

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.



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Acacia - Concealed Love, Beauty in Retirement, Chaste Love

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





Chrysanthemum, Yellow - Slighted Love

Crocus - Cheerfulness

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 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
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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