

Native Orchids of the Limestone Coast Stringybark Woodland

Native orchids are a very important part of our environment and there are over 250 described species in South Australia. They are delicate and have a special role in ecosystems. Much like frogs can tell us if water is healthy, orchids can tell us if an area of native vegetation is healthy. Some are very rare and often rely on a single insect for their survival (as they need them for pollination to produce seed). Orchids come in all shapes and sizes with some looking like spiders and even donkeys. When walking, we need to be careful not to step on orchids; being small they can be hard to see but this identification chart will help you recognise and protect them.

Pollinator

Native bee Native wasp Native fly Fungus Gnat (type of tiny fly, mosquito-like)

Self-pollinated Ant ? Unknown

Leaf type

Round or heart-shaped leaf, flat on ground Leafy stem or a rosette (cluster) without flowers Single upright grass-like leaf Wide flat leaf growing at an angle from the ground

Tubular leaf like a chive or onion Rosette (cluster) of leaves spreading from a central point on the ground Two or more upright grass-like leaves A flower stalk with no leaf

Small Mosquito Orchid

Acianthus pusillus

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 15 cm. Several tiny dark red or maroon flowers in the shape of large mosquitos. Pale green heart-shaped leaf, maroon underneath. Grows in colonies.

Pink Fingers

Caladenia carnea

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 25 cm. One to three pale pink flowers with four "petals" pointing forward and one pointing upwards. Labellum has a yellow tip. Green leaf is short and narrow with a fold along the middle.

Black-tongue Caladenia

Caladenia congesta

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 60 cm. One to three bright pink flowers with conspicuous black labellum tip on thin wiry flower stem. Leaf is linear and up to 18 cm long.

Green-comb Spider-orchid

Caladenia dilatata

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 45 cm. A single green and white flower with a maroon-tipped labellum and distinctive green comb on either side. Basal leaf is oblong.

Pink Fairies

Caladenia latifolia

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 40 cm. One to two bright pink (sometimes white) flowers on a wiry hairy stem. Oblong leaf, very hairy on both sides.

Large Duck-orchid

Caleana major

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 40 cm. One to five reddish brown duck-shaped shiny flowers on thin wiry stem.

Purple Beard-orchid

Calochilus robertsonii

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 30 cm. Up to nine flowers that are green to brown, often red-veined, with a purple beard. There are two red "eye" spots above the beard and one distinctive dark green V-shaped leaf. Grows in different habitats from woodlands to swamp edges.

Green Bird-orchid

Chiloglottis cornuta

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 10 cm. Flowers are predominately green with reddish markings. Two bright green opposing leaves, linear-oblong to oblong-lanceolate.

Veined Helmet-orchid

Corybas diemenicus

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 2 cm. Small maroon and white flower is helmet shaped with tiny teeth around the edge. The flat leaf is green and round with a point opposite the stem. Grows in colonies in moist areas.

Slaty Helmet-orchid

Corybas incurvus

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 16 mm. Ground hugging heart-shaped to ovate leaf bearing dark purple flower with a white central patch on short slender stalk.

Small Gnat-orchid

Cyrtostylis reniformis

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 16 cm. A single round ground-hugging grey-green basal leaf produces one to six reddish-brown flowers. May form large colonies in moist shaded conditions.

Pink Hyacinth Orchid


Dipodium roseum

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to one metre. Up to 50 pink flowers with darker pink spots at the top of the fleshy stem. The labellum always has pink stripes (a similar species *D. pardalinum* has pink spots). Does not have leaves and grows near stringybark trees. This orchid is leafless and saprophytic (it doesn't photosynthesise, but consumes organic material).

Common names used as per *South Australia's Native Orchids* DVD (2011) by the Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. Botanical names used are those accepted by the SA Herbarium. Where there are two botanical names listed, the brackets indicate the names used as per the DVD. Names are subject to change and may vary in field/electronic guides as a result. For more information on taxonomic names, refer to the *Census of South Australian Vascular Plants* (www.environment.sa.gov.au/Knowledge_Bank/Information_data/Census_of_SA_plants_algae_fungi). The calendar for each species represents the times when it can normally be found in flower in the Limestone Coast.


Wall-flower Donkey-orchid
Diuris orientis



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 45 cm. Up to eight yellow flowers with red-brown markings with two large distinctive petals shaped like donkey ears. Up to three grass-like leaves. Grows in colonies.


Spotted Donkey-orchid
Diuris pardina



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 30 cm. One to eight yellow or cream flowers with brown irregular spots with two large distinctive petals shaped like donkey ears that are pale yellow on the front but brown and black on the back. Green leaves are grass-like.


