

# THE ENIGMATIC YAMS OF MAY

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In May, a palindromist's fancy turns to thoughts of John Pool's old chestnut, "May a banana nab a yam?" Although modern palindromy cannot yet produce a plummy answer to this pithy question, it has raised a bumper crop of nutty queries from the same palindromical rootstock:

May a nut stun a yam?  
 May a tuber rebut a yam?  
 May an olive, Tess, set evil on a yam?  
 May a leek reek e'er keel a yam?  
 May a potato prop a voodoo vapor pot atop a yam?  
 May a vile bigot tomato jot a mot to gibe, Liv, a yam?  
 May an apple (hot to mot to manioc, Otto, not to "coin a motto"!) motto  
 "Help pan a yam"?  
 May, Al, lettuce by no ridicule, no one lucid irony, be cut? Tell a yam!  
 May paprika fax a fakir pap, yam?  
 May a sore mango, Rog, name Ros a "yam"?  
 May a yap a papaya, Papa, pay a yam?  
 Many an okra pod (as, Uri, baby babirusa do) park on a yam?  
 May a nip of sage--veiler, Rod, of odor!--relieve gas, fop, in a yam?  
 May a taro (not an orange!) gnar, O Nat, on or at a yam?  
 May an acrid anana, Nan--an anana nadir!--can a yam?  
 May, Aram, no lemon (and, Edna, no melon!) mar a yam!  
 "...But may an 'evil' shallot, ayatollahs, liven a yam tub?"  
 Yam ad: "May dill a panic in a pallid yam dam? Ay!"  
 "Marc may anise," ill Lill lies, "in a yam cram!"  
 May a sad, raw, rude carrot cad (a bad actor!) race, Durward, as a yam?  
 Yam, may a fig nix a "will I, nill I" waxing, if a yam may?  
 May a nodose pomelo--riled, ay, by a deli role--mope, sod, on a yam?  
 May an odd, ebon tangleberry trample hot, wet, sodden eddo stew to  
 help martyr-rebel "Gnat Nob" Ed, Don--a yam?  
 "May a Diner, a decadent celery taster," raged awesome Mose Wade,  
 garret satyr, "elect Ned--a Cedar, Enid!--a Yam??"  
 May a lime, Emil, stew nine to ten in wet slime, Emil, a yam?  
 "No, slender Em, may no man nicotine veto!" nattered Dan (an adder,  
 Etta!). "Not even I? To cinnamon!" yammered Nelson.  
 "May, ah..." Si dares Roh Tae Woo, "a 'mini-Mao' (ow!) eat horseradish?...  
 A yam?"  
 Kramer, may a maize fan in a fez "I am a yam" remark?  
 Swen, may (sh!) turnips "spin" Ruth's yam news?  
 May, Ed, under a taro sun, a rutabaga in a mania gab at Uranus, or at  
 a red, nude yam?  
 May a salad, Ned, end, alas, a yam?