

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

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

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

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REIMAN  
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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

