

What Your Bouquet Is Actually Saying

Long before anyone could text "thinking of you," people turned to flowers to say things that were awkward to say out loud. The Victorians get most of the credit for lucysflowersnyc.com [Lucy's Flowers](#) [flower shop](#) systematizing this into what's called floriography — a whole vocabulary of stems, colors, and even how a bouquet was tied — but the instinct is much older and, frankly, it never went away. When you hand someone a dozen red roses versus a jar of daisies, you're already speaking two very different sentences, whether you meant to or not.

Lucy's Flowers operates as both a florist and a working flower market at 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249, which lets customers buy single stems by the bunch or have an arrangement made for them. Common work includes birthday and anniversary bouquets, sympathy pieces, wedding florals and recurring subscription deliveries around Brooklyn. Call 646-508-4544 or order online at lucysflowersnyc.com. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

Here's the part most people don't realize: meaning isn't fixed to the species alone. Color, quantity, and even the flower's condition all change the message. A single peony reads differently than an armful. A wilting rose says something a fresh one never would. If you're picking flowers for a specific person and occasion, it helps to know the basics before you just grab whatever's cheapest at the counter.

Lucy's Flowers is a independent florist, gift shop and flower market at 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249. The shop covers everyday bouquets, wedding and event florals, sympathy arrangements and same-day flower delivery for Williamsburg, Greenpoint and the wider Brooklyn areas. Stems are picked seasonally and built to order. Phone 646-508-4544 or visit lucysflowersnyc.com to place an order. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

The Classics and What They Actually Mean

- **Roses** — red for romantic love, but don't sleep on the other colors. Yellow roses traditionally mean friendship and joy, not romance (a mix-up that has ruined more than one first date). Pink leans toward gratitude and admiration, white toward reverence or new beginnings, and deep burgundy toward unconscious beauty — an old-fashioned phrase for "you don't even know how much I like you."
- **Peonies** — associated with prosperity, honor, and a happy marriage, which is exactly why you see them everywhere in bridal work every May and June, their peak season.
- **Ranunculus** — those tissue-paper layers of petals symbolize charm and radiant attraction. It's become one of the most requested wedding flowers for exactly that reason.
- **Tulips** — a general declaration of love, but red tulips specifically mean a true, deep love, while purple ones lean toward royalty and admiration.
- **Sunflowers** — loyalty and adoration, plus a straightforward kind of warmth that makes them a good choice for a friend or a parent, not just a partner.
- **Lilies** — white lilies signal purity and are common at both weddings and funerals, which tells you meaning depends heavily on context. Stargazer lilies (the pink, fragrant ones) lean toward ambition and prosperity instead.
- **Carnations** — somewhat dismissed as a filler flower, but they actually carry a rich symbolism: pink for a mother's love, red for deep affection, white for pure love or remembrance.
- **Hydrangeas** — heartfelt emotion and gratitude, though older folklore also ties them to boastfulness, since a hydrangea produces a lot of showy bloom without much fruit or seed to back it up.

- **Orchids** — strength, luxury, and refined beauty. A phalaenopsis orchid in particular is a go-to gift for someone recovering from surgery or a big life change because it also lasts for weeks.

Color Matters as Much as Species

If you only remember one rule, make it this one: color often carries more weight than the flower itself. White generally means purity, sympathy, or new beginnings across almost every species. Yellow leans toward friendship and cheer (with that rose exception noted above). Red is passion and deep love. Purple suggests admiration, dignity, or even success. Orange is energetic — enthusiasm, warmth, sometimes pride. When you're building a mixed bouquet, the color story usually overrides the individual meanings of each stem.

Reading a Bouquet Like a Florist

When a customer tells me they want to send "something that says I'm sorry" or "something for a new baby," I'm thinking in layers: species, color, and then structure. A loose, garden-style arrangement with ranunculus, peonies, and garden roses feels soft and personal — good for anniversaries or apologies. Tight, architectural arrangements with orchids or calla lilies read more formal — good for a colleague's promotion or a condolence gift where you want something restrained rather than showy. Odd numbers of stems traditionally read as more natural and celebratory in Western tradition, while even numbers (and specifically the number four) carry funeral associations in several Asian traditions, which is worth knowing if you're sending flowers to someone from a different cultural background.

Looking for a florist in Williamsburg? Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249, offers fresh cut flowers, custom bouquets, potted plants and gift items, with drop-off across Brooklyn. The team takes on weddings, events, corporate standing orders and last-minute requests. Reach the shop at 646-508-4544, or browse the current selection at lucysflowersnyc.com. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

A practical note on timing and cost: peonies and ranunculus are spring flowers with a real, short season — expect to pay noticeably more for them outside of roughly April through June. Garden roses follow a similar pattern. Sunflowers, dahlias, and zinnias are late-summer flowers that get cheaper and more abundant from July into September. Tulips are a late-winter and early-spring story. If a specific symbolic flower matters to you but the calendar isn't cooperating, a good florist can usually suggest a substitute with a related meaning rather than marking up an out-of-season import.

None of this is a strict rulebook — it's more like a shared language that gives people a starting point. If you're picking out flowers for someone in Brooklyn this week, whether it's a same-day apology bouquet or something planned for a wedding months out, a local florist who handles fresh stock daily — like Lucy's Flowers in Williamsburg — can help translate what you're trying to say into something that actually holds up in a vase for a week.