



EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE FOR THE PLANET



February 14 is a day to celebrate your loved ones and show some love for our planet.

Many of the traditional Valentine's gifts such as cards, flowers, and chocolates have negative environmental impacts. Consider alternative ways to make your Valentine's more sustainable:

CARDS. Valentine's cards with glitter, plastic, or metallic elements can not be recycled. Seek cards made from 100% recycled paper or ensure a personalized and heartfelt card by making your own with paper or other recyclable items.

PLANTS OVER FLOWERS. Most valentine's flowers are grown with extensive pesticides, flown in from Ecuador or Colombia, and transported across the U.S. in refrigerated trucks,



which require large amounts of energy. Instead, give a sweetheart hoyo plant (above) or plants like basil or rosemary that smell great and can be used in cooking for months. If you are committed to giving cut flowers, visit our local farmers market at the Ferry Landing on Tuesday afternoons for locally grown flowers.

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE. Most

chocolate is made from cacao beans grown in West Africa that likely involved child labor, pesticides, and deforestation. Make your chocolate sweeter by giving certified Fair Trade chocolate that ensures sustainably farmed cacao.

EXPERIENCES. Celebrate time together with a walk on the beach, kayak on the bay, bike down the strand, or a coffee date. Memories of time enjoyed together will outlast most physical items.

LIMIT UNWANTED GIFTS. Teddy bears are often associated with Valentine's Day, but most adults don't need a new stuffed animal every year. Be sure to skip balloons as they can wreak havoc with wildlife and waterways.

Rethink your Valentine's Day to show your love and keep Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.

For more information visit EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG