Door County has a history of cherry growing that dates back to the 1800s. Soil and weather conditions - warm days and cool nights - influenced by Lake Michigan and Green Bay have created an ideal situation for growing these delicious fruits.

Today with around 2,500 acres of cherry orchards and another 500 acres of apple orchards, Door County is filled with blossoms in the spring and is delightfully decorated with the delicious fruits in the late summer and fall.

Door County is the 4th largest cherry producing region in the nation. The top three producing regions are Michigan, New York, and Utah. All but 100 acres of Wisconsin’s red cherry crop is grown in Door County.

While the Montmorency (tart) cherry makes up most of the 2,500 acres of cherry orchards throughout the county, the sweet cherry crop consists of only 50 acres, just enough to supply local roadside markets.

Do not pick the blossoms.

This chart highlights the blooming seasons of our most popular species. Because blooms are weather dependent, the dates given here are only approximate. Door County’s natural environment is both beautiful and fragile. Some of the same geographic and geologic attributes that give the county its beauty are also responsible for its thin soils. In order to protect our delicate plant and animal life for the enjoyment of future generations, please do not pick the blossoms.
As you explore the county, dozens of varieties of blossoms can be found. Whether you are taking an afternoon hike in one of our parks, biking along our pastoral back roads or simply strolling about in one of our local communities, be sure to keep your eyes peeled—who knows what beautiful blooms you may encounter!

**Forget-Me-Not:** Baby blue to hues of purple-pink, delicate blossoms carpet Peninsula State Park. Also nodding in the breeze along Lake Forest Park Dr. east of Sturgeon Bay

**Hepatica:** Moist upland woods, appearing in white, pink or purple clusters with three-lobed leaves. Nestled at Logan Creek, south of Jacksonport, east on Loritz Rd. off of Hwy. 57, from the kiosk take the trail east.

**Daffodil:** Delicious Daffys, harbingers of spring, pop up all over Door County, along back roads and tended plots. There are nice clumps to view in the middle of Cty. Rd. TT, east from Hwy. 42/57 in Sturgeon Bay, near a magnificent private garden

**Marsh Marigold:** Profuse yellow blossoms top plentiful green foliage, clumping in ditches and swales (low areas between ridges). Found along the curvy part of Cty. Rd. TT, east of Hwy. 42/57 in Sturgeon Bay and among hillocks at Ridges Sanctuary

**Dwarf Lake Iris:** Federally threatened, deep blue, tiny irises are found only by the Great Lakes. Blossoms last up to 3 days each in patchy, sunlit areas at Ridges Sanctuary; Jackson Harbor Ridges, Washington Island; and sporadically along the shoreline section of the Brachipod Trail, Whitfish Dunes State Park.

**Trillium:** Visible in many upland forest locations. In profusion at Logan Creek, south of Jacksonport, off Hwy. 57, east on Loritz Rd., from the kiosk take the trail east; a dedicated few on the path from the 2nd parking lot at Whitfish Dunes State Park to the shelter house

**Clintonia:** Prolific yellow blossoms freely mix with Dutchman's Breeches at Logan Creek, south of Jacksonport, off Hwy. 57, east on Loritz Rd., from the kiosk take the trail east.

**Canada Mayflower:** Starry blossoms atop Lady's Slipper-type leaves, this "Wild Lily of the Valley" is found in moist woodlands such as Logan Creek, south of Jacksonport, off of Hwy. 57, east on Loritz Rd., from the kiosk take the trail east.

**Starflower:** Bright, white stars cling to mossy hillocks, often surrounded by mini pools. On outskirts of Door County Land Trust's Kellner Fen, east of Sturgeon Bay, access on Lake Forest Park Dr. and on Mountain Maple Trail, Ridges Sanctuary.

**Jack-in-the-Pulpit:** Flower changes to bright crimson berries in late summer. Giant specimens exist in the garden adjacent to the north side of the Upper Range Light at Ridges Sanctuary.

**Columbine:** Nodding red and yellow blossoms peek out of the forest from the encircling drive through Potawatomi State Park near Sturgeon Bay.

**Canada Anemone:** A white blossom of the Buttercup family found in sandy soils and moist meadows. Try Toft Point State Natural Area about 3/4 of the way back along Ridges Road—day left at the fork.

**Yellow Lady's Slipper:** Crinkly booties with brown curly lateral petals, in moist soil but also sun-loving, found along forest edges. Little Lake Road, Washington Island; Cty. Rd. Q towards Cana Island; Ridges Rd.

**Starry Solomon's Plume:** Deer are partial to both slippers and plumes. Blossoms turn to maroon berries in late summer; nice patch found at end of trail to the Beach, Ridges Sanctuary.

**Striped Coralroot:** Shady, rich soil. Uses fungi, not chlorophyll, to survive. Easy to overlook. Ridges Sanctuary, past the first two bridges, Winter Wren Trail, south side.

