



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



Tree mallow

Malva arborea

Hocas ard

The Tree Mallow is a woody-stemmed plant with fan-like leaves which produces attractive pink flowers.

It can tolerate very salty water by excreting excess salt through special glands on its leaves.
Flowers from June-September



Lady's Bedstraw

Galium verum

Bolach cnis

Lady's Bedstraw possesses a hay-like scent from its cluster of yellow five-petal flowers.

Its name suggests the flowers would have been used to fill mattresses.
Flowers from June-September



Sea-holly

Eryngium maritimum

Cuilleann trá

Sea Holly is found in the sand dunes along our coastlines and on shingle and gravel banks. Growing to about 50cm in height, this plant is blue/silver in colour, its leaves have spiked tips and it has beautiful light-blue flowers.

Flowers from June-August



Pyramidal Orchid

Anacamptis pyramidalis

Magairlín na stuaice

The striking magenta colour from the flowers can consist of 50-100 flowers on one stem.

The flowers are loved by many pollinators, including the Six-Spot Burnet moth and an array of butterflies.

Flowers from June – September



Red Bartsia

Odontites vernus

Hocas tae

Red Bartsia is commonly found along disturbed areas of ground and is semi-parasitic on its neighbouring plants' roots.

Flowers from June – September



Silverweed

Potentilla anserina

Briosclán

The underside of the leaves are silver in colour and were once used to line the shoes of walkers to protect their feet on long journeys.

It has a beautiful yellow-petalled flower.
Flowers from May – August



Scarlet Pimpernel

Anagallis arvensis

Falcaire fiáin

Its tiny five-petalled scarlet flowers open their petals in the sunshine and close them in the colder days, which is why the flower was known as the poor man's barometer.

Flowers from May-October



Sea Mayweed

Tripleurospermum maritimum

Lus Bealtaine

Sea Mayweed is a typical coastal plant and can be found growing in a variety of habitats including shingle and gravel banks.

The daisy-like flowers are typically 20-40mm in diameter.
Flowers from April-October



Bee Orchid

Ophrys apifera

Magairlín na mbeach

The Bee Orchid occurs on dry sandy soil and can be found growing throughout the Maharees sand dunes. The name is given to the orchid species due to its lower petal's resemblance of a Bumblebee, a device used to attract pollinators.

Flowers from June-July



Eyebright

Euphrasia officinalis

Glanrosc

This plant can be spotted growing in grassy areas within the sand dunes and nearby field verges. Like the Red Bartsia, it also supplements its diet by using fungal partners to 'steal' food from neighbouring grass roots.

Flowers from June to October