Floriography
The meaning of flowers

Flowers are a great way to communicate your love and affection. Over the years, flowers developed sentimental meanings that express a special message. Throughout history, including the Victorian Era and many cultures including the Persians have used flowers to send secret messages to others.

Floriography is the forgotten language or secret language of flowers. With it, flowers in a bouquet are like words or phrases in a sentence. Each one can convey a different part of the message or emotion. The next time you give flowers, consider selecting ones that express your feelings.

Birth month flowers
January: Carnation
February: Violet, Iris
March: Daffodil
April: Sweet Pea, daisy, peony
May: Lily of the Valley
June: Rose
July: Larkspur, Delphinium
August: Gladiolus, dahlia
September: Aster
October: Calendula
November: Chrysanthemum
December: Narcissus, poinsettia, holly, or paperwhite

Flower meanings
Amaryllis: Pride
Anemone: Forsaken
Aster: Daintiness, patience
Azalea: Take care of yourself, fragile passion
Baby’s breath: Lasting love
Bachelor button: Single blessedness
Bells-of-Ireland: Good luck
Bittersweet: Truth
Bluebell: Humility
Calendula (marigold): Cruelty, grief, jealousy
Calla: Beauty
Carnation
• Pink: I’ll never forget you
• Purple: Unsure
• Red: My heart aches for you, admiration
• Solid: Yes.
• Striped: No, I cannot be with you
• White: Sweet and lovely, innocence and love
• Yellow: Disdain
Chrysanthemum: Truth, friendship
Clover: Providence
Coreopsis: Always cheerful
Crocus: Cheerfulness
Cyclamen: Resignation and goodbye
Daffodil: Regard, unequaled love, new beginnings
Daisy: Innocence, loyal love, purity
Dandelion: Faithfulness, happiness
Daylily: Coquetry
Daylily (Tiger lily): Wealth, pride
Fern: Secret bond of love
Forget me not: True love, memories

Forsythia: Anticipation

Gardenia: Secret love

Geranium: Stupidity, folly

Gladiolus: Strong character, give me a break, I’m really sincere, you pierce my heart

Gloxinia: Love at first sight

Grass: Submission

Hellebore: Anxiety

Hibiscus: Delicate beauty

Holly: Defense, domestic happiness

Hollyhock: Fertility

Hyacinth: Rashness, play

Hydrangea: Thank you for understanding, heartlessness, and frigidity

Iris: Faith and hope

Ivy: Wedded love, fidelity, friendship, affection

Jonquil: Desire, love me

Larkspur: Playful, frivolous

Lilies: Life, chastity, innocence, purity

Lily of the Valley: Sweetness, humility, return to happiness

Magnolia: Nobility

Marigold (calendula): Cruelty, grief, jealousy

Mistletoe: Kiss me, affection

Monkshood: Beware

Moss: Maternal love, charity

Narcissus: Egotism, formality

Nasturtium: Conquest

Orchid: Beauty and love

Peony: Shame, happy life, and marriage

Petunia: Resentment, anger, your presence soothes me

Poppy: Eternal sleep, oblivion, imagination

Primrose: I can’t live without you

Rose

• In full bloom: I love you

• Burgundy: Unconscious beauty

• Orange: Fascination

• Peach: Modesty, gratitude, appreciation, admiration, sympathy

• Pink: Grace and admiration

• Purple: Enchantment

• Red and white: Unity

• Red: Love, respect, courage

• White: Purity, secrecy

• Yellow: Joy, gladness, freedom, jealousy, infidelity

• Rosebud: Youth and beauty

Snapdragon: Deception, gracious lady

Stephanotis: Happiness in marriage

Stock: Bonds of affection, promptness

Sunflower: Haughtiness

Sweet Pea: Goodbye, blissful pleasure, thank you for a lovely time

Tulip: Perfect lover, fame

• Red: Believe me, declaration of love

• Variegated: Beautiful eyes

• Yellow: Sunshine and smiles

Violet: Faithfulness and modesty

Wisteria: Will you dance with me?

Zinnia: Lasting affection, constancy, goodness

Resources

The Language of Flowers, Iowa State University Extension

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