

Whorticulture

by

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Floriography

Flower dictionaries were hugely popular in the nineteenth century, published in the U.S. in journal articles from the late 1820s onwards and in books such as *Flora's Interpreter* (ed. Sarah Josepha Hale, 1832); *Flora's Lexicon* (Catharine H. Waterman Esling, 1839); *The Lady's Book of Flowers and Poetry* (1841); *The Floral Offering* (ed. Frances Sargent Osgood, 1847); *The Floral Fortune Teller* (ed. Sarah Carter Edgarton Mayo, 1846); and *Poetry of Flowers* (C. M. Kirtland, 1848). However, not all meanings were standardized across dictionaries and sometimes flowers were used ironically for their meaning. In *Whorticulture*, the flowers symbolize the following:

Begonia: *beware*

Blue Lupine: *imagination*

Butterfly Weed: *let me go*

Cherry Blossom: *education*

Coriander: *I lust for you*

Crocus: *do not abuse (white)*

Daisy: *innocence, loyal love, I'll never tell, purity, beauty*

Dandelion: *faithfulness, happiness, love's oracle*

Darnel: *vice*

Indian Cress: *resignation*

Iris: *faith, wisdom, promise in love, hope, valor*

Ivy: *fidelity, wedded love, friendship, affection*

Jonquil: *love me, desire, sympathy*

Lilac: *the first emotions of love*

Lily (orange): *hatred, dislike*

Love-in-a-mist: *you puzzle me*

Magnolia: *nobility, perseverance*

Oleander: *caution*

Olive: *peace*

Orange Blossom: *innocence, purity, eternal love, marriage*

Peach Blossom: *I am your captive*

Pomegranate Blossom: *elegance*

Poor Man's Weather Glass: *change*

Purple Carnation: *play*

Quince: *temptation*

Red Hyacinth: *whimsical*

Rose (red): *I love you, beauty, respect;* **(white):** *I am worthy of you, silence, secrecy;*
(yellow): *friendship;* **(one yellow, eleven red):** *love and passion*

Snowdrop: *hope, consolation*

Strawberry flowers: *perfect goodness*

Tiger Lily: *wealth, pride, prosperity*

Tulip: *emblem of perfect love*

White Hollyhock: *ambition*

White Rosebud: *girlhood*

Yarrow: *cure for heartache*