

IS IT OK TO PICK WILDFLOWERS?

Before you pick wildflowers, be sure you can answer "yes" to the four questions below:

1. **Is it legal to pick this species?** Some are protected by law. If I am on private land, do I have permission from the landowner? If on public land, do I have permission from the authorities?
2. Plants make flowers for reproduction. **Are there enough extra plants or blossoms so that my picking will not affect the survival of the local population?** Am I picking an unusual variety of this species, and will I affect its survival in this location?
3. **By picking this flower, will I be depriving others of the enjoyment of seeing the flower in its natural setting?** This may be likely if the flower is growing within view of a path or road.
4. **Am I picking for educational purposes?** The flowers in this show were picked so that large numbers of people could enjoy and learn more about our rich heritage of wild plants.

Remember, when in doubt, take a photograph. A photo lasts much longer than the flower itself, and more people will get the chance to enjoy it. Plus photography lets you capture and share the experience of seeing the flower in its natural setting.