**Gaywings (Fringed Polygala):** Hot pink mini airplane propellers grace rich, yet sandy soils. Visible surrounding Door County Land Trust's Kellner Fen off of Lake Forest Park Rd. east of Sturgeon Bay and Ridges Sanctuary.

**Wild Strawberry:** Miniature version of the farmed berry on Canal Rd. towards the Canal Station Light east of Sturgeon Bay, take Utah St. off of Hwy. 57.

**Wood Lily:** Profuse, gracious, large, bright orange lilies dot the sandy, open areas of Ridges Sanctuary and Ridges Rd.

**Butter-and-Eggs (Toadflax):** Quirky, spiky lemon and yellow blossoms; found at Bues Point Boat Launch, off of Cty. Rd. Q near Cana Island.

**Apple Blossoms:** A bit later than cherry trees, pinky white, soft, full apple blossoms emerge at the same time as apple leaves bud out. Gordon Rd., west from Culver's on Hwy. 42/57, Sturgeon Bay; Shiloh Rd., south of Sturgeon Bay; Cty. Rd. HH, north of Sturgeon Bay; Cherry Lane, Forestville.

**Cherry Blossoms:** Pinky, soft, full cherry blossoms emerge before their leaves bud out on cherry trees. Hwy. 42 north of Sister Bay; Cherry Lane, Forestville; Cty. Rd. HH, southwest of Sturgeon Bay; Shiloh Rd., south of Sturgeon Bay; Cty. Rd. A, parallel to Baileys Harbor; north of Egg Harbor, Hwy. 42; south of Fish Creek, Hwy. 42.

**Indian Paintbrush:** Veers toward neon colors, present in regenerating beach ridges and sandy soils. End of Trail to the Beach, Ridges Sanctuary; Jackson Harbor Ridges, Washington Island; near turn-around at east end at Lime Kiln Rd. north of Baileys Harbor.

**Silverweed:** Aptly named for underside of their feathery leaves, bright yellow blossoms creep everywhere along southern exposure. Sandy beach side soils. Bues Point Boat Launch near Cana Island; Lower Robert Labelle County Park off of Cty. Rd. U; Land Trust Preserve on S. Lake Michigan Rd.; Toft Point State Natural Area on Ridges Rd. past Nicky Fishery and end of Point Dr.

**St. John's Wort:** Flat yellow blossoms topped by a profusion of stamens. Found among shrubs and ridges open to the sky, Ridges Sanctuary.

**Blue Flag Wild Iris:** Big sister to the Dwarf Lake Iris, this flower waves hello along) Jackson Harbor Rd., Washington Island.

**Black-Eyed Susan:** Familiar bright yellow daisy-shaped petals encircle a fuzzy brown center. Sunny, open fields. Ridges Sanctuary; Ridges Rd.

**Harebell (Bluebell of Scotland):** Fragile looking but looks are deceiving! Light purple bell-shaped blossoms on slender stalks, all over Ridges Sanctuary including the garden between Hwy. 57 and the garage next to the Upper Range Light.

**Goldenrods:** Ohio, Dune and Canada goldenrods inhabit sandy, beachside soils such as Ridges Rd. near Baileys Harbor; Harbor Ridges County Park and adjoining shubby beach area. Ragweed, not goldenrod, makes you sneeze.

**Kalm's Lobelia:** Dainty three-petaled purple blossoms with white centers found in wet soil near beaches. South side of parking area at Baileys Harbor Ridges County Park; Toft Point at end of Point Rd., from Ridges Rd.

**Aster:** From the daisy family, this scraggly-petal purple blossom abides along grassy roadsides. Toft Point; Ridges Rd. to Point Dr., north of Baileys Harbor; roadsides of Potawatomi State Park.

**Grass of Parnassus:** Delicate, striped petals adorned by sturdy stalks attached to waxy base leaves. Named for a similar blossom in Greece. Range Light Boardwalk, Ridges Sanctuary.

**Fringed Gentian:** Shaggy deep purple petals bend open in daytime and curl up around each other at nighttime. Spotted in profusion over Toft Point Shoreline from Ridges Rd. to Point Dr., north on gravel road to several parking pull-offs.

**Thimbleberry:** Large white blossoms peeking out of soft, fuzzy, hypanallergenic leaves. Gildeen Dr.; N. Cave Point Dr. to Whitefish Dunes State Park; Ridges Rd. to Point Dr. to the point of Toft Point.

**Sump Buttercup:** Classic buttercup sprouting from mossy hillocks and swales (wet areas between ridges). Ridges Sanctuary, Mountain Maple Trail.

**Twin Flower:** Daring, shy, pink耦lets with oval petalized leaves on Winter Wren Trail near the turnoff for Mountain Maple Trail, Ridges Sanctuary.