keep most weeds at bay. A thorough weeding early in the season allows your garden plants to out compete and shade out many weeds, making the day to day weeding much easier. Daily weeding as you water also makes the task less daunting. With a proper attitude, weeding can be approached as a relaxing endeavor, rather than a chore. The key is to weed when the soil is moist and to weed early or late in the day--not in the hot sun.

It's important to try to get the entire root system out when weeding. Many plants will resprout if any speck of root remains. Most perennial weeds fall into this category. Garden cleanup is also essential. Many weeds, like chickweed and creeping charlie, will send out new roots if any piece of stem remains in contact with the soil. Recognizing weeds is also very helpful. Many weeds like lamb's quarters, campion and purslane are annuals. By removing them before they've set seed, you've essentially eliminated them from your garden for good.

Excellent reference books for learning to recognize common weeds of the Midwest include:

Roadside Plants and Flowers by Marian S. Edsall and put out by University of Wisconsin Press

Wildflowers and Weeds by Booth Courtenay & James H. Zimmerman, published by Simon and Schuster. Both use real photographs for easy identification.

Note: For an interesting look at the popular "natural" herbicide Roundup®, check out the **Natural News** section in our July 2009 newsletter by clicking on **Newsletter** on the left side of our home page.

AUGUST'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

SOLIDAGO (Goldenrod)

Though an American native, goldenrod sure has gotten a bum rap over the years as an undesirable perennial for the American garden. The reason being is that goldenrod has been falsely accused as a contributor to allergies and hayfever, when ragweed is the primary culprit. Ragweed and goldenrod happen to bloom at exactly the same time and because ragweed blooms go completely unnoticed, it's the showy goldenrods that catch the heat. The fact is, goldenrod pollen is too heavy to become airborne and, in turn, does not contribute to allergies and hayfever.

In Europe, goldenrod has long been considered a valuable and much desired plant for the mixed perennial border. In fact, nearly all popular solidago hybrids were developed in Europe from the American natives and are only recently being accepted back into the American garden. On the other hand, because it is not native to Europe and spreads quickly, it is now considered a nonnative invasive and its use in the garden there is becoming increasingly frowned upon (much like purple loosestrife here).

Solidago is a native member of the aster family with about 100 different species, mostly from North America and Mexico. In most species, the flowers are a variation of yellow (hence the name goldenrod), though species with white and orange flowers exist. Most goldenrods are short day bloomers and won't begin their bloom cycle until the days begin to shorten in late summer. Goldenrods make a lovely and long-lasting cut flower. In the garden, roadside varieties, though beautiful, can become invasive with aggressively spreading roots and are usually tall and floppy. The hybrids tend to be clump-forming and are most often the better choice for the home garden. For tall varieties and the species, a pinch in late May will produce short, well-branched, bushy plants with many more flowers per stem. Goldenrods lure many beneficial insects and pollinators to the garden and are an underused and valuable addition to any perennial bed. Excellent and highly recommended choices for Madison area gardens include the following Solidago hybrids:

Crown of Rays (Strahlenkrone)--24"
Fireworks--20-30"
Golden Baby--12"
Golden Fleece--18"
Golden Spangles--24"

YOU ASKED THE MAD GARDENER. . .

I have ant hills all around one area in my flower garden. I think that it's killing some of the flowers. What is a safe way to get them to leave?

Ants in themselves are causing no harm to your flowers. Most ants in our area eat things other than plants. BUT their nest building can change the texture and composition of the soil in the garden. By disturbing the soil, the soil around the nests tends to become crumbly and it tends to dry out more quickly than the surrounding areas. In disturbing the soil, they can also damage the roots of newly planted annuals and vegetables. On the upside, ants can rid the garden of undesirable pests and oftentimes can keep the aphid population in check.

In researching your question, the most common safe home remedy is a 50:50 mixture of vinegar and water poured over the nests. Apparently vinegar alters the ants' scent sense. Be careful in that vinegar can be harmful to plants due to its acidity both on the foliage and as a drench.

Other safe remedies include disturbing the nests until the ants emerge and dousing them with boiling water. You will need to repeat this over a period of time as the ants try to reestablish their nests.

Scented talcum baby powder also turns up as a safe home remedy. The ants walk through the powder, it sticks to their feet and they drag it back into the nest. Again, the baby powder messes with their senses and supposedly they leave over time.

A solution of borax and water is another solution. But borax in itself is a weed killer (i.e. creeping charlie) so may not be the best choice close to flowers.

