

# Shakespeare Garden

Flowers and plants played an important role in the imagery throughout Shakespeare's literary masterpieces. While some of the blooms are recognizable, others are not as familiar. This is because Shakespeare relied on the language of flowers—symbolic meanings attached to different flowers—to create elaborate metaphors. Below are some of the flowers mentioned in his works:

Common Name	Latin Name	Reference in Shakespeare Literature	Language of Flowers
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> (P)	"I am that flower...that columbine." – <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	Resolve to win, anxiety
Wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i> (P)	"Wormwood, wormwood." – <i>Hamlet</i>	Absence
Daisies	<i>Bellis perennis</i> (P)	"When daises pied, and violets blue / And lady-smocks all silver white / And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue / Do paint the meadows with delight..." – <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	Innocence
Calendula	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> (A)	"Hark! Hark! the lark at heaven's gate sings, / And Phoebus `gins arise... And winking Mary-buds begin / to open their golden eyes..." – <i>Cymbeline</i>	Joy, health, remembrance
Harebell, BlueBell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> (P)	"...thou shalt not lack / The flower that's like thy face, pale primrose, nor / The azured harebell, like thy veins..." – <i>Cymbeline</i>	Humility, constancy, gratitude
Carnations	<i>Dianthus barbatus</i> , <i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i> (A)	"...the fairest flowers o' the season / Are our carnations, and streak'd gillyvors..." – <i>The Winter's Tale</i>	Long-lasting, dignity, taste
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> (A)	"There's fennel for you and columbine." – <i>Hamlet</i>	Flattery, faithlessness
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria x ananassa</i> (P)	"Tell me but this / Have you not sometimes seen a handkerchief / Spotted with strawberries in your wife's hand?" – <i>Othello</i>	Righteousness, love
Ivy	<i>Hedera</i> (A)	"If aught possess thee from me, it is dross / Usurping ivy, brier or idle moss." – <i>Comedy of Errors</i>	Eternal fidelity
Iris	<i>Iris</i> (P)	"What say'st thou, my fair flower-de-luce?" – <i>Henry V</i>	Heraldic symbol, royalty
Sweet Peas	<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i> (A)	"Ceres, most bounteous lady, thy rich leas/ Of wheat, rye, barley, vetches, oats and pease..." – <i>The Tempest</i>	Abundance, promise of things to come
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> (P)	"Here's flowers to you; / Hot lavender, mints, savory, marjoram..." – <i>The Winter's Tale</i>	Devotion, luck, ardent attachment
Lily	<i>Lilium candidum</i> (P)	"To gild refined gold, to paint the lily / To throw perfume on a violet... Is wasteful and ridiculous excess." – <i>King John</i>	Majesty



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Mint	<i>Mentha ssp.</i> (P)	"Here's flowers to you; / Hot lavender, mints, savory, marjoram..." - <i>The Winter's Tale</i>	Cheerfulness, welcome, warmth of feeling
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus</i> (P)	"...daffodils, / That come before the swallow dares, and take / the winds of March with beauty..." - <i>The Winter's Tale</i>	Self-love
Sweet Majoram	<i>Origanum majorana</i> (A)	"...she was the sweet majoram of the salad, or rather the herb of grace." - <i>All's Well That End's Well</i>	Blushes
Poppy	<i>Papaver somniferum</i> , <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> (A)	Not poppy, nor mandragora, / Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world, / Shall ever medicine thee that, sweet sleep / Which thou owdest yesterday." - <i>Othello</i>	Forgetfulness, passing pleasure
Primrose, Oxlip	<i>Primula japonica</i> , <i>Primula elatior</i> (P)	"...pale primroses / That die unmarried, ere they can behold / Bright Phoebus in his strength - a malady / Most incident to maids..." - <i>The Winter's Tale</i>	I can't live without you
Crowflower, Buttercups	<i>Ranunculus fascicularis</i> (P)	"And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue / do paint he meadows with delight..." - <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	Ingratitude
Rose	<i>Rosa</i> (R)	"So sweet a kiss the golden sun gives not / To those fresh morning drops upon the rose." - <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	Differs by color. Grace, modesty, love, infidelity, enchantment
Sweet Briar Rose	<i>Rosa eglanteria</i> ( <i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> ) (P)	"I know a bank where wild thyme blows, / Where oxlips and nodding violet grows, / Quite over-canopied with luscious, woodbine / With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine." - <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Simplicity
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> (A)	"There's rosemary for you, that's for remembrance; / Pray, love, remember..." - <i>Hamlet</i>	Remembrance
Rue	<i>Ruta graveolens</i> (P)	"...there's rue / for you; and here's some for me: we may call it / herb-grace o' Sundays: O you must wear your rue / with a difference." - <i>Hamlet</i>	Regret
Moss	<i>Sagina subulata</i> (P)	"Under an oak, whose boughs were moss'd with age..." - <i>As You Like It</i>	Maternal love, charity
Pansies	<i>Viola cornuta</i> (A)	"...and there is pansies. That's for thoughts." - <i>Hamlet</i>	Happy thoughts, sweetness, boldness
Violets	<i>Viola odorata</i> (A)	"The purple violets, and marigolds, / Shall as a carpet hang upon thy grave / While summers days do last." - <i>Pericles</i>	Virtue, affections modesty

