



Photographs: Maarika Toomel

*Did You know that
orchids in Estonian folk tradition
are known for being aphrodisiacs,
arousing love and passion?*

Orchids are thought to symbolise allure, resilience, and rare and fragile beauty. They are the subject of numerous legends and beliefs to this day. Common spotted-orchid, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.

Tiesitkö, että orkideat on Viron kansanperinteessä tunnettu afrodisiakkeina - rakkauden ja intohimon herättäjinä?

Orkideoita pidetään viettelevyyden, kestävyuden, harvinaisuuden ja herkän kauneuden symbolina. Niihin liittyy lukemattomia legendoja ja uskomuksia vielä nykypäivänäkin. Kalkkimaariankämmeikä, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.

Знаете ли вы, что орхидея в эстонских народных преданиях известна как афродизиак, стимулирующий любовную страсть?

Орхидеи считались символом очаровательной, неуязвимой и нежной красоты. С ними связана масса легенд и верований даже и в наши дни. Пальчатокоренник Фукса (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*).

Kas teadsid et orhideed on Eesti rahvapärimeses tuntud kui afrodisiakumid – armastuse ja kire tekitajad?

Orhideesid peetakse veetluse, vastupidavuse, haruldase ja õrna ilu sümboliks. Nendega on seotud hulgaliselt legend ja uskumisi veel tänapäevalgi. Vööthuul-sõrmkäpp, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.



In Estonia, 36 species of orchids grow in the wild. The areas with the highest numbers of species are Western Estonia and the islands.

Sword-leaved helleborine, *Cephalanthera longifolia*.



The slipper orchid is the orchid species with the biggest blossoms in Estonia and Europe (its perianth diameter measures more than 10 centimetres), and is one of the plants with the biggest blossoms in Estonia overall.

Slipper orchid, *Cypripedium calceolus*.



In the wild in Estonia, Orchidaceae bloom from May until August, with the highest number of species blooming around Midsummer.

Military orchid, *Orchis militaris*.



Orchids are plants that occur worldwide; it is only in deserts and polar regions that they do not occur. Tropical orchid.



The flat-leaved vanilla orchid (*Vanilla planifolia*) is the only commercially significant species in the Orchidaceae family. The fruit of the vanilla orchid is a thin capsule 25 millimetres long from which flavouring is produced.



The height of the plants in some orchid species in Estonia, such as Broad-leaved Helleborine, *Epipactis helleborine*, may even exceed 1 metre.



Collecting orchid-themed stamps might be termed the “Queen of Thematic Philately”. The first orchid-themed postage stamp was circulated in the French colony of Guadeloupe in 1905.



In Vilsandi National Park, up to 32 species of Orchidaceae may be spotted over the course of a summer. Estonia's rural municipalities richest in orchids are Lümända in Saare County with 32 species, Kihelkonna in Saare County with 31, Kõrgessaare in Hiiu County with 30 and Hanila Lääne County with 29.

Common spotted-orchid, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.