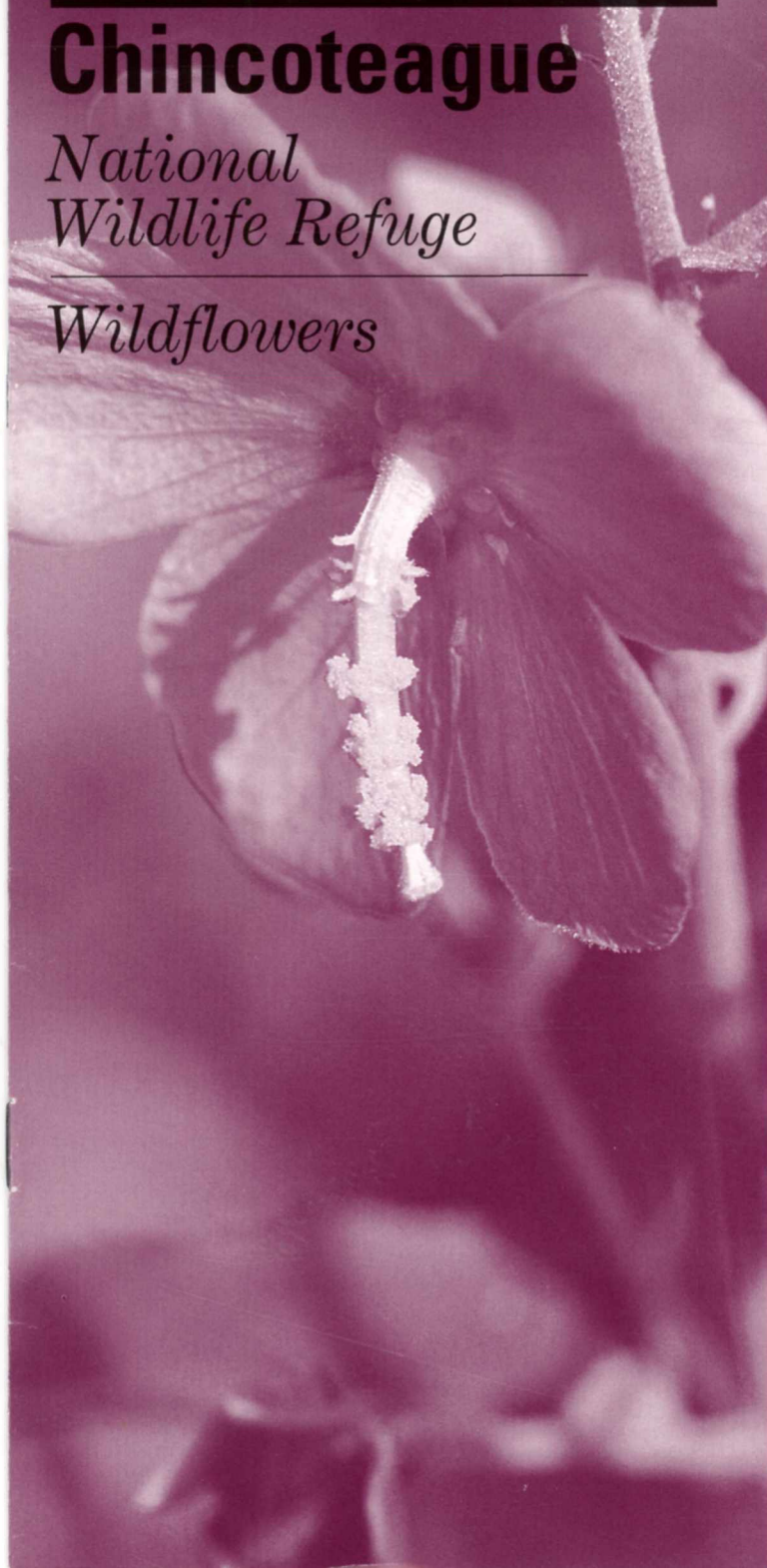


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Chincoteague

*National
Wildlife Refuge*

Wildflowers



From spring through fall, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is brimming with the color and fragrance of wildflowers. A variety of wildflowers provide an ever-changing display of unique and fascinating blossoms, berries, and leaves. Not only do these flowers provide us with beauty, but they also serve an important role in sustaining a healthy ecosystem.

Please do not pick the flowers. Take only pictures and memories with you. Leave the wildflowers behind for all to appreciate their delicate beauty.

Some Helpful Hints

This guide is intended to help you recognize some of the more common wildflowers on the refuge. While some varieties can thrive in a diverse range of habitats, most require certain conditions to flourish. It is helpful to group together the three main habitats on the refuge where you will find wildflowers. These include:

Field

Open spaces with lots of sunlight, usually sandy soil.

Forest

Mostly loblolly pine and oak woods, moist and shady.

Marsh

Freshwater impoundments, rich in soil nutrients.

The flowering period for each wildflower is noted after its name.



