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Peanuts In Time For Baseball Season

By Melanie Potter

Did you know that April is the start of the major league baseball season? Are you surprised that I knew that? I only mention it because the nursery has peanut plants, a perfect companion to baseball after hotdogs, and beer! What a better way to wait for the season than to grow something you can enjoy during the season.

Virginia Peanuts are already growing in their containers at the nursery; I spotted one that had made its way from below the soil so already they are off like gangbusters. Peanuts are not nuts but are part of the legume family, like peas and beans. Peanuts are also tropical natives and like the warmth. Plant after the threat of frost has passed, and plant in the sunshine, in soil that is loose, well-drained, and rich in organic matter. A sandy-loamy soil is best.

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The Meaning Of Flowers Helps You Shop Smart On Valentine's Day

By Melanie Potter



This article should give you ample time to pull a Valentine's Day plan together. You still have time to order flowers from the florist and make dinner reservations. If you want to think outside of the box and opt for something more original, you can still say it with roses or flowers—and plant them together! Awwwww!

Tulips

For your Valentine, if he or she isn't a fan of roses. A perfectly scarlet tulip represents "perfect love," according to a Turkish legend. Tulips can also help if you're in the doghouse; smooth things over with yellow tulips (cheerful thoughts) and encourage forgiveness with white tulips.

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What's New? Proven Winners Has Some "Don't Miss Plants" For You

By Melanie Potter

Do you remember in past container articles, we've discussed using Thrillers, Spillers, and Fillers; the components that add excitement to a container garden? Well, here are a couple of thrillers for you.

From Proven Winners comes **Mulla Mulla 'Platinum Wallaby'** and **Leucanthemum 'Daisy May'**.

Mulla Mulla 'Platinum Wallaby' is a perennial that blooms with pink flowers



Mulla Mulla 'Platinum Wallaby' by Proven Winners

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The Meaning Of Flowers continued from p1



Iris 'Clarence'

Orchids

A safe choice for any Valentine, male or female. Potted orchid plants are more often given to men, while orchid bouquets are more frequently given to women. Orchids in particular are delicate and graceful, representing love, luxury, beauty and strength.

Sunflowers

The yellow petals and open face of this big bright flower symbolizes the sun itself. An entire bouquet conveys warmth, happiness, adoration, and lasting love. These are a nice choice if your sweetie is an outdoorsy, or back-to-nature type.

Lucky Bamboo Plant

Another good choice for male or female recipients. Give a symbol of "being lucky" on the special occasion of Valentine's Day.

Gardenias

Loaded with fragrance, these elegant flowers signify purity and joy, and connote deep, old-fashioned love. Buy a grafted variety such as Mystery, Veitchii, First Love, or August Beauty.

Gerbera Daisies

Daisies typically look innocent and fun, but a red one is a sweet and unexpected choice to express love.

Grab a few and say "I admire you," "thank you," "I love you," and "you make me happy" all at once.

Lilies

Give lilies to let her know she's a classy lady. Don't offer white lilies by themselves because they might remind her of Easter, or death. Pink lilies can look especially romantic. Lilies affectionately depict "refined beauty."

Irises

Irises convey that you can't say enough good things about her. Purple irises are often mixed with other flowers in Valentine's Day bouquets. It symbolizes the best compliments. Grow them with roses or wildflowers and you'll have your own cutting garden.

Roses

Red is the classic color and the most popular choice for Valentine's Day. It could be because red roses symbolize love, romance, beauty, and perfection. If the florist is sold out of red roses, you may have to opt for another color or choose a red rose bush from the more than 25 varieties our stores stock. You can't go wrong with 'Lasting Love', 'Always and Forever', or 'In the Mood'.

The Colors

Before making your decision willy nilly, make sure you know what the color of a rose symbolizes.

Pink

Pink roses are the symbol of admiration and gratitude. Those colors may be better suited for mothers and grandmothers.

Lavender

A good choice on this lovely occasion as lavender roses symbolize "enchantment".

