

'THE SAGE'--OCTOBER 2007

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

NOTE: If you know of any community or neighborhood events or garden tours you would like posted on our web site in our November or December newsletters, please contact Rick at (608) 244-5661. Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Our readership has been growing constantly so this is a great opportunity for free advertising. Events must be garden related and must take place in the immediate Madison vicinity. Your event will be posted in the 'Around Town' section of the newsletter on the first of the month.

OCTOBER STORE HOURS

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring bulbs are here! Shop early while selection is good.

October 6--University of Wisconsin football at Illinois. Game time is 11:00.

October 8--Columbus Day (observed)

October 13--UW football at Penn St. Game time is 2:30.

October 16--Bosses Day. Check out 'The Flower Shoppe' section of this newsletter for details.

October 20--Sweetest Day. Check out 'The Flower Shoppe' section of this newsletter for details.

October 20--UW football against Northern Illinois at Camp Randall. Game time to be announced.

October 26--Full Moon

October 27--UW football against Indiana at Camp Randall. Game time is 11:00.

October 28--Mother-in-Law's Day

October 31--Halloween. Choose from one of our many FTD and Teleflora bouquets and centerpieces for your Halloween parties or get-togethers. Just click on "Floral Arrangements" on the left side of our home page for links to the FTD or Teleflora web sites or talk to one of our designers, Kathy, Jennifer, Sue, Joe or Kristin at 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE'

October is one of the busiest months of the year for our design crew. Not only are they maintaining our gorgeous autumn displays and prepping for the upcoming holiday season, but October also has three of our busiest floral holidays of the year--Bosses Day, Sweetest Day and Halloween. And each of these holidays continues to gain in popularity and status as the years pass. After all, Halloween is now second only to Christmas for home decorating and friend and family get-togethers. Like Christmas, entire stores revolve around Halloween merchandise, and it's now commonplace to see entire neighborhoods glowing with orange, amber, white and purple holiday lights.

Bosses Day, October 16, is the perfect opportunity to show your boss how much you appreciate them, to thank them or, frankly, maybe just to "kiss some butt." Although Bosses Day is officially Tuesday, October 16, the entire week is celebrated as Bosses Week and it's appropriate to send something any time during the week. Choose from a traditional bouquet or a themed gift basket. Our dependable delivery team will ensure that your order arrives during business hours. See the "Permanent Features" section of this newsletter for detailed delivery information.

Sweetest Day, Saturday, October 20, is another one of our busiest delivery days. Like Valentine's Day, Sweetest Day is a chance to show your loved one how much you care. Select from beautiful vased roses, fall themed bouquets or perhaps a long lasting blooming plant.

For more ideas, check out the FTD and Teleflora web sites by clicking on "Floral Arrangements" on the left side of our home page. Once there, you'll find links to both sites and ordering made easy!

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . that October is the month to plant your spring bulbs for indoor forcing? Enjoy tulips, daffodils, hyacinth and more in the dead of winter and with very little effort. It's all a matter of timing and temperature. All you need are a few favorite bulbs (now available at Klein's or any garden center), a few 6" or larger pots (plastic, ceramic or terra cotta are all fine) and a cool place, 45 degrees or lower, to store the bulbs for a while. The back of your refrigerator, a spare refrigerator or a garage that doesn't freeze all work well. We need to trick the bulbs into thinking that winter has occurred and it's time for spring. When shopping, look for bulbs that are firm and large for best results. Use a soilless mix for good drainage. The recommended planting depths are for forcing only. In the garden, bulbs are planted much deeper. Let's get started!

TULIPS: For forcing, choose tulip varieties that say "good for forcing" or similar on the box or package. These tend to be varieties that remain shorter in pots and, therefore, less floppy indoors. Types to look for include Single Early tulips, Triumph tulips and Greigii tulips. Though any tulip will work, these types offer the most success. They remain short and many are very fragrant. Plant your bulbs snugly into your pots. The pointed tip should be just below the soil surface or even slightly exposed. For best effect, plant around the edge of the pot. By planting with the flat side of the bulb toward the center of the pot, you can usually fit in an extra bulb or two, depending on the pot size you've chosen. Water thoroughly and put in your cool location for 12 weeks. Keep moist during the cooling time, but never soggy. After 12 weeks, place in a bright location and you'll have a gorgeous pot of tulips in about 3 weeks, depending on room temperature. Note that your tulips will have sprouted from 1-4" at 12 weeks and that's OK. Stagger the moving of your pots into their warm location for weeks of continuous bloom.

