

# Fragrant orchid

*Gymnadenia conopsea* (L.) R.Br.

## DESCRIPTION

Geophyte with fragrant pink to purple (sometimes white) flowers arranged in dense cylindrical spikes. The stem is robust and leaves are long, narrow and lanceolate.

## HABITAT

Short grasslands, meadows, fens, flushed slopes, unimproved hill pastures, road verges, grassy moorland and scrub. It prefers dry to wet and calcareous substrates.



## DISTRIBUTION

Boreal and temperate Eurasia. In Europe it is found from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean, Turkey and the Caucasus up to 2,800 m altitude. The species avoids the Mediterranean lowlands.

## DANGER

Even though the species is widespread and sometimes abundant, the trend of the population is decreasing on many sites due to numerous threats, such as ploughing, agricultural uses, conversion of pastures into arable land, drainage and land improvement, but also abandonment of grazing activities.

## PROTECTION

CITES Washington Convention - Annex II.

EU regulation of trade of fauna and flora - Annex B.

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Least Concern.

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