

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

The Language of Flowers

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A summer hanging basket of fuchsia and violet hued verbena looks perfect on the patio.

Nosegays (fragrant flowers to keep the nose happy), posies (small bouquets of sweet smelling flowers worn around the head or bodice), tussie-mussies (symbolic flower fashion accessories wrapped in lace and tied with satin ribbon) and sachets (perfumed bags) are as appropriate in the 21st century as they were in the 19th.

June is the most popular month for weddings. Calla lilies, asters, roses, forget-me-nots, gardenias, orchids, jasmine, peony, ivy, and violets are colorful cryptograms to ensure a long, loving, happy marriage. June is also the season of graduations and Father's Day whereby a mixed bouquet of sunflowers for congratulations, basil for best wishes, white bellflowers for gratitude, heather for admiration, sage for wisdom, and fern for sincerity may be the vocabulary of choice.

Whenever you want to speak to someone without talking, take a walk around your garden to find the perfect floral words. I have created a simplified flower-speak dictionary of my favorite flowers, herbs, trees, and blossoms growing in my garden culled from years of gardening lore to help you plant the sensations you wish to express in your next bouquet. Whether you want to express appreciation, love, sympathy, friendship, or fascination, there is a plant to help you share your feelings and express explicit emotions.

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PLANT	MEANING	PLANT	MEANING
Allium	Patience	Larkspur (Delphinium)	Freedom
Almond	Hope	Lavender	Good Luck
Alstroemeria	Friendship	Lemon Balm	Sympathy
Amaranth	Immortality	Lilac	First Love
Amaryllis	Pride	Lily	Modesty
Anemone	Forsaken	Lily-of-the-Valley	Purity
Angelica	Inspiration	Magnolia	Perseverance
Anthurium	Heartfelt	Marigold (French)	Jealousy
Artemisia	Power	Mint	Virtue
Aster	Love	Mistletoe	Kisses and Love
Astilbe	I'm Waiting	Mock Orange	Brotherly Love
Bachelor Button	Celibacy	Moss	Maternal Love
Basil	Success	Myrtle	Fidelity
Bay Leaf	Faithfulness	Narcissus	Self-Esteem
Bell Flower	Gratitude	Nasturtium	Patriotism
Black-Eyed Susan	Justice	Oak	Strength
Borage	Courage	Oleander	Beware
Buttercup	Money	Olive	Peace
Bleeding Heart	Elegance	Orchid	Love, nobility, refinement
Caladium	Delight	Pansy	Loving thoughts
Calendula	Remembrance	Parsley	Festivity and Thanks
Calla Lily	Magnificent Beauty	Peony	Health, Wealth, Happiness
Camellia	Excellence	Periwinkle	Pleasant Memories
Carnation (striped)	Regrets	Phlox	Agreement
Carnation (white)	Remember Me	Poppy (red)	Consolation, Rest, Sleep
Cherry blossoms	Chivalry	Queen Anne's Lace	Protection
Chrysanthemum	Optimism	Rhododendron	Warning
Clematis	Ingenuity	Rose (colors determine sentiment)	Love, Friendship, Grace
Coreopsis	Love at First Sight	Rosemary	Remembrance
Coral Bells	Challenge	Sage	Hospitality
Daffodil	Respect	Snapdragons	Desire
Dahlia	Dignity	Spruce	Farewell
Daisy	Friendship	St. John's Wort	Protection
Euphorbia	Welcome	Stock	Promptness
Fern	Sincerity	Sunflower	Congratulations
Forget-Me-Not	True Love	Sweet Pea	Departure, Sweet Memory
Freesia	Innocence	Sweet William	Gallantry
Gardenia	Ecstasy	Thistle	Austerity
Gladiolus	Generosity	Thyme	Bravery
Heather	Dreams and Wishes come true	Tuberose	Voluptuousness
Hemlock	Death	Tulip	Fame
Hyacinth	Forgiveness	Verbena	Sensibility
Hydrangea	Boastful, Heartless	Violet	Simplicity
Iris	A Message for You	Wallflower	Loneliness
Ivy	Fidelity, Friendship, Marriage	Wisteria	Daughter's Sweetness
Jasmine	Grace	Yarrow	Healing
Jonquil	Wisdom, Return my Affection	Yew	Sorrow
Lamb's Ear	Surprise	Zinnia	Thoughts of Lost Friends

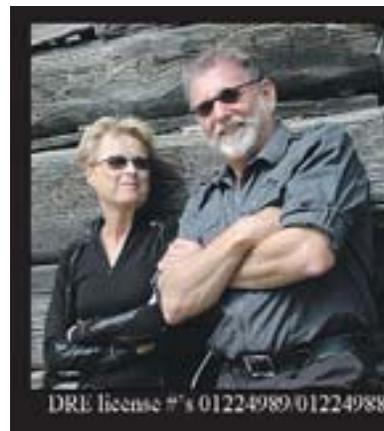
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