DAFFODILS: Plant like tulips, but slightly deeper. The bulb tip(s) should be below the soil surface. As with tulips, the bulbs can be planted snugly. There is no flat side to the bulb, but planting around the edge of the pot gives the best effect. Again, choose varieties that remain on the short side to avoid spindly growth. Best choices include the Miniature Trumpet, Tazetta and Cyclamineus types. Look specifically for Tête-à-Tête, Jetfire, Jack Snipe, February Gold, Minnow or Topolino for sure success. Note that daffodil, narcissus and jonquil are all synonymous when shopping for your bulbs. Again, place your well-watered pots in your chosen cool location for 12 weeks. You'll see about 1-2" of growth at that time. Move to a bright location and enjoy blooms in 2-3 weeks. Paperwhites are also a type of narcissus, but do not require a cooling period to bloom. Paperwhites can be planted in soil or in a pebble-filled bowl with just water. Either way they'll bloom in about 4 weeks without any cooling. If using soil, it's a good idea to place your planted paperwhites in a refrigerator for 10 days before forcing. Doing so establishes a sturdy root system and ultimately stockier and healthier plants. Also note that paperwhites are very fragrant and it's a love or hate relationship. Our nonscientific research has shown that only 1/3 of our customers truly like the smell of paperwhites. The vast majority can't tolerate the smell--even to the point of nausea.

HYACINTHS: Another very fragrant choice. Hyacinths should also be planted snugly, with their growing tip just below the soil surface. Water well and keep moist but never soggy. Unlike tulips or daffodils, hyacinths require only a 10 week cooling period at which time sprouts will be about 1-1 1/2" tall. Move to a bright location and blooming will begin in about 2 weeks. Hyacinths can also be grown in hyacinth glasses. Simply place a single bulb in the bowl at the top of the glass. Fill the glass with water until it barely touches the bottom of the bulb. Place in your chosen cool location. Because they take up little space, the refrigerator is best. Add water as needed. After 10 weeks, white roots should have filled the water in the glass. Move to a sunny windowsill and enjoy the fragrant blooms in a few short weeks. Note that the skin on hyacinth bulbs can cause an allergic reaction in some people. If you're prone to any sort of plant dermatitis, it's best to wear gloves when handling hyacinth bulbs.

Other bulbs that can be forced include crocus, grape hyacinths (muscari) and Dutch iris. For details on amaryllis bulbs, refer to the "Plant of the Month" section of this newsletter.

A few more tips--

- Pre chilled bulbs, especially hyacinths, are available. Because they are pre chilled, they require no more cooling for flowering to occur. Pre chilled bulbs are difficult to find here in the North, but are readily available in the South where soil temperatures never reach the required temperatures for blooming.
- Once moved to their "bright location," keeping your forced pots somewhat cool will keep them blooming longer and less floppy. If possible, displaying them on a windowsill or as near a window as possible is best. The cold glass during the winter months will keep your forced bulbs adequately cool.
- Do not store apples in the same refrigerator as your forced bulbs. Apples produce a gas which promotes ripening. In bulbs this produces foliage, but no blooms.
- Stagger your blooming by keeping some of your forced bulbs in your cool location for several weeks longer. Move only a few at a time to your bright, warm location. You can enjoy indoor blooms from January through April!
- You can plant different bulbs together in a single, forced bulb garden, but note that the different bulbs will bloom at different times--oftentimes with great affect. Cool a minimum of 12 weeks.
- After blooming, simply toss your forced bulbs. A lot of energy was used for the forcing process and the bulbs will seldom rebloom in the garden. The best success occurs with daffodils. Allow the foliage to yellow and store the bulbs in a cool location. Come spring, place in the garden with limited success.

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

You've asked us for some pumpkin recipes. Apparently 2007 has given us a bumper crop, so supply and prices should be good. If pumpkins are unavailable, butternut squash and sometimes sweet potatoes work equally well in recipes. The following are a few of Klein's favorites.

PENNE WITH PUMPKIN SAUCE--"Tasty, unique and flavorful" say the reviews of this easy sauce. Originally printed in the Willie St.

Co-op newsletter in October 2001.

