

What's Actually in Season, Month by Month, in the Northeast

Ask a florist what's "in season" and you'll usually get a shrug, because the wholesale flower trade blurs that line on purpose. Tulips show up in December from Holland, peonies get flown in from Chile in January, and dahlias — a genuine Northeast fall flower — sometimes get sold in July as if they were a summer staple. If you want flowers that are actually local, better priced, and at their peak, here's how the calendar really breaks down in New York and the surrounding region.

January and February: Bulbs, Branches, and Not Much Else

This is the quietest stretch of the year for anything grown outdoors nearby, so nearly everything on the counter is imported. That's not a knock — some of the best material of the year shows up right now. Amaryllis, paperwhites, and anemones are at their best, alongside ranunculus from California and the Netherlands, which reads as "spring" even though nothing is actually blooming outside yet. Forced branches — quince, forsythia, pussy willow — are a smart way to add height and texture without spending much, and if you have access to a yard, cutting your own costs nothing.

- Amaryllis: sold as cut stems, roughly \$15-30 for a bunch, lasts one to two weeks
- Ranunculus: about \$3-6 per stem, fragile necks — keep the water shallow and the room cool
- Forced branches: \$8-15 per stem, will open up indoors over about a week

Why "Fresh" Doesn't Always Mean "Local"

A bouquet can be perfectly fresh and still have traveled three thousand miles. In winter that's simply the reality of the business here — the trade-off is that you get variety and color when the region itself has none to offer. Once March hits, that balance starts to shift.

March and April: The First Local Signs

Tulips and daffodils are the real harbingers of spring here, though early March tulips are still mostly Dutch imports before local growers catch up in April. Hellebores (often called Lenten rose) and early narcissus start turning up from regional growers by mid-April. This is also prime time for flowering branches like cherry and crabapple — ask your florist to save you some if you're planning anything for late April, since they sell fast once people notice how good they look.

- Tulips: \$2-4 per stem, buy tight buds and let them open at home — they'll keep opening for days
- Daffodils: \$1.50-3 per stem, cut their own stems separately from other flowers since their sap can shorten the life of tulips and anemones in the same vase

May and June: Peony Season, and Why It's So Short

If you're planning a wedding or big event around peonies, this is the window — and it's a genuinely short one, usually three to four weeks starting mid-to-late May in this region, earlier in a warm year, later in a cold one. Garden roses, lilac, sweet peas, and the first local ranunculus all overlap with peony season, which is why late May and June are the best two months of the year to buy flowers here. Prices dip because supply is high, and quality is excellent because almost none of it needs to travel far.

Looking for a florist in Williamsburg? Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249, offers fresh cut flowers, made-to-order bouquets, potted plants and gift items, with delivery across Brooklyn. The team handles weddings, events, corporate standing orders and same-day requests. Contact the shop at 646-508-4544, or see the current selection at lucysflowersnyc.com. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

- Peonies: \$4-9 per stem depending on variety, buy them still closed and marshmallow-soft — fully open blooms at the shop won't last
- Lilac: sold by the branch, \$6-12 each, sheds quickly in heat so keep it somewhere cool
- Garden roses: \$6-10 per stem, far more scented than standard florist roses

July and August: Dahlias Arrive, Zinnias Take Over

Peonies are done by early July, but this is when dahlias start their run — and unlike peonies, dahlia season here actually stretches for months, getting better as it goes. Zinnias, cosmos, sunflowers, and celosia round out the summer market, and this is the cheapest, most abundant stretch of the year if you like loose, garden-style arrangements rather than tight, formal ones.

- Dahlias: \$3-7 per stem, extremely thirsty — recut and change water every two to three days or they'll wilt fast
- Zinnias: \$1.50-3 per stem, one of the longest-lasting cut flowers you can buy locally
- Sunflowers: \$2-4 per stem, tough and low-maintenance — a good choice if you tend to forget about vase water

September and October: Peak Dahlia, Plus Fall Texture

This is dahlia season at its best — dinner-plate varieties, ball dahlias, the little pompon types, all of it. Asters, mums (real garden mums, not the grocery-store cushion kind), and branches with berries or turning leaves come into play as the month goes on. It's a great time to ask for something with more structure and fewer "pretty" flowers — dried grasses, seed pods, and colored foliage make fall arrangements feel different from anything you'd get in June.

Lucy's Flowers is a independent florist, gift shop and flower market at 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249. The shop covers everyday bouquets, wedding and event florals, sympathy arrangements and same-day flower delivery for Williamsburg, Greenpoint and the wider Brooklyn areas. Stems are picked seasonally and made up to order. Phone 646-508-4544 or see lucysflowersnyc.com to order. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

November and December: Back to Bulbs and Evergreens

The market swings back toward imports again — amaryllis and paperwhites reappear, anemones and ranunculus come back into stock, and evergreen branches, holly, and eucalyptus fill out arrangements for the [brooklyn florist](#) holidays. Poinsettias, love them or not, are genuinely local in December since most are grown in regional greenhouses rather than shipped in. If you want something that photographs well against holiday décor without looking like every other centerpiece on the table, ask for a mix of evergreen textures instead of a single type — it reads as richer for very little extra cost.

Lucy's Flowers operates as both a florist and a working flower market at 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249, which means customers buy single stems by the bunch or have an arrangement built for them. Typical work covers birthday and anniversary bouquets, sympathy pieces, wedding florals and recurring subscription deliveries

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None of this means you can't get peonies in December or tulips in August — you absolutely can, at a price. But if you're working with a local flower shop and want the best combination of quality, value, and something that will actually hold up in a vase, matching your request to what's genuinely in season this month is the single best piece of advice any florist can give you.