

The Green Planet

Endangered plants and animals

1.

Edelweiss

The Edelweiss flower, also called “The Queen” is one of the endangered plants in Romania. It is 5-20 cm long with flowers composed of heads, surrounded by numerous long, white - silver fleecy – hairy bracts . In Romania it reaches up to a maximum height of 20 cm. It can grow up to 50-80 cm in other areas of the world.

The flower can be found growing in the alpine meadows on steep sunny slopes of limestone mountains. In Romania, the flower grows in the Carpathian Mountains, and has been declared a natural *monument* since 1933. It is currently being protected by law. “The Queen Flower” can be found in Maramures, Rodnei, Bucegi, Fagaras and Retezat mountains. Outside of Romania, it is found in mountain areas in the Alps, Balkans, Carpathians, Pyrenees, in Central Asia and Eastern Europe.



2.

- Peony mountain
- Rhododendron or mountain peony is a plant originating in the Balkans. In Romania is in the Carpathians.
- Mountain peony bushes grow spontaneously dwarf alpine area. Being a plant that grows under very specific climatic and terrain, he does not tolerate transplanting, which makes it impossible to introduce in the gardens. The beauty of its flowers that give off a smell and a flavor-like cherry and usually occur at the end of June and early July, and rarity makes mountain peony is a plant secured and protected as such perimeter National Park Bucegi. Bujorul mountain is evergreen and retain green leaves throughout the year.



3.

- Sweet pea
- Sweet pea (*Nigritella rubra*) is a plant of the family Orchidaceae. It has the right strain, 8-14 cm high. The leaves are numerous, narrow, oblong, pointing skyward. The flowers are small and numerous, close to the top of the stem in an oval ball. The flowers are red-purple, dark, fragrant vanilla. The root consists of tubers slashed. It blooms in June and August. In Romania is very rare in the Carpathian mountains in the Northeast and South



4.

- Rhodium
- Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) is a deciduous shrub or small tree up to 5-8 meters height. It grows over an area stretching from Iran to the Himalayas in northern India and is cultivated and naturalized throughout the Mediterranean region including Caucasus since ancient times. It is widely cultivated in Iran, India, drier parts of Southeast Asia, Malaya, the East Indies and tropical Africa. The leaves are glossy, narrow-oblong, whole red-light .Florile are four or five petals.



5.

- (*Gymnogyps californianus*)
- This species of condor can not be met in freedom than the Grand Canyon and the mountains on the west coast of the State of California. Californian condor is a bird that feeds exclusively with corpses, not being able to catch and kill live prey. It is a long-lived species, with life expectancy of 50 years. Due to poaching, lead poisoning and habitat destruction has become one of the rarest birds in the world. Another cause of the depreciation of the number of condors Californians was the lack of corpses of whales stranded main source of food for these birds considered by scientists some typical representatives of megafauna. California condors were part of the folklore of many Native American tribes in North America. The species was near extinction total around 1980 and was saved from extinction as a result of joint efforts of American ornithologists. Currently, a total of 332 condors who survived, 152 of birds live in freedom.



6.

- Mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*)
- Although mountain gorillas were discovered only in 1902, populations of this species of primates have been decimated by hunting, habitat destruction and illegal trafficking of baby gorillas. It is the largest species of monkey in the world, a male shot down in 1966 in Cameroon weighed 266 kg. Despite these impressive and terrifying appearance, mountain gorilla is actually the most peaceful monkey, much less aggressive than his relatives, chimpanzees. It is a quiet vegetarian, over 90% of the daily diet consists of fruits, leaves, bamboo shoots and insects. Now more survive only in Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ethnic wars in Rwanda and Congo have led to the heads of gorilla hunting in reserves by soldiers from both sides in the conflict. Today there survive only 720 mountain gorillas

