

# The flora of calcareous grasslands



Geo bed carbonate rock

Carbonate rock such as limestone consists mainly of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) and magnesium carbonate ( $\text{MgCO}_3$ ). Weathering of this rock produces shallow, calcareous soils (Rendzinas) that are rich in the important plant nutrients K, Mg and Ca. Many plant species originating from warm and sunny, open habitats in Southern and Southeastern Europe can be found here in Central Europe on these dry calcareous soils.

## Photos:

- 1** Many areas around Göttingen are covered in soil formed from Muschelkalk bedrock. Unforested areas on this geological substrate are often important habitats for rare and protected plant species. Photo: D. Hertel
- 2** Quaking-grass (*Briza media*) has attractive, heart-shaped inflorescences. It grows in unfertilised calcareous grasslands like the one we have created in this flower bed. Photo: D. Hertel
- 3** Michaelmas daisy (*Aster amellus*) was identified by Prof. Ellenberg as an indicator of calcareous soils. The only occurrence of Michaelmas daisy in the whole of the state of Lower Saxony is here in the surroundings of Göttingen. Photo: L. Köhler



Experimental Botanical Garden

More information

