

Orchids of Palestine



Produced By



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Family: Orchidaceae

Orchidaceae is the second largest plant family on this planet with more than 28.000 species recorded, orchids have colonized almost all continents and vegetation zones. The 36 species recorded in the area of historic Palestine are useful as indicators of good ecosystem health, because orchids are sensitive to biotic and abiotic factors.

Blooming period of selected species

Orchid Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
<i>Anacamptis collina</i>		✿	✿	✿		
<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i>			✿	✿	✿	
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>				✿	✿	✿
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>			✿	✿	✿	
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>		✿	✿	✿	✿	
<i>Epipactis veratrifolia</i>	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>				✿	✿	
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>			✿	✿		
<i>Neotinea tridentata</i>			✿	✿		
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>			✿	✿		
<i>Ophrys bornmuelleri</i>		✿	✿			
<i>Ophrys umbilicata</i>	✿	✿	✿	✿		
<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	✿	✿	✿			
<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i>		✿	✿	✿	✿	
<i>Ophrys iricolor</i>		✿	✿	✿		
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	✿	✿	✿			
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>				✿	✿	
<i>Orchis anatolica</i>			✿	✿		
<i>Orchis galilaea</i>		✿	✿	✿		
<i>Orchis punctulata</i>			✿	✿		
<i>Orchis sancta</i>				✿	✿	



Ophrys holosericea



Orchis galilaea

Protect Beauty
by Protecting Our Environment

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Orchids Habitat

Orchids produce up to 2000 very small seeds per capsule. The advantage of the small size, sometimes only a few nanometers, is the wide distribution. Few days after germination, continued growth depends on the presence of certain mycorrhizal fungi in the soil. As green leaves grow and the plant matures, the fungus will become parasitic, harvesting energy in the form of glycosides. In order to prevent it from growing too far into the plant's tissue, orchids produce effective fungicides such as orchinol.

Note

Often orchids grow near thorny shrubs. Spiky neighbors, such as *Sarcopoterium spinosum*, offer protection from grazing mammals



Orchis anatolica

Orchis galileae

Serapias vomeracea



Limodorum abortivum

Anacamptis pyramidalis

Ophrys holosericea

Pollination

Three pollination strategies are noted: sexual deception, floral mimicry and sleeping-hole-mimicry. The earliest species throughout the year to flowers are from the genus *Ophrys*. Before any female wild bees hatch, they form flowers mimicking them. Deceived male bees visit the flower attracted by its look and scent and pollinate it. *Serapias* offer their tunnel-shaped flower for bees to rest. However, it falls just too short for the pollinator to be safe and they go on searching transporting the orchid's pollen to the next "sleeping hole". Other species mimic the flowers of different plant families during their blooming period.

Threats

Orchid populations are declining due to pressure from grazing animals, habitat degradation, urbanization and uprooting. The dried tubers were used to prepare the original Sahlab - a sweet drink. Global warming also impacts them disproportionately through soil degradation, drought, and seasonal changes which put them out of sync with pollinators.



Ophrys holosericea

Ophrys lutea



Ophrys sphegodes



Neotinea tridentata

Orchis galileea

