The Language of Flowers



The language of Flowers started in Constantinople in the 1600s, and was brought to England in 1716 by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu who had spent time in Turkey with her husband. The interest then moved to France (of course) where the Book Le Langage des Fleurs was printed with over 800 floral signs. Many were toned down in the English translation at the time of Queen Victoria because they were quite lusty and risque!

Flowers are part of our daily life. For virtually every event we have assigned a special flower. Flowers for love, church, church graveyard, marriage, etc. In the 16th century inn's use to have a branch or flower stalk as signboard which later often changed only into the name of a specific tree or flower. Many times one finds flower gardens in mythological sceneries. The use of flowers is uncountable: attributes for the springtime, the youth, the sunrise, the rhetoric, the virtue etc.

Most people are aware that a red rose means love but did you know that almost every flower and sometimes the different colors of a single flower has its own meaning? Why is Stephanotis such a popular flower to use in wedding bouquets? Why put Bells of Ireland or Cattails in a bouquet for someone getting a new house or embarking on a new career?

Listed below are many different flowers and their meanings.

These are the more traditional meanings according to the original language of flowers.





Ambrosia - Your Love is Reciprocated

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

Cactus - Endurance

Camellia, Pink - Longing for you

Camellia, Red - You're a Flame in My Heart

Camellia, White - You're Adorable

Carnation, General - Fascination, A Woman's 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

Carnation, Yellow - You Have Disappointed Me, Rejection

Cattail - Peace, Prosperity

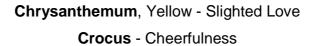
Chrysanthemum, You're a Wonderful Friend, Cheerfulness & Rest

Chrysanthemum, White - Truth

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Cyclamen - Resignation and Good-bye

Daffodil - Regard, Unrequited 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

Fern - Magic, Fascination, Confidence and Shelter

Fir - Time

Flax - Domestic Symbol

Forget-Me-Not - True Love, Memories

Forsythia - Anticipation

Gardenia - You're Lovely, Secret Love

Geranium - Stupidity, Folly

Gladioli - Give Me a Break, I'm Really Sincere, Flower of the Gladiators

Gloxinia - Love at First Sight

Heather, Lavender - Admiration, Solitude

Heather, White - Protection, Wishes Will Come True

Holly - Defense, Domestic Happiness

Hyacinth, General - Games and Sports, Rashness, Flower Dedicated to Apollo

Hyacinth, Blue - Constancy

Hyacinth, Purple - I am Sorry, Please Forgive Me, Sorrow

Hyacinth, Red or Pink - Play

Hyacinth, White - Loveliness, I'll Pray for You

Hyacinth, Yellow - Jealousy

Hydrangea - Thank You for Understanding, Frigidity, Heartlessness

Iris - Fleur-de-lis, Emblem of France,

Your Friendship Means so Much to Me, Faith,

Hope, Wisdom and Valor, My Compliments

Ivy - Wedded Love, Fidelity, Friendship, Affection







Jonquil - Love Me, Affection Returned, Desire, Sympathy, Desire for Affection

Returned

Larkspur, Pink - Fickleness

Lily, White - Virginity, Purity, Majesty, It's Heavenly to be with You

Lily, Yellow - I'm Walking on Air, False and Gay

Lily, Calla - Beauty

Lily, Day - Coquetry, Chinese Emblem for Mother

Lily, Eucharis - Maiden Charms

Lily, Tiger - Wealth, Pride

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, To Surmount Difficulties, Sacred Plant of India

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

Oleandar - Caution

Orange Blossom - Innocence, Eternal Love, Marriage and Fruitfulness

Orange, Mock - Deceit

Orchid - Love, Beauty, Refinement, Beautiful Lady, Chinese Symbol for Many

Children

Orchid, Cattleya - Mature Charm

Palm Leaves - Victory and Success

Peony - Shame, Happy Life, Happy Marriage

Petunia - Resentment, Anger,

Your Presence Sooths 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

Primrose, Evening - Inconstancy

Rose, - Love, Also Respect and Courage

Smilax - Loveliness

Snapdragon - Deception, Gracious Lady

Spider Flower - Elope with Me

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

Tulip, General - Perfect Lover, Frame, Flower Emblem of Holland **Tulip**, Red - Believe Me, Declaration of Love

Tulip, Variegated - Beautiful Eyes

Tulip, Yellow - There's Sunshine in Your Smile

Violet, General - Modesty

Violet, Blue - Watchfulness, Faithfulness, I'll Always Be True

Violet, White - Let's Take a Chance

Zinnia, Magenta - Lasting Affection

Zinnia, Mixed - Thinking (or In Memory) of an Absent Friend

Zinnia, Scarlet - Constancy

Zinnia, White - Goodness

Zinnia, Yellow - Daily Remembrance





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