

Hardy Orchid Society Seed Bank 2026-2027

The seed bank is intended to provide seed to members who wish to attempt to grow their own hardy orchids using micropropagation techniques.

It is highly unlikely that seed scattered freely in a garden will ever find the right conditions and fungal partner to germinate and most scattered seed may be essentially wasted.

Seed is donated to the bank by members (please pollinate your plants and send us fresh seed!). An administration charge of **£3 per sample** (between 0.2ml and 0.4ml of seed most usually... enough for 2 or 3 laboratory sowings) is made for samples of seed that are less than 5 years old. Any seed older than 5 years that remains in the bank is usually still viable and is **free of charge**.

Postage and packing is a default £2.90 for any number of samples requested unless purchased with other sundries. This is via Royal Mail Tracked 48 post. Should you want an untracked service (not recommended in view of the Royal Mail's tendency to lose items or delay delivery), the price is £1.75. Please express a preference when ordering if you prefer the latter.

The very old seed in the bank, having been donated in the early years of the Society, is likely to be unviable and has largely now gone. A few samples remain and details will be posted at a later date when time permits.

Seed less than 5yrs old specifically for scattering is available for members who wish to turn part of their garden/plot/own land into a cultivated wild flower meadow. Also, any members who are in a position to donate coarse, uncleaned seed in large quantities are invited to do so.

Only seed marked in the list with an asterisk is suitable and plentiful enough to scatter *.

Currently we have 4 types available... *Epipactis helleborine*, *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* var. *praetermissa* and *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* var. *junialis* and *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. This seed is not clean enough for laboratory propagation use and will be provided **free of charge** in 5ml quantities in paper envelopes for immediate use to members who request it whilst stocks last. A p & p charge of £2.90 or £1.75 applies to these samples. The species are marked on the list with an asterisk *.

A mix containing seed in quantity involving multiple species designed for scattering is being offered for a charge (proceeds donated to the society!) by one of our members, Dave Trudgill, who has had enviable success using the method to enrich his Scottish orchid meadow. Interested members should contact Dave directly on davetrudgill@googlemail.com.

It is most important that seed obtained from the HOS seed bank and associated sources is not released into wild environments and we expect our members to abide by this request.

For more experienced members wishing to try to propagate less common species or more unusual hybrids, the seed bank manager does have access to small quantities of other legally obtained but usually quite old (and possibly unviable) seed that might be of interest. Please enquire to John Haggar on johnsorchids57@gmail.com.

The current list follows:

Seed less than 5 years old for artificial propagation

Anacamptis laxiflora 2025	£3 per sample
Anacamptis morio 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025	£3 per sample
Anacamptis morio (Continental form) 2023	£3 per sample limited quantity
Bletilla striata 2022, 2024	£3 per sample
Dactylorhiza calcifugens (majalis spp. calcifugens) 2021	£3 per sample
Dactylorhiza fuschii 2024, 2025	£3 per sample
Dactylorhiza incarnata var. coccinea 2025	£3 per sample limited quantity
Dactylorhiza incarnata var. incarnata 2025	£3 per sample
Dactylorhiza incarnata var. pulchella 2025	£3 per sample
Dactylorhiza kerryensis 2025	£3 per sample
Dactylorhiza maculata 2023	£3 per sample
Dactylorhiza majalis (spp. majalis) 2025	£3 per sample
Dactylorhiza praetermissa 2021, 2023, 2025	£3 per sample
Dact. praetermissa var. junialis 2021	£3 per sample
Dactylorhiza sphagnicola 2025	£3 per sample
Epipactis gigantea 2022, 2024, 2025	£3 per sample
Epipactis palustris 2024, 2025	£3 per sample
Epipactis royleana 2021	£3 per sample
Epipactis xanthophæa 2023	£3 per sample
Gymnadenia densiflora 2024	£3 per sample limited quantity
Ophrys apifera 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025	£3 per sample
Spiranthes x bightensis “Chadd's Ford” 2023	£3 per sample limited quantity

2020 seed free of charge

Dactylorhiza fuchsii
Dactylorhiza praetermissa
Dactylorhiza purpurella
Epipactis gigantea
Epipactis helleborine
Epipactis palustris
Epipactis royleana
Epipactis veratrifolia
Gymnadenia conopsea
Ophrys apifera

5ml Seed specifically for scattering

*	Dactylorhiza fuchsii	2025	free of charge
*	Dactylorhiza praetermissa	2021	free of charge
*	Dact. praetermissa var. junialis	2021	free of charge
*	Epipactis helleborine	2023	free of charge