



## Bluebell

**Latin:** *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*

**Irish:** *Coinnle corra/ Cloigín gorm*



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This spring-flowering, perennial plant is a favourite of many. It flowers early, usually from April to June.

**Habitat:** Bluebells are often found on sea cliffs, under hedgerows or growing over large areas of woodland.

**Height:** The stems of the plant can grow from 10-30cm.

**Flowers:** The purple-blue flowers of the bluebell are bell-shape with the petals curling only at the end. They stand upright when they are folded in buds, but hang downwards when in flower. While a white or pink shaded bluebell is sometimes seen in the sea of blue flowers, it is very rare. The individual flowers grow on one side of the flowering stem only, and have a pleasant but strong scent.

**Leaves:** The leaves of the bluebell are straight, narrow and are dark green in colour. They are folded in a v-shape and can grow to a length of 45cm.

**Seeds:** The black seeds of the bluebell can survive for a long time, and can grow after many years if the right conditions occur.

**Other:** Long ago, the sticky sap of bluebells was used as glue for bookbinding. It was also used to stick feathers onto the end of arrows that were used by archers. The feathers helped the arrows to fly in a straight line through the air when released from the bow. The bulbs of the bluebells also contain starch, which people used to stiffen the big collars that were fashionable in Elizabethan times (1558-1603).