



Maharees Conservation Association
Protecting | Enhancing | Preserving

Wildflowers of the Maharees

Welcome to the beautiful Maharees, home to many interesting and sometimes rare species of flora and fauna. Using this species spotter sheet, see how many different species of flora you can find as you enjoy your walk around Maharees. Supported by Kerry County Council, the Local Agenda 21 Partnership Fund and the BSc in Wildlife Biology, IT Tralee



Marram grass

Ammophila arenaria

Muiríneach

This spiky but fragile grass allows the trapping of sand and debris, and its long root system allows the whole sand dune system to stabilise and grow over time.

Flowers from July – August



Sea Rocket

Cakile maritima

Cearrbhacán mara

Sea Rocket is typically found along our sandy shores and also occurs along shingle and gravel banks. Its egg-shaped seed pods can float in water allowing it to colonise along the coast.

Flowers from June – September



Sea Thrift

Armeria maritima

Rabhán

Also known as “Sea Pink” – it grows along cracks and crevices of sea cliffs, coastline and saltmarshes.

Flowers from April – July



Dove's-foot Crane's-bill

Geranium molle

Crobb bog

Named because its leaves resemble a dove's foot, its bright pink flowers are divided into five notched petals.

Flowers from April – September



Cowslip

Primula veris

Bainne bó bleachtáin

The Cowslip has been in decline in recent times, yet it can still be found in Maharees. The yellow flowers are borne on a hairy stem and seem to droop to one side with the weight of the cluster.

Flowers from April – May



Common Bird's-foot-trefoil

Lotus corniculatus

Crobb éin

The “birds-foot” refers to the claw-like structure of the plants seed pods, resembling a birds foot, and trefoil (three parts) is used to describe the leaves. It's a foodplant for caterpillars of the common blue butterfly - very nectar-rich for pollinators. Flowers from June-September



Sea Spurge

Euphorbia paralias

Bainne léana

Sea Spurge grows along the sand dunes, shingle and gravel banks of the coastline. Its waxy leaves help the plant to prevent excess water loss. Its white milky latex was used in the past as a purgative, hence the common name ‘spurge’. Flowers from June – October



Burnet Rose

Rosa spinosissima

Briúlán

A member of the Rose family, it grows to about 50cm in height with five small heart-shaped petals forming a flower which can be white, cream or pink in colour. Its fruit (hips) are favoured by birds which then disperse the seeds. Flowers from May - August



Wild Pansy

Viola tricolor

Goirmín searraigh

This small flower, no more than 26mm across, can vary from yellow/white to blue/purple in colour. Striping along the centre of the lower petals shows a clear landing strip for pollinators.

Flowers from April – November



Sea Campion

Silene uniflora

Coireán mara

This plant prefers dry, shingle areas to grow and its leaves are fleshy and help the plant to retain moisture in the salty spray.

Flowers from June – August

For more information please visit our website: www.mahareesconservation.com