

Rosebud (white)—Girlhood

Rose (damask)—Persian ambassador of love

Rose (dark crimson)—Mourning

Rose (pink)—Perfect happiness, please believe me

Rose (red)—Love, I love you

Rose (tea)—I'll remember always

Rose (thornless)—Love at first sight

Rose (white)—Innocence and purity, I am worthy of you, you're heavenly, secrecy and silence

Rose (white and red mixed)—Unity, flower emblem of England

Rose (white, dried)—Death is preferable to loss of virtue

Rose (white, withered)—Transient impression, fleeting beauty, you made no impression

Rose (yellow)—Decrease of love, jealousy, try to care

Roses (bouquet of mature blooms)—Gratitude

Rose leaf—You may hope

Smilax—Loveliness

Snapdragon—Deception, gracious lady

Stephanotis—Happiness in marriage, desire to travel

Stock—Bonds of affection, promptness, you'll always be beautiful to me

Sweetpea—Good-bye, departure, blissful pleasure, thank you for a lovely time

Tiger lily—Wealth, pride

Tulip (general)—Perfect lover, fame, flower emblem of Holland

Tulip (red)—Believe me, declaration of love

Tulip (variegated)—Beautiful eyes

Tulip (yellow)—There's sunshine in your smile

Violet—Modesty

Violet (blue)—Watchfulness, faithfulness, I'll always be there

Wisteria—Will you dance with me?

Zinnia (magenta)—Lasting affection

Zinnia (mixed)—Thinking (or in memory) or an absent friend

Zinnia (scarlet)—Constancy

Zinnia (white)—Goodness



For more information

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Hill, Thos. E. *Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms* 1883

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Also check these Web sites

[ISU Extension Store \(publications\)](http://store.extension.iastate.edu)

store.extension.iastate.edu

[ISU Horticulture](http://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu)

hortnews.extension.iastate.edu

[Reiman Gardens](http://www.reimangardens.com)

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REIMAN
GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Language of Flowers



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Nearly every sentiment can be expressed by flowers. It's been said that, "Flowers are a perfect replica of human life: Planting, growth, bloom, withering." The following list includes some of the most common flowers and their meanings, realizing there are multiple sources with this information and sometimes flowers can have multiple meanings. Next time you give flowers to someone, consider selecting particular ones to express your sentiment.

Amaryllis—Pride, pastoral poetry

Anemone—Forsaken

Arbutus—Thee only do I love

Aster—Symbol of love, daintiness

Azalea—Take care of yourself for me, temperance, fragile passion, Chinese symbol of womanhood

Bachelor button—Single blessedness

Begonia—Beware

Bells-of-Ireland—Good luck

Bittersweet—Truth

Bluebell—Humility

Bouquet of withered flowers—Rejected love

Cactus—Endurance

Calla—Beauty

Camellia (pink)—Longing for you

Camellia (red)—You're a flame in my heart

Camellia (white)—You're adorable

Candytuft—Indifference

Carnation (general)—Fascination, women love

Carnation (pink)—I'll never forget you

Carnation (red)—My heart aches for you, admiration

Carnation (purple)—Capriciousness

Carnation (solid color)—Yes

Carnation (striped)—No, refusal, sorry I can't be with you, wish I could be with you

Carnation (white)—Sweet and lovely, innocence, pure love, woman's good luck gift

Cattail—Peace, prosperity

Chrysanthemum (red)—I love you

Chrysanthemum (white)—Truth



Chrysanthemum (yellow)—Slighted love

Cleome—Elope with me

Coreopsis—Always cheerful

Crocus—Cheerfulness

Cyclamen—Resignation and good-bye

Daffodil—Regard, unequalled love, you're the only one, the sun is always shining when I'm with you

Daisy—Innocence, loyal love, I'll never tell, purity

Dandelion—Faithfulness, happiness

Daylily—Coquetry, Chinese emblem for mother

Dead leaves—Sadness

Evening primrose—Inconstancy

Fern—Magic, fascination, confidence and shelter

Fern (Maidenhair)—Secret bond of love

Fir—Time

Flax—Domestic symbol

Forget-me-not—True love, memories

Forsythia—Anticipation

Gardenia—You're lovely, secret love

Garlic—Courage, strength

Geranium—Stupidity, folly

Gladioli—Give me a break, I'm really sincere, flower of the gladiators

Gloxinia—Love at first sight

Grass—Submission

Heather (lavender)—Admiration, solitude

Heather (white)—Protection, wishes will come true

Hellebore—Tranquilize my anxiety, anxiety

Hibiscus—Delicate beauty

Holly—Defense, domestic happiness

Hyacinth (general)—Games and sports, rashness

Hyacinth (blue)—Constancy

Hyacinth (purple)—I am sorry, please forgive me, sorrow

Hyacinth (red)—Play

Hyacinth (white)—Loveliness, I'll pray for you

Hyacinth (yellow)—Jealousy



Hydrangea—Thank you for understanding, frigidity, heartlessness

Iris—Your friendship means so much to me, faith, hope

Ivy—Wedded love, fidelity, friendship, affection

Jonquil—Love me, affection returned, desire, sympathy, desire for affection returned

Larkspur (pink)—Fickleness

Lily (orange)—Hatred

Lily (white)—Virginity, purity, majesty, it's heavenly to be with you

Lily (yellow)—I'm walking on air, false and gay

Lily-of-the-valley—Sweetness, tears of the Virgin Mary, return to happiness, humility, you've made my life complete

Magnolia—Nobility

Marigold—Cruelty, grief, jealousy

Mistletoe—Kiss me, affection

Mock orange—Deceit

Monkshood—Beware, a deadly foe is near

Moss—Maternal love, charity

Myrtle—Love, Hebrew emblem of marriage

Narcissus—Egotism, formality, stay as sweet as you are

Nasturtium—Conquest, victory in battle

Oleander—Caution

Orange blossom—Innocence, eternal love, marriage, and fruitfulness

Orchid—Love, beauty, refinement, beautiful lady, Chinese symbol for many children

Peony—Shame, happy life, happy marriage

Petunia—Resentment, anger, your presence soothes me

Pine—Hope, pity

Poppy (general)—Eternal sleep, oblivion, imagination

Poppy (red)—Pleasure

Poppy (white)—Consolation

Poppy (yellow)—Wealth, success

Primrose—I can't live without you

Rosebud—Beauty and you, a heart innocent of love

Rosebud (moss)—Confessions of love

Rosebud (red)—Pure and lovely

