



Red Helleborine
(*Cephalanthera rubra*)

Makes a rare appearance on dry forest land where there is calcareous soil in southern and central Sweden.



Fly Orchid
(*Ophrys insectifera*)

This orchid has the appearance and smell of a hymenopter female (an insect). The hymenopter male is duped into trying to mate with the flower and thereby helps with the pollination. It grows in moist meadows on calcareous soils up to Jämtland.



Creeping Lady's Tresses
(*Goodyera repens*)

A little orchid with small white flowers in a one-sided cluster. One of the less common species in coniferous forests over the whole country.



Marsh Helleborine
(*Epipactis palustris*)

Makes a rare appearance in calcareous marshes and wet meadows. More common on the islands of Öland and Gotland.



Black Vanilla Orchid
(*Nigella nigra*)

Fragrant and rare orchid that grows on meadows in calcareous areas in north-western Sweden.



Military Orchid
(*Orchis militaris*)

Grows on grasslands in calcareous areas in south-eastern Sweden. The flowers are large magnificent and fragrant.

Lady's Slipper Orchid
(*Cypripedium calceolus*)

This rare orchid grows in moist forests and groves in large parts of the country and has the largest flower of any of Sweden's orchids.



Harming a Threatened Species is Criminal

Picking or digging up orchids is illegal and punishable by law. If you discover a place where orchids have been dug up, we would be grateful if you report to the police or the County Administrative Board.

For more information on orchids please contact the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.



106 48 Stockholm, Sweden. Telephone: +46 10 698 10 00
www.naturvardsverket.se

All of Sweden's Orchids are Protected

ISBN 91-620-9409-1, 15 000 copies. Illustrations by Bo Mossberg. Text by Marianne Werterin. Printed by Arkitektkopier AB, 2016.



All of Sweden's Orchids are Protected

Their protection means that you are not allowed to pick, dig up or in any other way remove or damage any wild orchid plants in Sweden. Nor is it permitted to collect or remove their seeds.

Here you can read about 15 of the orchid species that grow in the country. They have been selected to show a few of the rarer species as well as some of the more common. They illustrate the variation of form and colour that can be found in the orchid family, and can vary from small pale coloured modest species to brightly coloured striking ones.

Orchids are exclusive

Orchids are seen by many as being an exotic, beautiful and unusual part of the Swedish flora. The orchid family is the most diverse and highly developed of the monocotyledonous plants. It is

Elder-flowered Orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*)

Grows on dry grasslands and scantily covered bedrock, especially in the coastal regions of southern and central Sweden. The flowers come in two separate colours, magenta and cream-coloured.



On the front:

Lesser Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*)

A fairly common orchid in forest meadows and on hills in the whole country. The flowers have a strong pleasant scent.

White Frog Orchid (*Licorichis albidus*)

A very rare species that grows on poor grasslands in southern Sweden and in the mountain region. The flowers are cream-coloured and very tiny.



Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*)

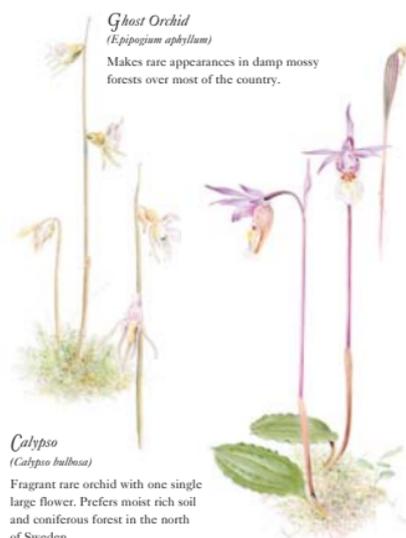
Limited numbers can be seen growing in meadows over the entire country. The flowers are fragrant and have a long narrow spur.

also one of the plant kingdom's largest families, consisting of over 20,000 species spread all over the world. Orchids make very special demands on their habitat and are thus often sensitive to changes. Today many species are endangered, because the environment where they grow is changing in various ways as a result of large-scale production in forestry as well as in agriculture.

In Sweden there are just over 40 orchid species. Many of them are rare and at the same time beautiful, which some people regard as an invitation to pick and collect them. Through the years more and more areas have been discovered, where the

Ghost Orchid (*Epipogium aphyllum*)

Makes rare appearances in damp mossy forests over most of the country.



Calypto (*Calypto bulbosa*)

Fragrant rare orchid with one single large flower. Prefers moist rich soil and coniferous forest in the north of Sweden.

whole orchid population has been dug up and presumably transported out of the country. Through protected status orchids can be rescued from relentless picking and collection. To protect them from environmental changes requires protection of their habitats too.

Every species has its special habitat

Some orchid species occur all over Sweden, but many exist only in the southern part of the country. A few species grow only in northern Sweden. Since most species usually have definite habitat demands, they grow only in the type of nature that



Heath Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*)

One of our most common orchids. Grows in the whole country, particularly on poorer soil.

Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*)

Limited numbers can be seen growing in moist forest meadows and groves over the whole country. Occurs more frequently on calcareous soils.

suits that particular species. Some require meadow land while others prefer forests, marshes or pastures. Many species prefer calcareous soil, such as on the islands of Öland and Gotland.

If we are to retain all of our orchids in Sweden, then it is important that we respect their protected status and leave them where they are in the countryside. There is absolutely no point in digging up the plants and trying to get them to grow in your own garden. One reason for this is that orchids are dependent on a certain type of fungus. An orchid that is moved from its natural habitat will therefore soon die.