- 1 very large onion, finely chopped
- 2 sweet red peppers, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 TBS. butter
- 1 cup canned, solid pack pumpkin
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup water
- 4 TBS. heavy cream
- Nutmeg to taste
- 1 lb. penne
- 1/3 cup fresh parsley
- Parmesan

In a large skillet, cook the onion, pepper and garlic in butter over medium heat, stirring, until the veggies are softened. Stir in the pumpkin, broth, water, cream and nutmeg. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Simmer, stirring occasionally, for 15-20 minutes.

Meanwhile, cook the pasta until al dente. Ladle out and reserve 1 cup of the cooking water. Drain the pasta and add to the cooked sauce. Cook over medium heat, stirring and thinning as desired with the reserved cooking water for 1-2 minutes until all is well coated. Stir in the parsley. Serve with parmesan. Serves 4.

PUMPKIN BLACK BEAN SOUP--From the April 2006 issue of Cooking Light magazine.

- 1 1/2 cups diced tomatoes, drained
- 2 x 15 oz. cans black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 tsp. olive oil
- Cooking Spray
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 2 TBS. sherry vinegar

1/2 tsp pepper
1 x 15 oz. can solid pack pumpkin
2 TBS. dry sherry
1 cup crumbled queso fresco (a Mexican cheese sold like feta)
1/2 cup chopped green onion
Pumpkin seed kernels (optional)

Place tomatoes and beans in a food processor and process until about half the beans are smooth. Set aside. Heat the oil in a Dutch oven coated with cooking spray on medium high. Sauté the onion until lightly browned. Add the cumin and the garlic and cook 1 minute. Add the processed beans, broth, vinegar, pepper and pumpkin. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes. Stir in the sherry. Serve, sprinkled with a few TBS. cheese, green onions and pumpkin seed kernels. Serves 6.

ICE CREAM PUMPKIN PIE--The kids LOVE this one! Very easy. The texture is light and creamy. Originally a 1967 prize winner from the Wisconsin State Journal. Make a graham cracker crust for a 10" pie plate, adding 1 tsp. cinnamon to your basic graham cracker crust recipe.

1 cup canned pumpkin
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. ground ginger
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 qt. softened vanilla ice cream
Walnut halves

Mix together pumpkin, sugar, salt, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg. Fold in the ice cream and pour into the unbaked crust in the 10" pie plate. Place the nut halves on top. Freeze until ready to serve. Allow to thaw a few minutes before slicing.

PUMPKIN CHOCOLATE CHIP MUFFINS--Another kids favorite from the October 2006 edition of the Willie St. Co-op newsletter.

2 eggs
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 x 15. oz can pumpkin
1/2 cup canola oil
3/4 cup white flour
3/4 cup whole wheat flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Prepare a 12 cup muffin tin with cooking spray. Beat eggs in a large bowl, then mix in sugar, pumpkin and oil. In a medium bowl, mix together the flours, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Blend into the egg/pumpkin mixture. Fold in the chocolate chips. Spoon equally into the muffin tin. Bake 20 minutes or until a wooden toothpick comes out clean. Remove the muffins from the tin and cool on a wire rack.

PUMPKIN CORN BREAD--Originally in the September 1998 edition of Country Home magazine.

1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
1 cup yellow corn meal
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. ground cloves
1/2 cup butter, softened
2/3 cup packed brown sugar
4 eggs
1 cup canned pumpkin
1 cup milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease the bottom and sides of a 9x5x3" loaf pan. In a bowl, combine the flour, cornmeal, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt and cloves. Set aside. In a large mixing bowl, with an electric mixer on low, beat the butter 30 seconds. Add the sugar and beat till fluffy. Add the eggs and the pumpkin and beat on low till well combined. Add the dry mix and the milk alternately to the beaten mix and continue beating on low with each addition, until all is well combined. Spoon into the pan. Bake 55-60 minutes until a wooden toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from the pan and cool completely on the wire rack.

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 new product is:

GLASS ART FROM KITRAS INC.--

Arriving in October and just in time for holiday gift-giving, Klein's is happy to introduce a full line of beautiful hand-blown glass from Kitras Inc. Perfect for indoors or out, no two pieces of Kitras glass are alike. All are unique in color and texture. Brightly colored strands of glass radiate through these hanging spheres and garden ornaments. Both young and young at heart will be entranced by their intricate patterns and eye-catching colors. All are hand made in both Canada and the United States.

