

# Ophrys apifera (Bee Orchid)



**Native of:** UK and Europe

**Habitat:** Terrestrial found in unimproved grassland on chalk and limestone.

**Description:** Looks like a bee's backside – and smells like it too. The stunning 2cm flowers are presented on stems up to 40cm. Up to about 14 flowers on the stem but usually about 4 to 6.

**Cultivation Guidance:** At School we grow in a net covered tunnel in a soil based compost that is 2 parts John Innes number 2, one part mendip grit, one part cornish grit, one part peat and a little bird grit. We keep the plants outside all year unless very cold weather is forecast when we move them to an unheated greenhouse.

**Flowering season:** June

**Flask to flowering approx.** 3-4yrs.

**Seed source:** Writhlington Rugby Field