



Wildflowers of County Roscommon

Here are some
special places
in County
Roscommon
to see the best
wildflowers...

Annaghmore Lough
Annaghmore Lough
near Strokestown

Bogs throughout the county

Hedgerows everywhere

Lake O'Flynn near
Ballinlough

Lough Allen shore

Lough Funshinagh

Lough Ree shore

Mote Park Wood and bog

Lough Key Forest Park

St John's Wood

Suck Valley



Yelly Flag



Meadow Sweet



Dandelion Seed Head



Birdsfoot Trefoil



Water Avena

Wildflowers of special interest in County Roscommon

The Pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*)
is a bogland plant native to North America
but was introduced into Ireland in the early
1900s and planted in a few midland bogs.

The plant is carnivorous. The leaf is pitcher
shaped and holds water. Insects fall into the
water and the plant absorbs nutrients from
the dead insects.

This tall plant grows in one bog near the river
Shannon in northeast Roscommon.



Pitcher Plant



Irish Lady's Tresses

Protected Wildflowers

A number of wild plants are protected
under the Flora Protection Order 1999.
In County Roscommon two protected
wildflower species grow;
Mudwort (*Limosella aquatica*) and
Irish Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes
romanzoffiana*).

Both species have been recorded near
Lough Allen in North Roscommon.

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Ox-eye Daisy



Primrose

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

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The Heritage Council



Wildflowers of County Roscommon



County Roscommon

County Roscommon sits in the heart of Ireland on the western banks of the mighty River Shannon and beautiful Lough Ree. Of the five counties in the province of Connaught, Roscommon is the only county without a sea coast.

The countryside of County Roscommon is, in the main, flat with gentle rolling hills. In the north of the county an area of upland straddles the borders of County Sligo and County Leitrim.

Limestone is the principal underlying bedrock in most of County Roscommon with some exposed limestone outcrops visible in the south and centre of the county. A few areas of Devonian Old Red Sandstone can be found in the north and northeast of the county. This underlying geology is the one of the main factors that influences the distribution of plant species.

Roscommon Habitats

The countryside of Roscommon contains a wide variety of wildlife habitats ranging from natural woodlands, green pastures, hay meadows, hedgerows, bogs, wet meadows, fens, callows, freshwater loughs, turloughs, small streams, rivers, eskers and lakes. Each habitat has its own particular array of interesting wildflower species.

Roscommon Wildflowers

Roscommon county has an abundant and rich flora.

Of the 1000 or so flowering plant and fern species recorded in Ireland - around 600 of these have been recorded in County Roscommon to date.

Plant species vary from lime-loving species of grassland to acidic bogland species. The flora in Roscommon includes a number of species that are scarce in Ireland. However, it also includes some species that grow in few other parts of Ireland.

Spring Wildflowers

In early Spring with the lengthening days and warmer weather the first signs of new season plant growth begin to appear. Generally the catkins appear on the Hazel tree around the first week of February. The first wildflowers of the season usually appear in the hedgerows and woodlands. These flowers bloom before the leaves on the trees reduce light to the plants on the ground.

The early Spring wildflowers include: Lesser Celandine, Wood Anemone, Violet, Primrose, Bluebell, Ramsons, Dandelion and Daisy.

As the weeks progress, Furze with brilliant-yellow flowers decorate the hedgerows and hillsides around the Roscommon countryside.

As each week passes in Spring more wildflower species begin to bloom including the Marsh Marigold along waterways and the delicate white flowers appear on the Blackthorn bush.



Wood Anemone

Lesser Celandine



Dandelion

Blackthorn

Summer Wildflowers

The arrival of Summer brings an abundance of wildflower species including; Thistle, Poppy, Knapweed, Orchids and many more species.



Cowslip



Purple Loosestrife



Spear Thistle



Knapweed



Bee Orchid



Pyramidal Orchid



Butterfly Orchid

Wild orchids in Roscommon

Wild native Irish orchids have exotic flowers but tend to be small and less spectacular than orchids of the tropics displayed in flower shops. The orchid family includes Twayblade, Lady's Tresses and Helleborines.

Wild orchids grow in a variety of habitats including dense woodlands, marshes, bogs, gravel areas, eskers, roadsides and pastures.

In Ireland around 30 different species of wild orchid have been recorded and 20 or so species have been recorded growing in County Roscommon.

Bog Wildflowers

The peat soil of boglands is generally acidic and poor in nutrients. Some wildflowers have adapted to these conditions and have developed a method of catching insects to secure nutrients for plant growth.

These wildflowers are carnivorous and unique to bogs and include Sundew and Butterwort.



Bog Asphodel



Sundew

Rare Wildflowers in Roscommon

County Roscommon hosts a number of wildflower species that are very scarce in Ireland.

These include:

Bird's-nest Orchid

Bloody Cranesbill

Irish Lady's Tresses

Irish Whitebeam

Long-leaved Helleborine

Marsh Helleborine

Marsh Pea

Mudwort

Toothwort

Water Germander



Field of Buttercups close to Lough Ree at Kiltewan.



Marsh Helleborine



Marsh Pea



Water Germander