Evening primrose

©Irene Hinke Sacilotto

Cover: Seashore mallow

©Irene Hinke Sacilotto



Robert Wilson/USFWS

Mayweed

Flowers of the Field

Mayweed
(*Anthemis cotula*), June–October.
The white daisy-like blossoms ($\frac{3}{4}$ –1" wide) of mayweed show themselves in summer along the refuge's roadsides. The lacy leaves have a heavy odor.

Blue-eyed Grass
(*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*),
March–June. If you look down at your feet when walking in open fields, you might see long-stalked, bright blue or violet "eyes" looking up at you from the grassy leaves.



Blue-eyed grass
©J. Kent Minichiello



Robert Wilson/USFWS

Meadow beauty

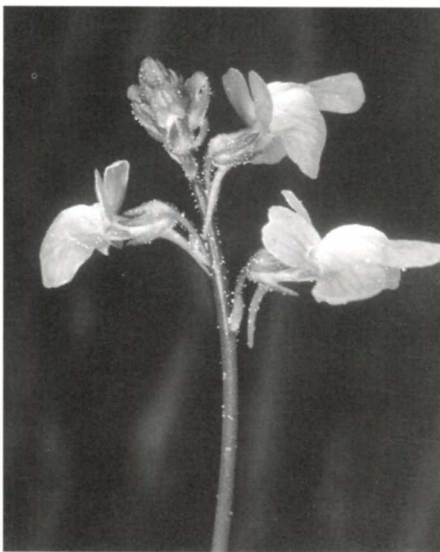
Camphorweed
(*Heterotheca subaxillaris*),
August–November. The strong scent of the camphorweed leaves fills the air as the yellow aster-like blossoms ($\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide) brighten the roadsides.

Meadow Beauty
(*Rhexia virginica* or *mariana*),
June–September. Two species of this flower occur here, the pale pink Maryland meadow beauty (*mariana*) and the deeper pink Virginia meadow-beauty (*virginica*). The four petals of the flower are so delicate they often fall off when touched by a raindrop.

Pink Wild Bean
(*Strophostyles umbellata*),
July–September. This legume twines its tendrils around other plants in order to reach the sunlight—similar to the peas or beans in your garden. Pink wild bean's long, narrow pods resemble miniature string beans.

Horse Nettle
(*Solanum carolinense*),
May–October. This plant protects itself with sharp prickles on its stem. It has pale purple or white star-shaped flowers in summer and later bears orange-yellow berries.

Yellow Thistle
(*Cirsium horridulum*), April–July.
This bristly-leaved plant has large brownish-yellow to purple flower heads 2 to 3 inches across. Its seeds and down serve as food and nesting material for birds, particularly goldfinches.



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Old field toadflax

Old Field Toadflax
(*Linaria canadensis*),
April–September. The small,
purplish-blue and white flowers of the
toadflax are said to resemble a small
lobelia. As its name suggests, the
plant is often found in old farm fields.

Flowers of the Forest



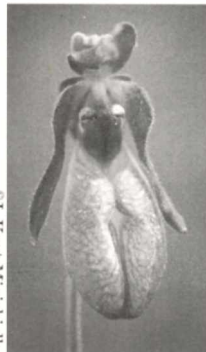
© Irene Hinke Sacilotto

Trumpet creeper

Trumpet Creeper
(*Campsis radicans*), July–September.
You can find the trumpet creeper
growing high up in trees. Its flashy,
orange, trumpet-shaped flowers are
favorites of hummingbirds.

Crested Yellow Orchid
(*Habenaria cristata*), July–August.
The moist, shady forest floor is where
you are likely to find the deep yellow-
orange of the crested yellow orchid.

Japanese Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera japonica*), April–July.
The sweet scent of honeysuckle
drifts through the air wherever
this climbing vine is found. Its
irregularly-shaped flowers may be
white, pink, yellow, or two-toned. This
is an exotic and invasive species.



© J. Kent Minichiello

*Pink lady's
slipper*

Rough Bedstraw
(*Galium obtusum*), July–September.
If you were a settler 200 years ago
you might have slept on a mattress
stuffed with this plant. Bedstraw
grows thick, often wrapped around
other plants. Its flowers are
miniature white stars.

Pink Lady's Slipper
(*Cypripedium acaule*), April–July.
This flower has a distinctive pink
pouch and two broad, ground-level
leaves. Be sure not to touch the pink
lady's slipper, as it has been known
to cause skin inflammation.

Flowers of the Marsh

Climbing or Common Hempweed
(*Mikania scandens*), July–October.
True to its name, climbing hempweed
twines around other plants. Its
feathery, whitish flowers appear in
late summer. The leaves are heart-
shaped or triangular and come out
opposite each other on the stem.

Saltmarsh Fleabane
(*Pluchea purpurascens*),
August–October. The pale pink
blooms of salt marsh fleabane color
the impoundments' edges. The name
indicates its tolerance to salt, but it
also thrives in freshwater. If you take
a deep breath of its fragrance, you
will understand where its nickname
“stinking” fleabane came from. This
is an invasive species.



