



Welcome:

During my weekly trips to the flower market, I'm reminded why I love this time of year: the variety and abundance of flowers is unmatched. Since I'm a flower lover (and I know that all of you are too), I want them all! That said, for Mother's Day you can expect a lovely selection of blooms. One of those, of course, will be peonies, our flower of the month. So, be sure to mark your calendar for May 10th - Mother's Day. I'm sure Mom would love a peony or two.

Best wishes,

Anne



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Hydrangea Bleu

Floral & Gift Ideas as fresh as our Flowers!

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

MAY, 2009

Flower of the Month: "Romantic Peony"



Peony plants bear an attractive, glossy green foliage that reaches 2'-3' in height with a similar spread. But their popularity is due mainly to their flowers. The most striking peony flowers are the highly fragrant, massive doubles, usually pink, red, coral, fuchsia, purple, ivory or white. Other colors and flower types do exist, however. There's even a hybrid with yellow flowers. Peony plants bloom in late spring or early summer.

The peony plants are indigenous to China, Europe and the Western

U.S.

Many people cultivate peonies for the purpose of having cut flowers, as the blooms can look quite beautiful in vases. But be warned that the petals tend to drop off quickly, so cut peonies



right before you intend to use them in floral arrangements to be sure that the flowers remain fresh, crisp, and beautiful.

Gardeners: If you need to transplant a peony for any reason, wait for the plant to go dormant, and avoid planting a peony where

one has been planted before, to reduce the risk of passing on any peony diseases.

Bringing together flowers in unusual combinations is a signature design element peony flowers present and can be use to create a dramatic statement for your special event.



Know someone who is getting married? Have them check out our Wedding Gallery: www.hydrangeableu.com/wedding

How To: Questions from our Readers!

Q) I love the look of fresh flowers and would like to have arrangements throughout my house, but can't afford them. How can I have fresh flowers without spending a lot of money?

Des
A.) We are always concerned about getting the most value for our money and these days that is especially the case. I like to think that flowers can be an affordable luxury that you can enjoy in your home with frequency. The key is to keep it simple. And the best way to do that is to buy multiple stems of the same flower and arrange them yourself. Ten stems of snapdragons combined in a vase will give

great impact. Also, place your flowers in the rooms that you use. A centerpiece on the dining room table is lovely, but if you don't spend time there you won't see it. Better to buy a few stems of hydrangea and put each stem in a separate vase and then place the vases in rooms where you spend time. Another option is to purchase flowers with extended vase life. Lilies, for example, can last well beyond a week in the home, with each bloom lasting 3 to 5 days. Dendrobium orchids are another long lasting flower and look good massed together or alone in a bud vase.

Q) How much should you spend

for a floral arrangement you're sending to a friend, and not look like a cheap skate?

Carol
A) I am asked this question frequently and the best answer is it depends. Now I know that that is an unsatisfying answer, so let me propose a different approach. Spend a little time playing detective and find out what she really loves. I would also send flowers when it's unexpected. The "I was just thinking about you" bouquet is often times the most remembered. So, don't stress about the amount you are spending, she'll love that you took time out your day to think about her and what she likes.



Mother's Day Special:

Order your Mother's Day flowers now and get a one year subscription to "Flower" magazine for just \$8.00 – 60% off news stand. You can check out the magazine at www.flowermag.com

CODE: M9AYN

Expiration Date: 5/8/09



TIPS & TRICKS WITH PEONY!

1. Vase life is generally 5 to 7 days.
2. Strip the leaves from the stems - your peonies will last longer.
3. Petals should be kept dry as they are prone to mold.
4. Peonies are wilt sensitive, so avoid prolonged periods out of water.

(949) 454-9041

Hydrangea Bleu Fine Flowers

Eco: Mother's Day Gift!

Looking for a great gift for Mother's Day, but working with a tight budget? Or, looking for a gift the kids can create?

Well, here's a gift that will remind her of you every time she looks or cooks the rest of the year.

Natural Canvas Bags Coffee Cans
1 Package each of Sunflowers, Cosmos, Nasturtium seeds

Punch holes in the coffee cans for drainage and fill cans 3/4 full with potting soil.

Line the canvas bags with

cellophane to protect the bags from moisture.

bons and a pretty tag identifying the plant.

Seeds will germinate as follows: Sunflowers, 10-14 days; Cosmos, 5-10 days; Nasturtium, 10 days. Flowers will bloom with the coming of summer.

In lieu of flower seeds, plant fresh basil, parsley, and cilantro. Seeds will germinate in about 5-10 days and fresh leaves should be visible in about 6 weeks.

Mom can reuse the canvas bags for shopping or as a tote for CDs, sunglasses, MP3 players, or books and make a great alternative to plastic bags.

cilantro



parsley



basil



Plant the seeds in the cans and water.

Place the cans in the canvas bags and decorate with rib-

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