

The Secret Life of Flowers: Symbolic Meanings of Popular Blooms

What flowers should you include in your flower garden? Your choices should be driven by two things, your personal preferences and the other plants already present in your landscape. Blending the flower garden with your existing landscape is your goal. You may also want to consider that certain flowers convey different meanings.

The most popular flower in the world? You guessed it, the rose. The rose symbolizes beauty and love in almost every culture. Of all the varieties, red roses are considered the most romantic. Roses appear throughout literature, poetry and music.

There are traditional meanings attached to other rose colors. The emotion of happiness is linked to yellow roses. White roses bring to mind innocence and sincerity. You may not have known it, but pink roses traditionally mean "thank you." Less common are peach roses, which are connected with optimism and closing business deals.

Another hugely popular flower is the lily. Again, different colors and varieties have different meanings. White lilies are associated with purity, and calla lilies symbolize beauty. Communicating wealth and pride call for tiger lilies. And in a strange twist of meaning, orange lilies are taken to mean hatred.

Daisies are very popular in many cultures. One of the most sought after blooms for flower gardens is the gerbera daisy. Traditional meanings for the daisy include purity, innocence and kindness.

Lilacs are often seen at weddings, which makes sense given their connection to new love. They are also very appropriate to give to new parents.

Tulips are very popular and can be quite beautiful. They are available in many vivid, striking colors. Red, as you might expect, is connected with love and passion. But be careful, yellow tulips communicate hopeless love. Orchids have always been very exotic flowers. Their means vary from culture to culture.

And the list goes on. Carnations, pansies, marigolds and violets round out the list of some of the most popular flowers, each with their own meaning. With so much to choose from, it should be a simple matter to reflect your own personality, while at the same time blending your garden with the existing landscape. Your local growing conditions may limit you somewhat, but otherwise the design of your garden is up to you. Enjoy it!

About the Author

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