Yellow

Symbolizes friendship, meaning your friend, of course. In a romantic context, these can mean, "let's just be friends". My advice before giving yellow roses is to make sure your significant other knows that you are just friends. ●



Cymbidium Orchid

TO DO LIST: February



PRUNING

Prune roses and deciduous fruits and ornamentals before new growth starts. Trim back tropicals like Hibiscus and Bougainvillea after danger of frost passes to clean up any damage received during the winter.

PEST CONTROL

Give last applications of dormant sprays such as Liqui-Cop or Oil Spray before buds start to break on deciduous fruits and ornamentals.

PLANT

Last of the bare-root Roses, Fruits, and Ornamentals should be planted. Citrus can also be planted now. Protect from frost if needed. Plant another crop of leaf lettuce.

LOOK FOR

Camellias and Azaleas. Cool season vegetables. Bulbs, potatoes, and garlic. ●



Pigeon Peas

By Melanie Potter

One 80 degree winter day, I wandered around the nursery wishing I'd worn shorts and thinking about the tropical spell we'd been given by Mother Nature when I spotted some pigeon peas. They made me think of south Florida and the Bahamas because pigeon peas are easy to find there. They are called for in many Caribbean recipes and pigeon peas and rice is on nearly every menu in Bahamian restaurants. Out here they are hard to find either fresh or canned but it turns out, lo and behold, you can grow them in San Diego!

Cultivated for 3,000 years, there are hundreds of cultivars, many suited to different growing conditions. India grows about 80 percent of the world's harvest and the peas are added to lentils to make dal, the commonly found dish in India. The plants are versatile and satisfy many purposes in poorer countries. Woody stems can be used as firewood and building materials and the plants themselves can serve as a wind break or cover crop. As a food source, they are high in protein which makes them an affordable and nutritious dish. They also provide food for animals and for human consumption; can be eaten fresh, dried, or ground into flour. They are forgiving of poor soils, and drought tolerant once established.

These plants are tropical and sub tropical so plant after threat of frost. They will also grow tall, reaching up to 7 feet. Besides being delicious, pigeon peas have more benefits. The plants improve soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen and they have a very deep tap root that is able to break through hard soils and improve the soil structure. Plants also bring nutrients from the subsoil to the surface.

Believed to have originated in India, the plant is short lived; about five years. Bushes flower with yellow or yellow and red blooms. The plants are day length sensitive and will flower sooner when the days are short. The fruits are pods, containing four to five seeds. The seeds can be cream,



grey, purple or black, depending on the variety. For the first three months after germination, growth is slow, but then becomes fast. Plants can start to bloom after two months, but may take longer depending on the cultivar. Peas can be eaten fresh or dried.

Need further enticement? I scoured my cookbooks and found a recipe, from 'Gourmet Bahamian Cooking' using these fabulous peas. Bon appétit! •

Peas & Rice

1/4 lb. salt pork, chopped fine (or fat cut from a baked ham, or bacon drippings)

1 onion chopped

**1 cup canned tomatoes or
2 tbsp. tomato paste**

Salt, pepper and thyme to taste

1 cup pigeon peas (most likely canned, or you can substitute blackeye peas)

3 cups water

2 cups rice

Fry salt pork to get the fat. Add onion, tomato, salt, pepper and thyme to the fat. Stir together and continue cooking. Add peas and 3 cups water. Let come to a boil and stir in rice. Cover and cook until rice is tender and water absorbed. Add another cup of water and cover, to swell the rice. Add more water if needed. Yield: 6-8 servings.

What's New?

continued from p1



on silver foliage in an upright torch-like habit. Taking full sun, it is easy to care for. It is heat and drought tolerant and requires no deadheading. You'll be rewarded with blooms until cooler, frosty weather sets in, yet it's hardy to 20 degrees F. Provide average water and you'll have a great addition to containers or the landscape.



