

The language of flowers| Shopping| localecrets

- Show your appreciation on Mother's Day by creating a personalised bouquet with your mum's favourite blooms or flowers picked for their traditional meaning.



Throughout the centuries, flowers have been used to express gratitude, love and well wishes. For the Victorians, each flower gave a particular message, all codified in a system called 'floriography.' Today, however, we tend to choose on the basis of budget and simpler ideas of what looks good. 'Freesias, Tulips and Daffodils are popular and a good mix for a bouquet,' says Adam Stevens who runs a flower stall on Cambridge market. 'Tulips and daffodils are good value if you have a limited budget. The Tete-a-Tete, a miniature version of the daffodil, is a perfect choice for Mother's Day, they sell very quickly'. However, Stevens, whose family have been in the floristry business in Boston, Lincolnshire, since 1929, warns that daffodils are in short supply this year because of the mild weather. Stevens says that arranging bouquets can take time and practice but advises: 'Smaller arrangements are easier to handle--also stick to three colours if you can as too many colours can be overwhelming.' It's important to make sure flowers are kept in enough water for the size of the vase and Stevens says: 'Remember to change the water every couple of days, ensuring that you also slice the stems.' Mother's Day is always a busy time of year at [Tolly's Flowers](#) in Newmarket, and owner Tolly Considine says the shop is 'full to bursting with beautiful flowers, plants and spring bulbs'. 'Spring is such a great time for flowers and a nice general mix of beautiful flowers make lovely bouquets,' says Considine, who says mixing flowers gives a longer life in the vase. For centuries many cultures have used flowers to convey meaning but the Victorians took it to a different level, using 'the language of flowers' to communicate their feelings. Etiquette meant it was frowned upon for the upper classes to engage in flirtatious conversation, so using flowers became a way of passing on secret messages. Many books were published on the practice, which became known as Floriography. The use of floriography had died out until recently, when the Duchess of Cambridge used it

to add special meaning to her wedding flowers. If you like the idea of using it to influence your Mother's Day bouquet here are several examples of flowers and their meanings. **Pink or yellow carnations:** Pink carnations signify gratitude, whilst the yellow version conveys a cheerful nature. **Roses:** Dark pink roses convey appreciation and gratitude. To symbolise love and respect include red roses. **Tulips:** Pink tulips symbolise caring. [The Flowers and Plant Association website](#) has a comprehensive section dedicated to the 'language of flowers' plus information on how to care for them.

ARTICLES