The best store bought solution is diatomaceous earth. "DE" is the finely ground fossil remains of freshwater diatoms and is 100% organic. It comes as a dust that is sprinkled around the hills. Essentially the jagged edges of the ground material tear into the insect's body as it crawls over it. (The grains are far too tiny for humans to feel). Insects die within 48 hours of contact. Repeat applications as needed. DE is readily available at all garden centers.

Another possible idea is for you to change the composition of your soil. Ants tend to build their nests in loose, sandy, infertile soil. Enriching your garden soil with compost and peat moss will change the composition of your soil over time. Most ants won't like the new, rich, water retaining soil you've created.

Good luck with these non-chemical and safe remedies and keep me up to date with the results and thanks for your question!

The Mad Gardener

Note: After receiving this question and responding, I learned from a coworker that cornmeal is another safe, effective and proven means for ant control. Apparently ants ingest, but are unable to digest cornmeal and they die. Simply sprinkle cornmeal around the ant hills and reapply periodically until the ants are gone.

AROUND TOWN:

NOTE: If you know of any community or neighborhood events or garden tours you would like posted on our web site in our monthly newsletters, please contact Rick at (608) 244-5661. 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.

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 Blooming Butterflies

July 15-August 9
Daily from 10:00-4:00
In the Bolz Conservatory

Experience the wonder of strolling through a tropical forest on a search for fleeting butterflies. Live butterflies emerge from chrysalises daily in the Bolz Conservatory. Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies is a great adventure for people of all ages. Children can visit stamping stations in the outdoor gardens with their Butterfly Passport while learning fun facts. Tour the outdoor gardens and visit the Growing Gifts shop. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 12 and under, and free for children under 2. Olbrich Botanical Society members are admitted free. Parking is free. Bus tours are welcome. The Bolz Conservatory will be closed Monday, July 13 and Tuesday, July 14 in preparation for Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies.

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

Iris Sale

Saturday, August 1, 8:00-6:00
Sunday, August 2, 8:00-6:00

The Madison Area Iris Society sponsors this sale of iris rhizomes, the roots that grow into iris plants. For more information call 608-825-7423.

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

Native Grasses

Wednesday, August 12, 7:00-8:15 p.m.
Native Plant Garden

As summer ends and fall approaches, we will take a closer look at our native grasses, from tiny mustache grass to big bluestem. Find out how to identify these attractive plants and grow them in your native garden.

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

Urban Horticultural Field Day

Saturday, August 15, 10:00-3:00
West Madison Agricultural Research Station
8502 Mineral Point Road

Verona, WI 53593
608/262-2257

Want to make your green thumb even greener? Join us for the annual Urban Horticulture Field Day at the University of Wisconsin - Madison's West Madison Agricultural Research Station's - Trial and Demonstration Gardens, held, every year, on the third Saturday, in August.

It's is a great place to get new ideas and answers to perplexing problems, sample fresh produce and tour one of the area's most extensive collections of flower and vegetable varieties, including many that haven't yet appeared in seed catalogs.

The field day is sponsored by UW - West Madison Agricultural Research Station staff, researchers at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Extension staff, and Master Gardener Volunteers. The West Madison Agricultural Research Station is located at 8502 Mineral Point Road, about a mile west of the beltline. Admission and parking are free.

Visit their web site @ www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/ for details.

Daylily Sale

Saturday, August 15, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, August 16, 11:00-3:00

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Daylily Society

For info call 608/231-3279 or visit www.wisdaylilysoc.org

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

Dahlia Show

Saturday, August 22, 12:00-4:00

Sunday, August 23, 10:00-4:00

Dahlias are late summer bloomers known for their diverse forms and bright colors. Sponsored by the Badger State Dahlia Society. For more information call 608-577-1924.

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

The Wisconsin Gardener

"Weeds, Wine & Chocolate"

Thursday, August 27, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 5, 10:30 a.m.

on Wisconsin Public Television

Check local listings for the station nearest you.

Host Shelley Ryan travels to Pardeeville to learn how to control the noxious weeds buckthorn and honeysuckle. Her guest Neil Diboll then shows how to replace those weeds with something more attractive, wild ginger. In Green Bay we plant gorgeous containers with plants that go with the colors of wine and chocolate. The program also highlights the versatility of butternut squash with a five-course meal.

