

Send Thanksgiving flowers to a newly widowed parent by choosing an arrangement that feels comforting and easy to care for, then add a simple note that acknowledges your love. Check that the delivery time works for them, and let their preferences guide the flowers and message.

Choose flowers with your parent in mind

Start with what your parent likes rather than what you think a Thanksgiving arrangement should look like. If they have a favorite flower or color, that is a useful place to begin. Soft colors may feel right, but bright flowers can be welcome too. There is no single color that expresses grief or comfort for everyone.

Consider the size and shape of the arrangement. A small vase can sit on a kitchen table or bedside table without taking over the room. Flowers already arranged in a vase also spare your parent the work of finding a container and trimming stems on the day they arrive.

Think about the household before choosing specific flowers. Strongly scented blooms may bother someone who is sensitive to fragrance. If there are pets, check the safety of each flower and foliage choice with a veterinarian. Lilies are especially dangerous to cats, so leave them out of a home with cats.

Plan the delivery and write a note

Ask your parent if they will be home, or check with someone who knows their plans. A surprise can be kind, but a delivery left outside during cold weather may not last. If your parent is spending the holiday elsewhere, send the flowers to the place where they will be able to enjoy them, with permission from the host.

You do not need to make the card cheerful or find words that fix their grief. A few honest sentences are enough. You might write:

- “Thinking of you this Thanksgiving. I love you and am here for you.”
- “I know this holiday may feel different. I am holding you close in my thoughts.”
- “Sending flowers for your table and love for the days ahead.”

If it feels natural, mention the person who died by name. Your parent may appreciate knowing that person is remembered, though you know your family best. Avoid asking your parent to feel grateful or promising that the day will be easy.

After the flowers arrive, a call or message can offer a chance to talk without making the delivery another obligation. You might ask if they would like company, or offer to help with a meal. Let them decide how much conversation feels right.

Questions you may have

Should I send flowers before Thanksgiving?

A few days before the holiday can give your parent time to enjoy them without a delivery arriving during a meal or visit. Check their plans first.

Can I send flowers if I cannot visit?

Yes. A note and a call can make the gift feel personal from a distance. You can also suggest a time to talk, while leaving room for your parent to decline.

What if my parent does not like cut flowers?

Choose another gesture they would welcome, such as a prepared meal or a handwritten card. The thought matters more than the flowers themselves.

More on this: read the full article