Leucanthemum 'Daisy May' by Proven Winners

Leucanthemum 'Daisy May'. Though it may look like a typical daisy at first, look again at the large, snow white flowers which blanket the plant and all the buds along each stem. Because of better branching and many side buds, this daisy blooms much longer than typical daisies do, often all summer long if deadheaded. This pretty face attracts butterflies. It's also perennial, 12-24 inches tall. Plant in sun and provide average water.

Need a refresher on thrillers, spillers, and fillers? Thrillers are the centerpiece of a container garden, usually something tall. It's the showstopper. Spillers will grow over their container to provide a cascading effect. They provide some drama to that thriller center of attention, and fillers are the smaller plants that you use to tuck into bare spaces. •

Thanks Australia For So Much!

By Melanie Potter



'Little River Wattle' *Acacia cognata*

From Australia comes some pretty cool stuff like the accent, being able to throw shrimp on the barbie, Fosters beer, Crocodile Dundee, and being able to toss out a "g'day mate" and always nailing it. Australian native plants are also a hit and we've got two that are hard working, enduring, and endearing.

The **Hairy Wattle**, or **Acacia vestita** can grow to 9' tall and 15' wide which makes it a good hedge or windbreak. Its habit is graceful and weeping with foliage that is downy soft, triangular shaped and a grayish green color. Yellow, puff ball-like flowers bloom in spring.

After the Hairy Wattle flowers, prune to maintain the plant's good health.

Plant in full sun, well-draining soil and provide regular water until it becomes established, after which it will be

drought tolerant. It's hardy to 20-25 degrees F. and is deer tolerant.

My favorite character on the classic comedy show, "The Addams Family" was Cousin Itt, mainly because of his hair, so it would be hard not to be drawn to **Acacia cognata 'Cousin Itt'**, its namesake. Also called **Bower Wattle** or **Little River Wattle**, it's a mini cognata that grows quickly to 2-3' tall. Mini cog is a dwarf version of *Acacia cognata* which can grow to 20' tall so its small size has increased the popularity of this acacia.

This is a newish plant that was introduced in 2010. Foliage is brilliant emerald green, long, narrow, and grass-like. It can be planted in mass or along a border, even in containers. It will require the same planting regimen as the Hairy Wattle and also is deer resistant.

Editor's Note: *Cousin Itt* is available in 7 gallon containers; 5 gallon containers are expected in March. •



'Hairy Wattle' *Acacia vestita*

Limited Supply of Jackson & Perkins Favorite Roses Available Now

When one of our top rose suppliers underwent bankruptcy, many favorite roses became scarce. In fact it's been years since we've seen Diana, Princess of Wales, Disneyland, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Black Cherry, and Enchanted Evening. Now, we're tickled to see them coming back to the market, but it is in very limited supply. Both of our stores will have 10 of each variety. They are priced at \$39.99 and limited to one per person. •

Peanuts

continued from p1



If you are cursed with clay soil, double-dig and add gypsum and aged compost.

When the plants are about 1 foot tall, hill the earth around the base of each plant. Long, pointed pegs (also called peduncles) grow from faded flowers and then push one to three inches down into the soil beside the plant. A peanut will form on the end of each peg. Spread a light mulch to prevent the soil surface from crusting so that the pegs will have no difficulty penetrating the soil.

One inch of water a week is plenty for peanuts. Being legumes, peanuts supply their own nitrogen, so, avoid nitrogen-rich fertilizers which encourage foliage rather than fruits. Well-prepared soil will provide all the nutrients the plants need.

Harvest when leaves turn yellow and the peanuts' inner shell has gold-marked veins. You can check periodically by pulling out a few nuts from the soil and shelling them. If you wait too long, the pegs will become brittle and the pods will break off in the ground thus making harvesting more difficult. Pull or dig the plants and roots when the soil is moist. Shake off the excess soil, and let plants dry in an airy place until the leaves become crumbly; then remove the pods. Unshelled peanuts, stored in airtight containers, can keep for up to a year. •

The Brown Pelican

By Old Ben



The Brown Pelican is an elegant bird with an oversized bill, sinuous neck, and big, dark body. They glide above the surf along southern and western coasts. They feed by plunge-diving from high above the water, using the force of impact to stun small fish before scooping them up in their bill. They are fairly common today, which is a great example of species recovery from pesticide pollution.

