

To send lily of the valley for May Day, contact a florist early, check what is available, and arrange delivery for May 1 if possible. Add a brief message, and make sure the recipient is told that every part of the plant is poisonous if eaten.

Arrange the delivery in advance

May Day is May 1, and in France people traditionally give lily of the valley on that date. Its little white bell shaped flowers are known for their sweet scent, though they may be difficult to find in some places. Availability varies with the season and with what a florist can provide, so it is best not to assume the flowers will be in stock.

Ask about availability well before May 1. Name lily of the valley specifically, then check that delivery can be made to the recipient's address. If the florist cannot deliver on May Day, ask if a delivery shortly beforehand is possible. An earlier date may still allow the gift to mark the occasion.

Find out how the flowers will be presented before you place the order. A few cut stems arranged together are not the same gift as a potted plant. Ask which option is available and what the recipient should expect to receive.

Confirm the order details

Keep the arrangements clear, and check each practical detail before sending the gift:

1. Check that lily of the valley is available on the date you have in mind.
2. Choose cut stems or a potted plant, based on what the florist can supply.
3. Provide the recipient's name, delivery address and phone number.
4. Confirm the delivery date and ask what the florist does if nobody is home.

5. Include your message and request a warning about the plant's toxicity.

If lily of the valley is unavailable, you can change the delivery date or choose a different spring flower. Do not presume that a replacement will contain lily of the valley. Ask the florist to contact you before making any substitution, so the final gift is still what you agreed to send.

Add a message and care information

A short note is enough. You might write, “Thinking of you this May Day.” For someone familiar with the tradition, you could also wish them good luck, an idea commonly linked with lily of the valley.

For cut stems, suggest using a clean vase filled with fresh water and keeping it away from direct heat. A potted plant needs different care, so ask the florist to provide instructions for that particular plant. Sharing relevant care details helps the recipient know what to do with the gift.

Every part of lily of the valley is poisonous if eaten, including the flowers and plant. The vase water should also be kept out of reach of children and pets. If keeping the plant and vase water safely away would be difficult in the recipient's home, choose another flower instead. A clear warning helps prevent a safety problem and is kinder than leaving the recipient unaware.

Common questions about the gift

Is delivery before May 1 possible?

Yes. If the florist cannot deliver on May Day, an earlier delivery is an option. Ask how long cut flowers are expected to stay fresh, and pass on any care instructions.

Could I send a potted plant?

Yes, if the florist has one available. Let the recipient know it is a plant, not a cut flower arrangement, and include the florist's care advice and the toxicity warning.

What if there is a pet at home?

Consider another flower, particularly if the pet can reach the plant or vase water. If you send lily of the valley, clearly tell the recipient that it is toxic.

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