

Endangered species in the UK - plants



Native plants have long been under threat by modern farming methods, as well as invaders such as Japanese Knotweed. While there are roughly 1500 native wild flower species in the UK, the number of alien species has risen to nearly 3000. The other force affecting native plants is climate change. With warmer weather, cold-loving plants are being threatened as their habitats change.

What you can do

The best thing you could do is, of course, not to disturb our protected native plants through picking, digging or taking seeds. You can also inform your local authority if you spot invaders such as Japanese knotweed. Organic farms leave land for wildlife and use less fertilisers - go 'organic'.

done this

What schools can do

Create a wildlife garden or leave strips of land for wild meadow flowers.

done this

Find out more

www.wildwoodtrust.org
www.naturalengland.org
www.plantlife.org.uk

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Endangered species in the UK – Plants



Bluebells

A common site in many woodlands, and one of the most loved plants of the British Isles. They thrive best in cool, damp and shady conditions so have been identified as one of the species that could 'fall off the edge' if global warming takes hold. They are also under threat from the cultivated Spanish Bluebell which is taking over the native bluebell's habitat.

stick a
picture here



Brown Galingale

This is a sedge (grass like plant) that grows on the edge of ponds, where the water level fluctuates with the seasons. It is threatened by an invasive species, the New Zealand pygmy weed, which was originally introduced in garden ponds but has now spread rapidly.



Burnt Orchid

It was once relatively common on the chalk grasslands of England, an apparently stable environment. Now it is one of the fastest-declining species of flowering plant in Britain. Botanists don't know why, so have little idea about how to preserve it.



Lady's Slipper Orchid

This plant is coming back from the brink of extinction. It was once reduced to one single clump in the wild due to over-collection. A propagation programme has led to successful reintroductions and some of these plants have reached flowering size.

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