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## **Can orchids be eaten?**

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The short answer is yes. Orchids are consumed as food, beverages, flavouring agents, cheese starters, medicine, and aphrodisiacs, with some of these practices going back thousands of years. Orchids are consumed across all continents of the earth, and the practices in each continent will be discussed. In some places the consumption of orchids has so severely depleted the natural species that it has drawn the attention of conservationists. Many nations do not allow the collection of wild orchids but traders circumvent this ban by having them collected by poor villagers in neighbouring countries.

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