Among others, we'll be carrying **Olde English Witch Balls**. Apparently, hanging hollow glass spheres in windows has been a means to ward off witches, evil spirits and bad luck in England for hundreds of years. The evildoers intents are captured by the spider web-like threads of colored glass inside the orb, thereby protecting the home's occupants.

Klein's will also be carrying **Birthday Wish Balls**--a perfect gift throughout the year. Colors inside the ball represent the birthstone of any given month. Legend has it that when a birthday wish is made, the colored strands of glass capture the wish and hold it until the wish comes true. Birthday Wish Balls are a very thoughtful and whimsical birthday gift for young and old alike and will be cherished for years to come.

Equally mesmerizing are the **Tree of Enchantment Balls**. "Like trees in a forest" no two Tree of Enchantment Balls are alike. Symbolizing "growth, strength and the cycle of life," there are different enchantment balls to represent each of the four seasons.

Contact Klein's today at 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661 for details on the arrival of this lovely glass art from Kitras Inc. Although Kitras does not have a current web site, their product can be viewed by doing a search of "Kitras Art Glass."

NATURAL NEWS--This column devotes itself to organic techniques, products, pest control, etc.--anything that educates us on the means to protect our environment.

October can be the best time of the year to spruce up turf and lawns and here are a few simple, non-chemical things one can do to thicken grass and rid the lawn of weeds for next season.

Aerate your lawn. Non-motorized means include aerating sandals which are simply strapped to the bottom of your shoes. Then enjoy a good, long walk around the yard. It's great exercise and kind of fun. 2" long metal spikes penetrate the hard sod, bringing air and water deep to the grass' roots and loosening the soil. Aerating also makes all other lawn applications more effective. It's best to aerate after a rain, when the sod is somewhat soft, but not soggy. Aerating sandals are available at the larger garden centers and on-line.

Rake and dethatch before any applications. Raking and dethatching ensures that grass seed and applications reach the soil. Dethatching involves removing the dead grass that has built up over the season. Shred and compost removed material.

Apply a Borax and water solution to control creeping charlie and violets. From the University of Minnesota Extension web site:

"You may have heard about using Borax to control creeping charlie. You have to use Borax very carefully. Boron, the active ingredient in Borax, is an essential nutrient, needed in minute quantities for healthy plant growth. Amounts even slightly over what is needed are toxic to plants. Borax can be used against creeping charlie because the weed is more sensitive to boron than grass is. Small amounts can kill creeping charlie without permanently harming the lawn. (Grass may brown a bit, but it will grow out of it.) The most you should treat your lawn with borax is once for two years. Here's the formula:

Dissolve ten ounces of Twenty Mule Team Borax into four ounces of warm water, then dilute it in 2 1/2 gallons of water. This should be sprayed evenly over 1,000 square feet of lawn, no more, no less."

Apply corn gluten meal to your yard per recommended rates. Corn gluten meal is a byproduct of corn processing. It is a natural fertilizer containing 10% nitrogen. In addition, corn meal gluten is a natural herbicide that prevents normal root development in sprouting seeds, but is relatively ineffective against established perennial weeds. Refer to the University of Minnesota Extension web site for more details at www.extension.umn.edu/yardandgarden/

And lastly and most importantly, densely broadcast sow a grass seed that does well in your area. A sowing of grass seed in an established lawn will thicken grass and prevent weeds from getting a foothold. A fall sowing will be well established before the ground freezes. The cool days and moist conditions are perfect for seed germination and plant growth. In spring, your lawn will be lush and green from the onset.

OCTOBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

AMARYLLIS

October marks the arrival of a holiday favorite. After the poinsettia and the holiday cactus comes the amaryllis in popularity and it's one of the easiest and showiest of the holiday bloomers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOU ASKED . . .

I've read that many garden annuals are very easy to winter over, but I don't have room in my small house. I have some favorite plants that I don't want to lose. Can I take cuttings instead?

Yes, cuttings are a fairly easy way to winter over many garden annuals. Cuttings are taken when one wants to propagate a favorite plant. Reasons for propagating a plant include the desire to have more of that plant or the fear that a certain plant may not be available at garden centers in the future--selection changes constantly. Another reason is, as you've said, lack of space. It's far easier to winter over a small geranium in a 3" pot than the 3' monster you had in the garden this past summer.

