



**Virginia Green Industry Council**

For Immediate Use

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Electronic Version:

[www.viriniagreen.org](http://www.viriniagreen.org)

## **Blooming Potted Plants – The Gift of Love**

What gift best says, “I love you”? What gift makes a woman feel most special for receiving it? What is the most convenient gift to give? Blooming potted plants, says Lin Diacont, President of the Virginia Green Council. Both men and women say that they consider flowers and blooming plants as one of their favorite gifts to receive.

Some people appreciate certain species of blooming plants more than other species. Some people prefer blooming plants they can nurture even after the blooms fade. Others prefer enjoying the plants when in bloom then discarding the plant afterwards. For those who want to keep the plants, the following varieties are ideal: African violets, azaleas, begonias, lilies, geraniums, hydrangea, orchids, mums, primroses and miniature roses.

Blooming potted plants are easy to care for while in bloom. Before buying the plants, be sure they are in good condition. Improperly cared for plants can have yellowing leaves; the soil may not smell fresh; and the leaves and stems can appear droopy. For most plants, at least half the blooms should be fully opened. The one exception is spring bulbs. Before leaving the store, be sure the plants are wrapped in either plastic or paper to protect them from low temperature and drafts. Avoid leaving them in the car to prevent them from becoming cooked in summer or frozen in winter.

Once you get the blooming potted plant home, place it where it can best be seen and enjoyed, but out of drafts and away from high temperatures and the scorching sun. Check to see if the soil is dry. If so, water only the soil, not the leaves and flowers. Discard excess water that was sitting in the saucer. Plants grown in a peat moss mixture can be re-moisten by putting the plant in a basin of water and leaving it for about 20 minutes to fully absorb sufficient water. There is no need to fertilize or mist the plants. Plants should be kept away from heating vents and sunny windows during the day. Remove dying leaves and flowers. Pruning on a frequent basis can promote a longer blooming period.

Go to our consumer website for additional gardening information at [www.VirginiaGardening.com](http://www.VirginiaGardening.com)

The Virginia Green Industry Council is the voice of the horticulture industry in the Commonwealth and is dedicated to enhancing the beauty of the state’s environment, the well-being of our citizens, improving our state’s economy, and improving the health and wellness for everyone in Virginia. The Council is made up of providers and consumers of horticultural products and services. The Council works to provide public and industry education, environmental guidelines and other information that will keep Virginia green and growing. For more information, visit [www.viriniagreen.org](http://www.viriniagreen.org). 540-382-0943 FAX: 540-382-2716

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