Habitat

Brown Pelicans live year round in estuaries and coastal marine habitats along both east and west coasts. They breed between Maryland and Venezuela and between southern California and southern Ecuador. When not feeding or nesting, they rest on sandbars, pilings, jetties, breakwaters and offshore rocks.

Food

Brown Pelicans primarily eat small fish that form schools near the surface of the water. These fish include mullet, anchovies, and herring. A foraging pelican spots a fish from the air and dives head first from as high 65 feet over the ocean. As it plunges into the water, its throat pouch expands to trap the fish, filling up with 2.5 gallons of water. Pelicans usually feed above estuaries and shallow ocean waters, within 12 miles of shore. Pelicans sometimes venture over the deeper waters past the narrow continental shelf of the

Pacific coast. They occasionally feed by sitting on the surface and seizing prey with their bills. They also steal food from other seabirds, scavenge dead animals, and eat invertebrates like shrimp.

Nesting

Ground nests range from depressions lined with grass, to bulky structures of sticks, grass, and seaweed, while tree nests are usually well built platforms of sticks lined with grass or leaves. The female builds the nest in seven to 10 days as the male gathers progressively smaller sticks for her. She pushes the sticks together with her bill and then forms a nest cup by pressing with her feet and body. The male brings new materials for the female to add throughout incubation, and he may rearrange the nest. Nests measure up to 30 inches wide and nine inches high.

Brown Pelican Facts

While the Brown Pelican is draining water from its bill after a dive, gulls often try to steal the fish from out of its pouch. Pelicans incubate their eggs with the skin of their feet, basically standing on the eggs to keep them warm. The oldest Brown Pelican on record was 43 years old. •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid February 1-28, 2015

Attracts Goldfinches

25lb. Nyjer Seed

\$29.97 Reg. \$46.99

A Great Seed Mix at a Great Price

20lb. Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

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The Easiest Way to Feed Wild Birds

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Won't Wear Out Like Finch Socks

Nyjer Mesh Feeder

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Wild Birds Love These Tasty Treats

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Extra Nutrition

Beet Red

Hummingbird Food

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Now Is the Time to Put Out Nesting Material

Alpaca Nesting Ball

\$9.97 Reg. \$19.99

Kapok Hummingbird Nesting Refill

\$2.97 Reg. \$5.99

Bring Color into Your Garden

50s Fashion Feeder

\$19.97 Reg. \$34.99

All specials limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.

Garden Classes

FEBRUARY

Saturday classes are **FREE** and last about an hour. Complimentary coffee is served. During inclement weather, classes are held indoors in San Diego and on the covered, heated patio in Poway. Topics are subject to change. See the full schedule at www.walterandersen.com/calendar/.

SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM**2/7**

Cymbidium Orchid
Care & Culture

2/14

Citrus & Avocados
for Home Gardens

2/21

Spring Color Is Coming

2/28

Spring Bulbs!

POWAY | 9:30AM**2/7**

Succulent Pots with Carol Fuller

2/14

Staghorn Ferns: Remounting &
Care with David Ross

2/21

Fertilizers & Amendments:
Veggie Gardens w/Richard Wright

2/28

Culinary Herbs with Roy Wilburn
from Sunshine Care

In-Store Coupons

Print or show coupons on your phone at check out!

Valid Jan. 31 - Mar. 1, 2015

15% OFF
Dr. Earth
Vegetable
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*Limited to stock on hand. Cannot be
combined with any other discount
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Buy a 12, 25 or
50# Bag of
Dr. Earth Fertilizer
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30% OFF
A Second Bag of
Equal or Lesser Size

Limit 2 @30% OFF #125496

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\$2.49
Each with Coupon

Limit 16 #125519

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15% OFF
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of Fox Farm Soil

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