The easiest of annuals to propagate by cuttings include: geraniums, impatiens, certain begonias, all coleus, fuchsia, abutilon, salvia, plectranthus, cuphea, browallia, most ivies, Mexican flame vine, passion vine and many others. You will have limited success with the woody annuals including hibiscus, mandevilla, lantana and rosemary, using only the green, soft tips and not the woody parts.

Your greatest success will be to root your cuttings directly into a moist soilless mix, using rooting hormone if desired. Take your cuttings from actively growing, healthy tips, removing lower leaves and any flowers. Take enough cuttings to ensure success. You can always throw some away if you've had too much success. For space reasons, it's easiest to root your cuttings into cell packs and step the best ones into pots later in winter, than to try to root them all directly into pots, which take up more space. Fill your empty cell packs with the soilless mix, water thoroughly, make a hole in each cell with a pen or scissors tip, stick your prepared cutting into the hole-firming the soil around the stems with your finger tips-and water in lightly. Make sure your cuttings are not in standing water. Place your cuttings in bright light, but not in direct sunlight, until they are fully established. A fluorescent shop lamp in your basement or a spare room works well. Use a timer set for 13 hours of light and you're set for the winter. Most cuttings will root faster and more readily with added humidity. Do so by placing your pots or cell packs in a clear plastic bag or by using a humidity dome over your trays of cell packs. Once rooted, remove the plastic bag or dome. This should take 2-3 weeks for most plants.

Throughout the winter, you'll need to prune and shape your cuttings, even stepping them into larger pots as needed. Some like geraniums, impatiens, begonias and browallia will flower throughout the winter on a bright windowsill. Watch for pests throughout the winter, especially whiteflies, aphids and spider mites. Treat as needed using safer soap or a systemic pesticide applied directly to the soil.

AROUND TOWN

Dane County Farmer's Market

Saturdays, April 21 thru November 3, 6:00-2:00
On the Capitol Square

Olbrich's Garden's

Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Mystical Medicine

September 5 through January 5, 2008
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00
In the Bolz Conservatory

Come learn about the psychoactive properties of plants. Some rainforest plants have special properties useful for zombification, voodoo, hallucinogenic drugs, and shamanic medicine. "Mystical Medicine" will share the findings of famous ethnobotanists who have studied these special properties. Admission to the Conservatory is \$1.

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

Badger Trolley Tours

Sundays, October 7, 14 & 21 • 1, 2 & 3 p.m.

Free, narrated tours aboard the Badger Trolley begin at the Visitor Center. Tours last about 45 minutes. View the prairies and woodlands in beautiful fall color and learn more about the Arboretum's history and purpose.

University of Wisconsin Arboretum
1207 Seminole Highway
Madison, WI 53711
608/263-7888 or www.uwarboretum.org for details

African Violet Show and Sale

Saturday, October 13, 12:00-4:00

Sunday, October 14, 9:00-4:00

African violets will be on display and for sale in the Evjue Commons. The sale will include African violets, Streptocarpus, and other gesneriads. Leaves, starter plants, soil, pots, and handouts with growing tips will also be available. Sponsored by the Wisconsin State Council of African Violets. A portion of the proceeds benefits Olbrich Botanical Gardens. For more information call 608-833-5552.

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

The Wisconsin Gardener

"Celebrate Fall"

Thursday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 3, 10:00 a.m.

on Wisconsin Public Television

Check local listings for the station nearest you.

Host Shelley Ryan celebrates fall with a visit to the La Crosse area for a look at ornamental grasses, perfect plants for the autumn garden. Chef Wave Kasprzak of The Dining Room at 209 Main in Monticello shares favorite fall recipes using onions, leeks and garlic. Learn about viruses and how they can affect garden plants with UW-Extension Plant Pathologist Brian Hudelson. The program also visits some colorful autumn garden displays in Baileys Harbor in Door County, WI.

Herb Fair

Saturday, November 10, 8:30-4:00.

Browse through displays of herbal foods, crafts, and books for sale. Sponsored by the Madison Herb Society. For more information call 608-242-1664.

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

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

**The average first killing frost date for Madison is October 6. Be prepared to cover or move plants indoors at any time. Many of the outlying areas have already had a damaging frost when we had record lows in the upper 20's in mid-September.

_____ Pick up a copy of the 2008 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores.

_____ Visit Olbrich, Rotary or Allen Centennial Gardens and note plants of fall interest for spring planting and best selection.

