

The meadow by the railroad track

# MAINTENANCE OF A SPECIES-RICH MOUNTAIN MEADOW

## Do you know these meadow species?

The very first settlers of the eastern Ore Mountains cleared the forest and opened up land for farming by setting up stone ridges and pastures. Meadows served as pastures; the grass and hay of mountain meadows offered rich grazing and livestock feed. The hay of wet meadows was inferior and farmers used it as bedding in stables. Because agriculture has changed a lot ever since, demand for hay from mountain grasslands is low. Nowadays, companies specialized in landscape work, farmers or environmental organisations maintain these species-rich meadows according to nature conservation practice. This comes with a high work effort as some of them are mowed and cleared by hand. Yet when these nutrient-poor grasslands once or twice a year are cut down and/or grazed, their diversity of flowers and complex structures becomes a haven and offers nutrition to insects, to bird species of open landscapes and reptiles.



**Baldmoney**

Meum athamanticum

This typical mountain meadow species is unmistakable due to its feathery, glabrous leaves and its highly aromatic smell.



**Orange lily**

Lilium bulbiferum

This flower has one of its last natural habitats of this region here in the meadow by the railroad track.



**Globeflower**

Trollius europaeus

Due to changes in use of meadows, this plant is endangered and strictly protected nationwide.



**Heath pea**

Lathyrus linifolius

The flowers of the Heath pea change their colour during aging: from pale purple to pale blue to rusty red.



**Common bistort**

Bistorta officinalis

This plant prefers the damper sites in the meadow.



**Wood cow-wheat**

Melampyrum nemorosum

It is a half-parasitic plant: it fastens on to the roots of grasses to take up water and nutrients.



**Small pearl-bordered fritillary**

Boloria selene

The nectar of the Ragged-robin provides a substantial meal for this butterfly.



**Common European adder**

Vipera berus

This snake is rather timid and bites with its venom only when very alarmed or cornered.

## Managing a meadow is applied nature conservation



**Many-leaved lupine**

Lupinus polyphyllus

**Troublemaker:** The bright blue lupine is one of the invasive plant species in Germany. Like any of the plants from the legume family, this species accumulates nitrogen in soils by means of root tubercles. Rhizomes of many metres and an abundance of seeds allow this species to spread quickly. For the plant communities in the naturally nutrient-poor environment of mountain meadows, this strategy is a serious threat as the lupine grows more successfully and suppresses native species.



The "Madagascar Club" at Dippoldiswalde's and Altenberg's Glückauf High School actively supports the management of this meadow. For a long time, it was fallow land, therefore the first and main focus of successful management is to cut back and remove young bushes and saplings as well as lupines. Mowing is done gradually: one section of the plants will always remain in the meadow to provide a haven for animals during winter.



→ You would like to do some practical conservation work? → Maintenance events take place regularly. → Our staff at the nature conservation centre is looking forward to your support!

→ Don't hesitate to contact us! → [www.naturschutzstation-osterzgebirge.de](http://www.naturschutzstation-osterzgebirge.de) | Am Bahnhof 1 | 01773 Altenberg | +49 35 056-233 950



The nature conservation centre manages the combined efforts of three partner organisations to make a difference for nature in the eastern Ore Mountains and neighbouring regions.



The management of the meadow by the railroad tracks is a cooperation of Naturschutzstation Osterzgebirge e. V. and Staatsbetrieb Sachsenforst.

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