Parson's Bands
Eriochilus cucullatus



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 20 cm. Usually one flower, but up to five. Flowers are small and pale pink to white with two white sepals pointing downwards. The single leaf is egg-shaped, dark green and hairy.

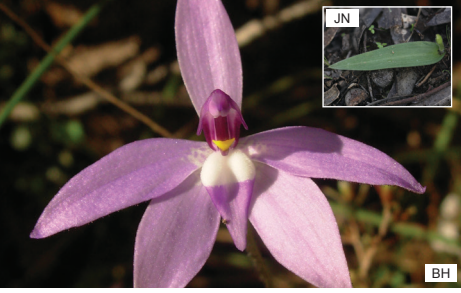
Cinnamon Bells
Gastrodia sesamoides



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 30 cm. Up to eight yellow flowers with irregular brown spots. Two large distinctive petals (shaped like donkey ears) are pale yellow on the front and brown on the back. Green leaves are long and thin.

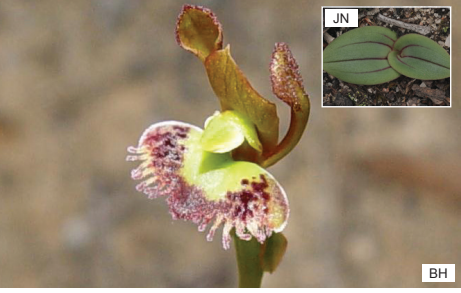
Purple Cockatoo
Glossodia major



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 30 cm. One or two purple or mauve (rarely white) flowers with five "petals". The centre of the flower resembles a cockatoo's beak. A single hairy narrow leaf. Sweet perfume on warm days. Grows individually or in small groups, occasionally large colonies. Abundant after fire.


Fringed Hare-orchid
Leporella fimbriata



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 25 cm. One to three yellowish-green flowers with reddish markings. One or two ovate green leaves.


Hare Orchid
Leptoceras menziesii



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 25 cm. One to three pink and white flowers on a wiry hairy stem. Leaf is lanceolate (pointy at one end) and hairy. Grows in large colonies after fire.


Slender Onion-orchid
Microtis parviflora



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 50 cm. Fleshy stem with up to 80 green flowers. Leaf is usually longer than the flower stem.


Small Duck-orchid
Paracaleana minor



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 18 cm. Up to seven yellowish green or reddish brown flowers on a very thin wiry stem. Grows in sparse colonies.


Bluebeard Orchid
Phaladenia deformis



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 15 cm. One single bright blue flower up to 40 mm across; rare variations are pink, white or yellow. Often found in small dense colonies.


Tall Greenhood
Pterostylis melagramma



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 90 cm. Up to 20 green and white hood-shaped flowers; labellum is brownish to yellow-green with dark central stripe. Basal leaves are not present when flowering. Grows individually.


Dwarf Greenhood
Pterostylis nana



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 20 cm. Usually a single flower which is small, hood-like, green and white striped, with antennae-looking sepals. Slightly pointed oval-shaped leaves are dull green, smooth, and grow in a rosette. Grows in colonies.


Nodding Greenhood
Pterostylis nutans



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 30 cm. A single green drooping hood-like flower with faint white stripes. Three to six green leaves have crinkled edges and grow in a rosette. Grows in colonies.


Maroon-hood
Pterostylis pedunculata



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 30 cm. Usually a single hood-shaped flower which is white and green at the base, and maroon at the top. Dark green leaves on long stalks growing in a rosette. Grows in colonies in moist areas.


Black Fire-orchid; Red Beaks
Pyrorchis nigricans



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 25 cm. Leaves are abundant, large, leathery, and heart-shaped. Young leaves may have maroon spots. Grows in colonies. Up to ten red and white striped flowers. Flowers are only common after a summer fire.


Lemon Sun-orchid
Thelymitra antennifera



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 25 cm. Up to three yellow flowers with six "petals" on a wiry stem. Flowers are lemon-scented and long-lasting. Long thin leaf, reddish at the bottom.


Spotted Sun-orchid
Thelymitra ixiodes



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 60 cm. Three to nine flowers; usually dark blue but may be purple, mauve, pink, white, or greenish-blue. Flowers are also variable in size. Upper sepal and petals are spotted. Opens in warm weather.

Salmon Sun-orchid
Thelymitra rubra



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Grows to 40 cm. Up to four pink flowers with six "petals" on a wiry zigzagging stem. Flowers are perfumed and open on hot humid days. Narrow leaf is folded along the middle and reddish at the bottom.

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