_____ Dig new beds now! It's easier now than in spring when super-busy.

_____ Take geranium, salvia, impatiens, abutilon cuttings before the first freeze.

_____ Plant spring bulbs now! Plant tulips, daffodils, hyacinths & crocus.

- _____ Plant bulbs for forcing and put in a cool location for 10-12 weeks.
- _____ Plant Christmas amaryllis now for holiday blooms; paperwhites now for Thanksgiving blooms.
- _____ Apply a systemic pesticide to plants to be wintered over indoors.
- _____ Move potted bulbs to be stored like begonias, callas, caladiums and cannas to a garage so they can dry out before storage.
- _____ Dig up and store dahlias, glads, cannas and elephant's ear after tops freeze.
- _____ Continue planting deciduous shrubs and trees until the ground freezes.
- _____ Divide and plant perennials as desired.
- _____ Clean up stalks and leaves of annuals and vegetables, preventing viruses and pests for next year's garden.
- _____ Continue harvesting brussels sprouts, kale, greens and root crops.
- _____ Plant garlic. October is the best time.
- _____ Stop deadheading perennials for winter interest, i.e. sedums, grasses, etc.
- _____ Cut perennials back to 4-6", leaving those for winter interest.
- _____ Collect seeds for next year's garden.
- _____ Plant winter rye as a cover crop for spring tilling.
- _____ Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- _____ Take pictures of your garden for record keeping.
- _____ Mow the lawn at shortest setting for last mowing of the season.
- _____ Visit Klein's---Great selection of mums, kales, cabbages, pansies & more!

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 OCTOBER:

- We've put any leftover perennials to bed for the winter in one of our unheated back greenhouses. It's been a good season...we have very little left to pack away.
- We begin shutting down the back greenhouses. They remain unheated for the winter allowing energy savings and pest control.
- Weatherizing continues. We seal up and insulate unused doors and caulk up air leaks. Water is shut off to the greenhouses not used during the winter.
- Pots, cell packs and trays arrive from our wholesalers in preparation for next spring. Most are stored in the unused greenhouses out back. It's only 3 months till the first of next year's geranium crop arrive (we already have many of next season's tropicals).
- Plants begin arriving for the big Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center in February. Herbs, primrose and cool-loving annuals are arriving en masse.
- Cyclamen and azaleas continue to arrive for winter sales.
- We send out our mailings to local churches regarding poinsettia and blooming plant information for the upcoming holidays. We are proud to say that hundreds of area churches and businesses are decked out with Klein's HOMEGROWN poinsettias during the holiday season.
- By month's end the poinsettias begin to change color. Looking across the greenhouses, one begins to see hints of red, pink and white. We've moved many of our poinsettias into our retail area from the back greenhouses before cold weather sets in.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE OF THE MONTH--MARK ANDERSON

It was February, 2006 when Mark Anderson and his wife, Carmen, hesitantly approached the Klein's booth at the annual Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center. Their agenda was blatantly different than the majority of the visitors to our busy booth. Most came by merely to check out our lovely primrose and rosemary. Not the Andersons. After multi-visits, it was Carmen who made that bold first move...she asked for a job application for her plant obsessed husband. It's that obsession that makes for the perfect victim when hiring at a garden center...they'll do anything for that employee discount. We've got them FOREVER! (Wicked Laugh)

Nearly two years later, the obsession worsens and yes, Mark does talk about working at Klein's forever. In addition to working seasonally at Klein's, Mark has worked for 25 years at the Walgreen's Distribution Center in Windsor, where he accounts for and documents returned medications from the retail outlets.

Mark says that his love of gardening stems from his mother, who had a gorgeous rose garden as he was growing up here on Madison's east side. Even with his many green thumbs, he says he has not had the success with roses that his mother had. During his high school years at LaFollette, Mark did some volunteer work with the Department of Natural Resources. His interest in nature continued to blossom through his work in forests and area trout streams. In fact, Mark toyed with a career in forest management during a brief stint at Madison Area Technical College.

Mark says his love of nature evolved into a passion for gardening after being diagnosed with a hereditary back problem in the spring of 1998. He says he knew he had an interest in gardening immediately after he and Carmen bought their lovely DeForest home in the early 90's. Until his diagnosis, however, Mark's passion had been directed toward competing in marathons and triathlons. His new limitations redirected his energy.