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Saltmarsh fleabane



Rose mallow

Rose Mallow
(*Hibiscus palustris*),
June–September. In mid-summer
the large flowers of the rose
mallow cover the marshes with
pink and white. Do you see any
with a red center? These are the
“crimson-eyed” rose mallow
(*Hibiscus palustrispeckii*).

Water Penny-wort
(*Hydrocotyle verticillata*)
June–August. The small, round,
scalloped leaves of the water
penny-wort are easily found along
marsh edges. It has very small,
white flowers.

Additional Species

Wildflowers

- | | |
|--|--|
| European
Beggar-ticks
(<i>Bidens
tripartita</i>) | Cow Vetch (<i>Vicia
dasycarpa</i>) |
| Bluecurls
(<i>Trichostema
dichotomum</i>) | Carolina
Cranesbill
(<i>Geranium
carolinianum</i>) |
| Bull Thistle
(<i>Cirsium
vulgare</i>) | Creeping
Bush-clover
(<i>Lespedeza
repens</i>) |
| Bur-marigold
(<i>Bidens laevis</i>) | Daisy Fleabane
(<i>Erigeron
strigosus</i>) |
| Butterfly-weed
(<i>Asclepias
tuberosa</i>) | Dwarf St.
Johnswort
(<i>Hypericum
mutilus</i>) |
| Chicory
(<i>Cichorium
intybus</i>) | Evening
Primrose
(<i>Oenothera,
several species</i>) |
| Cinquefoil
(<i>Potentilla
canadensis</i>) | False Heather
(<i>Hudsonia
tomentosa</i>) |
| Common Mullein
(<i>Verbascum
thapsus</i>) | |



Butterfly-weed—
these bright
orange flowers
with hairy stems
grow in fields
and dry soil.

Wildflowers



Robert Wilson/USFWS

Seaside
goldenrod—
a bright yellow,
tall, flowering
plant growing
mainly on sand
dunes.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Frostweed
(<i>Helianthemum
canadense</i>) | Mock
Bishopweed
(<i>Ptilimnium
capillaceum</i>) |
| Germander or
Wood Sage
(<i>Teucrium
canadense</i>) | Moth Mullein
(<i>Verbascum
blattaria</i>) |
| Grass-leaved
Golden Aster
(<i>Chrysopsis
graminifolia</i>) | New York
Ironweed
(<i>Vernonia
noveboracensis</i>) |
| Seaside
Goldenrod
(<i>Solidago
sempervirens</i>) | Panicked
Tick-trefoil
(<i>Desmodium
paniculatum</i>) |
| Hedge Bindweed
(<i>Convolvulus
sepium</i>) | Partridge Berry
(<i>Mitchella
repens</i>) |
| Horsemint
(<i>Monarda
punctata</i>) | Pokeweed
(<i>Phytolacca
americana</i>) |
| Hyssop-leaved
Throughwort
(<i>Eupatorium
hyssopifolium</i>) | Poor-man's
Pepper
(<i>Lepidium
virginicum</i>) |
| Indian Pipe
(<i>Monotropa
uniflora</i>) | Prickly Pear
(<i>Opuntia
humifusa</i>) |
| Jewelweed
(<i>Impatiens
capensis</i>) | Rose-pink
(<i>Sabatia
angularis</i>) |
| Lamb's Quarters
or Pigweed
(<i>Chenopodium
album</i>) | Round-leaved
Throughwort
(<i>Eupatorium
rotundifolium</i>) |
| Marsh St.
Johnswort
(<i>Hypericum
virginicum</i>) | Scarlet
Pimpernel
(<i>Anagallis
arvensis</i>) |
| | Seashore Mallow
(<i>Kosteletzkya
virginica</i>) |

Wildflowers

Sheep or Red
Sorrel (*Rumex*
acetosella)

Smartweed
(*Polygonum*,
4 species)

Storksbill
(*Erodium*
cicutarium)

Venus' Looking-
glass (*Specularia*
perfoliata)

Asiatic Dayflower
(*Commelina*
communis)

Yellow
Wood-sorrel
(*Oxalis stricta*)

Shrubs and Vines

Bayberry
(*Myrica*
pennsylvanica)

Greenbrier
(*Smilax*
rotundifolia)

Groundsel Tree
(*Baccharis*
halimifolia)

Poison Ivy
(*Rhus radicans*)

Virginia Creeper
(*Parthenocissus*
quinquefolia)

Wax Myrtle
(*Myrica cerifera*)

Muscadine
Wild Grape (*Vitis*
rotundifolia)

Summer Grape
(*Vitis aestivalis*)

Devil's Walking
Stick (*Aralia*
spinosa)

Ferns

Bracken Fern
(*Pteridium*
aquilinum)

Marsh Fern
(*Dryopteris*
thelypteris)

Nettled
Chain Fern
(*Woodwardia*
areolata)

Royal Fern
(*Osmunda*
regales)

Virginia
Chain Fern
(*Woodwardia*
virginica)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Chincoteague is one of over 540 refuges and approximately 95 million acres in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and represents the most comprehensive wildlife resource management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself.

The Service also manages National Fish Hatcheries, and provides Federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance and the conservation and protection of migratory birds, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

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