

Tulips, roses, lilies and flowers that are in season can all make thoughtful gifts for a mother-in-law, particularly in colors she enjoys. Rather than following a fixed rule, choose flowers that suit her preferences and the reason for your visit or gift.

Pay attention to her preferences

Think about the flowers she brings home, keeps on a table or admires in a garden. If she looks forward to daffodils each spring, a bunch of them may feel more personal than a grand arrangement that is unlike her usual taste.

The colors around her can offer clues. Notice the shades she uses in her home or plants in her garden. If you cannot tell what she prefers, a bouquet in one color or a gentle mix of shades is an easy choice that need not feel too formal.

It is worth considering fragrance as well as appearance. Some people enjoy a strong floral scent, while others would rather keep the smell at home subtle. Tulips and many chrysanthemums may suit someone whose preference is unclear, since they are options to consider when you want to avoid a strong fragrance.

Reliable choices for different occasions

A flower does not need a special symbolic meaning to be suitable. A fresh bunch that feels right for her home and comfortable for you to give is enough. These flowers can help you decide:

- **Tulips:** A straightforward gift for a birthday, a visit or a spring get-together.
- **Roses:** A fitting choice for a celebration or a thank you. Pink, yellow or cream roses can create a softer look.

- **Chrysanthemums:** These come in a range of colors and shapes, including small sprays and larger blooms.
- **Gerbera daisies:** Their bright appearance can suit someone who likes strong color.
- **Seasonal mixed flowers:** Consider these if you know which colors she likes but do not know her favorite flower.

Flower customs differ from one family and culture to another. If a particular color or bloom has a meaning in her family or culture, keep that in mind. If you are uncertain, a relative or someone close to her may be able to advise you.

Choose for the occasion and setting

For a birthday, you could make the gift feel personal by choosing a bouquet with her favorite color as its main shade. After a family dinner, a modest bunch can be easy to accept and set on a table. A brief card explaining what you are grateful for also makes your reason for giving clear.

For a home visit, consider how much care the flowers will need. A bouquet already arranged in a vase requires less attention right away than loose stems. If she likes arranging flowers, however, a wrapped bunch lets her select a vase and position the stems herself.

If she is unwell, check hospital rules before sending flowers there. For a gift at home, think about allergies and pets. Lilies are especially dangerous to cats, so avoid them if she owns a cat or cats sometimes visit her home.

Common questions about flowers

Could roses seem too romantic?

Not always. Roses are available in many colors, and a mixed bouquet or a note expressing thanks can help show that the gift is meant kindly.

What should I choose if I do not know her favorite?

Try a seasonal bouquet in a color you think she would like. You could also ask her partner or another relative to suggest a flower or shade she enjoys.

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