We now flip the page to today and witness the redirection of that energy and the evolution of passion into obsession. After much labor, Mark and Carmen's garden is an ongoing masterpiece of design and color. Their garden incorporates elements of all facets of design, using height, texture, light and motion. Mark's gardens sprawl and fill most niches of their rather large lot, giving the feeling of walking from room to room, each room having a different theme. Themes include an Italian garden, an Asian garden, a tropical garden, a shade garden and various seating areas throughout the yard. Mark is especially proud of his water features, including a pond that has taken four years to achieve perfection.

Mark and Carmen are members of the Windsor Area Garden Club, whose main event is a garden tour held each July throughout the Windsor and DeForest area. This is the perfect opportunity for everyone to view their sanctuary. Mark also works at Klein's, of course, primarily in the springtime. After a full day at Walgreens, Mark still finds the energy to put in a few hours transplanting, restocking and helping customers. Mark thrives on increasing his plant knowledge, seeing all that is new at the garden center and partaking in that dangerous employee discount, a means by which Mark's obsession is fed.

THE CRITIC'S CORNER BY RICK HALBACH--Recommended readings and other media for the garden novice or enthusiast.

MADISON MAGAZINE'S "GREEN ISSUE" (September 2007), a publication of Madison Magazine, Inc. and affiliated with WISC-TV3

Seldom have I heard such buzz about a local publication as the September issue of Madison Magazine and its "green issue." Both customers and employees at Klein's have made reference to this thoroughly thought out and well executed issue during the past month. To me it seems, therefore, that every Madison household should have a copy on-hand for quick and easy reference. My copy has been at hand since it appeared in my mailbox nearly two months ago.

"Going green" at home and work is a hot topic everywhere in the country. Everything about going green ultimately comes down to protecting our environment in one way or another, be it by reducing fossil fuel emissions, protecting our lakes, lessening our dependence on far away sources for food and hard goods or simply looking out for the future of our children and grandchildren. Much hinges upon the decisions we make today. It's a slow process to change governments and the status quo, but the things we can do at home are immediate. Keep in mind that a whole is the sum of its parts and it's all the small things we can do now that may ultimately change the future.

We in the Madison area are lucky to live in an area that prides itself in being at the forefront of all that is green. We rank among the top in the country in community supported agriculture, bikers, parkland, green buildings, recycling, education, etc. The trickle that started here and a few other cities around the country is turning into a flood of public awareness, involvement, outcry and change. The more we talk about being green, the more it enters our psyche and our day to day lives. Being green becomes natural to us.

What was especially wonderful about the Madison Magazine Green Issue was its broad scope. It was able to touch on what we eat, what we read, what we wear, how we garden, how we entertain ourselves, how we work and much, much more. Normally I find Madison Magazine a bit too upscale for the average Dane county resident. But this issue had something for everybody, especially an A to Z list of things each of us

can do day to day, ideas to make your home more environmentally friendly and tons of resource information from web sites to places we can take things to be fixed, rather than disposing of them in the landfill. I have a feeling this issue of Madison Magazine will be lying around amongst my reading material for some time to come and will be referenced often when writing the Klein's newsletters in the future.

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.

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 UW Athletics with advertising and coupons in the 2008 edition of the Bucky Book.

DELIVERY INFO

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses delivers daily, except Sundays, throughout all of Madison and much of Dane County including: Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, 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. We offer free delivery to all Madison hospitals and funeral homes.

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if requested: 53703, 53704, 53713, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, 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, 53717, 53719, 53726, Middleton, Oregon, Shorewood Hills and Verona. During holidays (Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc.) we are able to make morning deliveries to all of the above areas. We are not able to take closely timed deliveries on any holiday due to the sheer volume of such requests. It's best to give us a range of time and we'll try our absolute hardest. Orders for same day delivery must be placed by 12:30 p.m. or by 2:30 p.m. for Madison zip codes 53704 and 53714.

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

Floral Department Manager

Kathy Lehman

(kathy@kleinsfloral.com)

Head Grower & Horticulturist

Jamie VandenWymelenberg

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Assistant Grower

Craig Johnson

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/entodiag.html

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

Herbicides and Pesticides
www.extoxnet.orst.edu

Invasive Species
www.invasive.org

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)
www.madison.com/communities/mamga

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Program
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.htm

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/