

DECEMBER BIRTH FLOWER

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The month of December has two birth flowers. The primary birth flower is the **narcissus**, and the secondary flower is the **holly**.

December birth flower - Narcissus

Narcissus, scientifically known as *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, are bulbous plants that bear tiny, delicate flowers that resemble daffodils. Because of its paper-thin, delicate white petals, Narcissus is also known as "paperwhite."

Narcissus is a native of the Mediterranean region and a wonderful method to show unconditional love when given in a bouquet. Narcissus is said to have grown since ancient times, although its popularity in Europe began to grow after the 16th century.

Originating from Greek mythology, the term "Narcissus" refers to the young man who fell in love with his reflection. The way the flowers currently grow is drooping, like Narcissus used to do when he would lean over and admire his own beauty.

Narcissus symbolizes hope, rebirth, faithfulness, and new beginnings.

They are generally found in white and yellow but some varieties of blooms have orange or peach-colored centers. White narcissus stands for purity, innocence, and sincerity, yellow narcissus symbolizes hope, optimism, joy, and friendship, orange represents health and courage, while pink narcissus flowers represent femininity, love, and grace.

While narcissus essential oil can help people fall asleep and relax, narcissus has also been used to make perfumes because of its powerful scent.

Fun fact: A gift of a narcissus, in Victorian times, was to send a deeply generous message: "You are the one."

December birth flower - Holly

Holly, scientifically known as *Ilex aquifolium*, is a type of shrub or tree that can be deciduous or evergreen. It has glossy, unique dark green foliage and bright red berries. The little flower has four petals and is greenish-white in color.

Native to Europe, Asia, and North Africa, holly is the worldwide symbol for the festive season.

During Saturnalia, an agricultural celebration around the winter solstice, the ancient Romans distributed holly. The recipients would hang the holly in their homes as a shield against evil spirits. Holly was chosen to represent Christ's crown of thorns in Christianity. The red berries stand in for his blood, while the evergreen leaves of the holly signify life after death.

Holly symbolizes happiness, goodwill, fertility, and protection.

Hollies come in both genders. To get those iconic red berries—which can also be white, yellow,

black, or pink—you'll usually need one male and one female. When hung over entrances, the plant's green, red, and white colors stood for good fortune and safety. The red berries stand in for the blood that Jesus spilled on the day of his crucifixion.

For ages, the wood of holly was utilized as firewood and to construct furniture. Additionally, it has been used as Christmas decor. For many birds, holly is a vital source of winter food.

Fun fact: It is reported that the Duke of Argyll of Scotland had a new road rerouted in the 1800s to avoid chopping down an ancient holly tree.

