

Say it with Flowers

by Noni Young

What to get mum for Mother's Day? You can opt for a beautiful bunch of cut flowers or perhaps a plant that will give many years of enjoyment. Here are some traditional and not so traditional options for you.

Chrysanthemum

The chrysanthemum is the traditional flower for Mother's Day. Perhaps because it has the word 'mum' in it but more likely because it flowers in autumn. Chrysanthemums are a perennial plant that have been widely cultivated and hybridised over the years. As a result there is now a wide variety of flower colours and shapes (single, semi-double and fully double) available on the market.

If you want to stick with tradition then you can get mum a lovely bunch of 'Mums' from your local florist. For something that's a little longer lasting you can opt for a chrysanthemum in a pot. These are a more compact form than the garden variety and give great indoor colour.



Phalaenopsis Orchid

The Phalaenopsis or Moth Orchid is a beautiful indoor plant with broad, succulent dark green leaves. The stunning flower spike has multiple delicate flowers in subtle pastel colours or white. This plant is often seen on the pages of interior design books as an elegant feature on the dining table or mantle piece. It is an easy plant to grow and the flowers will last for a considerable time.



Roses

As with chrysanthemums you have the choice of cut flowers or a rose which can be planted in the garden or an ornamental pot. There are an infinite number of roses on the market. You may select a variety in mums favourite colour or one that has a name that is significant to her. One rose variety on the market that is very popular for Mother's Day is the hybrid tea rose, 'Mother's Love'. This has beautiful white to soft pink, fragrant blooms and deep green foliage.



Gardenia

It is hard not to like to fragrance, pure white flowers and dark green foliage of a gardenia. Planted in the garden or in a pot this plant looks stunning in the garden and provides a beautiful scent throughout the flowering months of summer.



Daphne

Daphne is one of the most popular fragrant plants and flowers in winter when very little else is happening in the garden. Apart from the traditional pink flowered form, there is also a white flowered form. There is a new cultivar to the market called 'Eternal Fragrance' which is a repeat flowering form that can tolerate a sunnier spot in the garden.



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