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January 2024

HELLO Marie

If you are a new subscriber, we welcome you! If you missed past editions, scroll down to the bottom of this newsletter for the link to access the newsletter archive page!



AgBud...New Series of Resources!

Exciting news! Our brand new Agbud series of horticulture highlights has just been released. You now have access to a range of informative infographics covering a variety of popular flowers, including sunflower, poinsettia, rose, daffodil, dahlia, and peony.

The best part? You can easily download and print these posters in 17x22 format. Plus, we've also included crossword puzzles and keys to help you expand your classroom toolbox.

AgBud
A series of horticulture articles

Did you know?
Mistletoe, Poinsettias are not poisonous. However, their mistletoe may cause irritation in humans and pets.

Overview

- The colorful part of the plant isn't a flower but the modified leaves (bracts). The flowers (which are the small yellow parts clustered in the center of the bracts).
- They are the #1 selling potted plant in America.
- They are not always red in color. There are more than 100 varieties.
- Developed in the 1800s, temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees and lightness temperatures near 55 degrees.

Production

Many growers purchase rooted cuttings instead of propagating their own.

Grown commercially in all 50 states, Virginia is the top.

In 2021 over 42 million Poinsettias were sold at over \$250 million in sales.

Poinsettia
Kingdom: Plantae
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Genus: Euphorbia
Species: E. pulcherrima

History

- Just before Poinsett, a botanist who is credited to be the father of the Poinsettia industry, discovered these in the United States in the 1800s. He was visiting the Mexican mines in the town of Cheltenham, South Carolina.
- Poinsettias are native to Mexico and were used to make red dye by ancient Aztecs. They were also used to make the traditional Mexican Christmas plant.
- It was introduced to California in the early 1900s by the Edie family, but they were named after their greenhouse.
- They were later introduced to Mexico and can grow up to 75 feet in the wild.

Parts of the Flower

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Poinsettia

-8.5x11

-17"x22" Poster

-Crossword puzzle, Key

AgBud
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Did you know?
The flowers are composed of three long and the hairy ray that the seeds produce for why are their nature?

Overview

- A peony root is herbaceous and has a thick main root with pinkish-white color shoot buds on the top.
- They are perennial that grow best in full sun and well-drained soil.
- A frequent flower that grows for cut flower use.
- Typically, flower colors include shades of white, purple, pink and red.

Production

They seldom are grown from seeds because they take about three years to germinate.

Peony blooms only last seven to ten days. The common garden peony is the type found in most home gardens.

There are over 8,000 named cultivars recognized by The American Peony Society.

Peony
Kingdom: Plantae
Family: Paeoniaceae
Genus: Paeonia
Species: Approx. 48 recognized species

History

- Native to Asia, Europe and North America.
- They are named after Paeon, who was a student of the Greek god of medicine and healing.
- They are considered the traditional flower for 20th wedding anniversary.
- The earliest garden peony was introduced in North America in the 1800s.

Peony Anatomy

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Peony

-8.5x11

-17"x22" Poster

-Crossword puzzle, Key

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Local to Virginia or West Virginia? Looking for a great in-person program to take students to?

Sign up for our annual Farm Management Institute! Dr. Kohl will cover a variety of topics! Some of them being geopolitics, global economic status of the economy, and consumer and society trends. We will serve dinner at 5:30 p.m. and Dr. Kohl will begin his program at 6:00 p.m.

[Download Flyer](#)



Register for the Farm Management Institute

West Virginia-Morgantown

Erickson Alumni Center

February 26, 2024

5:30 to 8 p.m.

Virginia-Thaxton

The Peaks Retreat and Adventure Center

February 27, 2024

5:30 to 8 p.m.

Virginia-Verona

LIVESTREAM EVENT

Farm Credit Verona Operations Building

February 27, 2024

5:30 to 8 p.m.



KNOWLEDGE CENTER BLOG

Annuals, Perennials, and Biennials and How to Use Them in the Garden

In a recent blog post, guest blogger Candace DeLong from West Virginia University shares insights on mastering the horticultural lingo required for full comprehension of seed catalogs. One of the best places to start is by understanding the terms annual, biennial, and perennial when it comes to planting your own food.

[Activity](#)

[Crossword Puzzle](#)

[Crossword Puzzle Key](#)

[USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Blog](#)

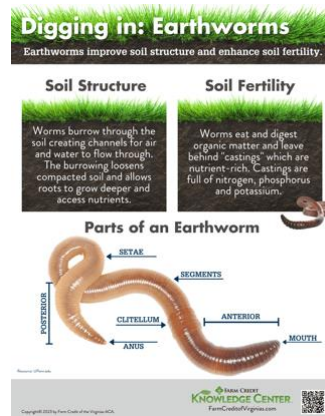


[Read the Blog Article](#)

RESOURCE CONNECTION

Check out our "Digging In: Earthworms" infographic highlighting earthworms' critical role in soil health and fertility. The infographic also breaks down the anatomy of an earthworm.

[Digging in: Earthworms](#) [Infographic 8.5x11](#)



Looking for spring activities?

You may be interested in our "My Little Greenhouse" activity.

[My Little Greenhouse](#) [Activity](#)



my little greenhouse

Activity Instructions

Setting

- Any event with table space and seating area.
- Elementary (K-5) classroom with desk or table space for each student.

Time

- 15-30 minutes for activity only.
- 10-30 minutes if incorporating plant life cycle discussion.

Materials-per participant

- My Little Greenhouse (cutout sheet, printed on cardstock)
- Ziplock bag, sandwich size
- 3 cotton balls
- 3 dried bean seeds (lima and lima work best)
- Plant Life Cycle infographic, found here
- Make available:
 - Scissors
 - Water source (to wet cotton balls)
 - Scotch tape

Procedure

- If possible, one week prior to the event, create an example greenhouse and begin to grow some seeds.
- Send out materials to each participant/teacher.
- Provide simple instructions for cutting out the greenhouse.
- Assign participants/students to:
 - Place 3 cotton balls in the bag.
 - Pour in a small amount of water (only enough for cotton balls to absorb, approx. 1/2 TBSP)
 - Line up the cotton balls side by side at the bottom of the bag.
 - Place the seeds in the bag, one in front of each cotton ball.
 - Seal the bag.
 - Tap the bag to the back of the greenhouse.
 - Instruct participants/teachers to tape their greenhouse to a window and to observe and compare seed growth to the stages of growth stages on their Plant Life Cycle infographic.

Reference and information for discussion

- Knowledge Center Blog - Agriculture and the Plant Life Cycle
- Link: <https://www.farmcreditofvirginia.com/knowledge-center/blog/agriculture-and-plant-life-cycle>

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In case you missed it...

Visit our **Subscriber's Archive** to access past editions and additional resources.

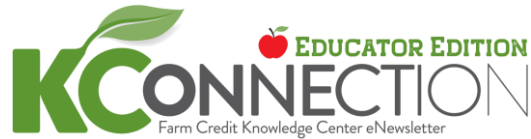
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