For more information, visit www.wpt.org/garden

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

___ Give the garden at least 1" of moisture per week.

___ Mow as little as possible and with mower raised to at least 2".

___ Mulch beds to conserve moisture and keep down weeds.

- ___ Deadheading spent blooms as needed.
- ___ Collect seeds for next year's garden.
- ___ Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- ___ Take pictures of your garden for record keeping.
- ___ Stake and support tall plants as needed.
- ___ Divide daylilies as they finish blooming.
- ___ Transplant and divide iris and peonies.
- ___ Plant late crops of lettuce, spinach, radishes, etc.
- ___ Order spring bulbs for fall planting: daffodils, tulips, hyacinth, etc.
- ___ Plant fall blooming crocus bulbs.
- ___ Fertilize potted plants at least every 2 weeks. Follow directions.
- ___ Stop fertilizing all trees and shrubs.
- ___ Keep an eye on the weather. Water as needed.
- ___ Watch for pests and control as needed or desired.
- ___ Shop for early mum selection and fall pansies.
- ___ Begin checking out the garden centers for spring bulb selection.
- ___ Stop watering held over amaryllis for 8 weeks for holiday blooms.
- ___ Begin taking cuttings of geraniums, coleus and other plants to winter over.
- ___ Visit Klein's---Watch for end of season savings on annuals and perennials.

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 AUGUST:

---The poinsettias continue grow and thrive in our back greenhouses. They're so big already, we've had to give them adequate spacing.

---Summer maintenance projects are under way. This year's plans include a bit of painting, parking lot maintenance and some general touchups.

---We continue to space and pamper the fall mums that are now just beginning to bloom.

---We're prepping our main showrooms for the semi-load of houseplants arriving from Florida later in the month. We time this shipment with the arrival of the college students. Select from all shapes and sizes; from tropicals to succulents. The showrooms become a veritable jungle.

---We begin ordering plants for the 2010 season.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--RICK HALBACH

To say that a lot has changed in the nearly 20 years Rick has worked at Klein's is an understatement. Back then Klein's was known primarily for it's famous geraniums (now geraniums account for just a small portion of our spring sales), the entire Klein's workforce, not counting family, numbered perhaps 10 (today we have about 30 full-time, part-time and seasonal employees) and Klein's was located between a hotel and an RV dealership (now Walgreen's and Home Savings Bank). Our entire perennial selection fit into a 20' x 20' square at the front entrance and our annuals selection consisted primarily of marigolds, petunias, dusty miller, alyssum, geraniums, geraniums and, yes, more geraniums. Klein's essentially shut down during the summer months after our big end-of-the-season sale. Now, summer remains one of our busiest times, continuing all the way into the first frosts. Yes, to say Klein's has change a lot in 20 years, is an understatement!

Rick joined the Klein's team in 1991 after earning a BS in Education from the University of Wisconsin and spending many years in retail management at the local Prange's department stores and at Discount Records on State Street. It's the combination of retail experience, his love of teaching and a passion for gardening that has made Klein's the shopping experience it is today. Rick started out in the greenhouses and delivering flowers, before moving into the retail manager position during the mid-1990's. As manager, Rick made many of the changes you now see at Klein's, but like many Klein's workers, his heart belonged to the greenhouse and working with the soil. He left the management position in early 2001. Today Rick serves as delivery supervisor, greenhouse worker, writer and as

coordinator of the Klein's booths at WPT's Garden Expo each February. He's also known as Klein's "container designer extraordinaire."

Rick grew up in the small town of Johnsburg, WI, just east of Lake Winnebago. There he spent much of his growing up time on his grandparents' dairy farm helping in the fields by day and then side by side with his grandmother in her huge perennial gardens each evening. In fact, the family farm received a well-earned beautification award during the mid-70's, due primarily to the extensive and always perfect flower gardens. Throughout Rick's childhood, he always had his own vegetable garden, both at his parents' house and on the farm.

Today, Rick and his partner, Dave, own a lovely little cape cod on Madison's east side, just minutes from Klein's. Since buying their home in 1986, they have poured their hearts into their home and yard. In fact, their home was featured in a 2003 Wisconsin State Journal article. In addition, Rick has appeared on The Wisconsin Gardener with Shelley Ryan and his writing has turned up in the Wisconsin Garden Journal put out by the Madison Area Master Gardeners.

At work, Rick is known for his nonstop energy and enthusiasm, which some have said is both infectious and exhausting. If you're able to stop him, you'll find Rick during the upcoming spring season, working with customers in the retail area, watering and restocking. Test his mind with all your toughest gardening questions. Did we mention that Rick LOVES to talk? Must be the teacher/salesperson in him! After talking with him at Klein's, it'll be impossible to leave empty handed.

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 friend of Klein's by visiting us at www.facebook.com.

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 2009 edition of the Bucky Book. 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

Head Grower & Horticulturist Jamie VandenWymelenberg

jamie@kleinsfloral.com

Retail Manager

Jennifer Wadyka

jennifer@kleinsfloral.com

House Accounts & Billing Barbara Foulk

Delivery Supervisor

Rick Halbach

Owner Sue (Klein) Johnson

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

PLANTS POISONOUS TO PETS:

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