

# Valentine's Day Gifts

## Few Things Say "I Love You" So Creatively As A Bouquet Of Flowers

(NAPSA)—It's obvious that Shakespeare was never scrambling to come up with the perfect Valentine's Day bouquet to give his beloved.

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," Shakespeare wrote. That might be true, but what happens if a person can't afford roses no matter what they're called? Or dilly dallies until finding a dozen nice long-stemmed roses is almost as hard as finding a town without a Starbucks? Or wants to tell his sweetheart how truly unique their love is—and the old standards just don't say it in an extraordinary enough way.

Californians pride themselves on being individualistic, creative, diverse and on the forefront. And their flowers are the same way. There is such a huge variety produced year-round in the state and shipped all over the U.S. that people can be very imaginative when they think of Valentine's Day expressions...even without incorporating roses into the mix.

Here are a few tips on using different elements of style to say "I love you" with flowers on the most romantic day of the year.

### Shape

Use shape to get your "heart"-felt message across. You can wire any number of plant materials into a heart as the focal point of the design. Try heather, calceola, leptospermum, melaleuca or mini myrtle. Then fill in the base of the heart with seasonal blooms to complement the colors of the heart-shaped focal point.

### Color

In floral language, red is the



**I LOVE YOU—Few things say "I love you passionately, madly, deeply" so creatively as a bouquet of flowers. The choices are endless and include lilies, roses, tulips and asters in all shapes and colors.**

color that says "I love you passionately, madly, deeply." Maybe that's why red roses cause such an outbreak of the giddies this time of year. Why not create an all-red bouquet without roses that shouts that same delicious message? California growers have an abundance of reds right now, from burgundy and garnet

to candy apple and scarlet. The pretty faces of red anemones would steal anyone's heart, while red spider gerberas let the arrangement take a bit of a walk on the wild side. Want to make a big impression? Combine these with red bouvardia, tulips and asters with accents of willow eucalyptus and coffee berry bean.

### Form

There are even great choices for those who want a really dramatic flair. California is now producing glossy, exotic anthurium in several shades and tones of red and pink. Try a brick-red anthurium and add "Fangio" LA hybrid lilies to complement the anthurium in form and color, then

pepperberries and kangaroo paw for texture. The variegated look of leucadendron "Safari Sunset" or "Jester Safari" will punch up the color palette.

For more tips on beautiful arrangements for Valentine's Day or any other occasion, visit the California Cut Flower Commission online at [www.cffc.org](http://www.cffc.org).