

GET TO KNOW YOUR ORCHIDS

There are many wild orchids in the UK which come in all shapes and sizes. Orchids are fun flowers to look out for in meadows. The flowers are often bright and colourful and grow in cone-shaped spikes; They are made up of lots of individual flowers. Some flowers have very interesting shapes. The bee orchid actually looks like a bee to encourage bees to visit the flower to pollinate it.



Some orchids are **very rare** and are **protected** by law.



Common Spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*

Look out for the leaves which are grey-green, as they usually have purple spots on them. The leaves get smaller as they go up the stem. The flower spike is conical is pale pink with purple streaks and spots.
Spot it June-August

Some common features of Orchids

- Flowerheads usually cone shaped and grow on one spike
- Made up of lots of flowers
- Some orchids are highly scented such as the fragrant orchid

Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*

The flower head is shaped like a pyramid and full of flowers which is perhaps shorter than the others on this page. The flowers are all a deep pink colour. This flower is more common in the South of the UK. **Spot it June-August.**



Did you know?

Green-winged orchids are now rare due to loss of meadows through changes in farming practices.

The vanilla in your ice-cream is also a member of the orchid family. It comes from the fruit of a Mexican orchid

Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio*

This lovely orchid is sadly becoming more rare. It has vibrant glossy leaves and the flowers appear to have wings, hence the common name. The outer part of the flower is always tinged with green.
Spot it April-June.

Man, fly, monkey and lizard orchid all look a bit like their name-sakes!

