



Thailand has an abundance of exotic orchids, though some species are rarely seen now. It is recognized as the worlds largest producer and exporter of tropical orchids. There are more than 1,000 species of orchids in Thailand.

In Sukhothai province in the North, an Orchid and Agriculture Fair is being held at the Sukhothai Historical Park from 13 to 21 January 2018. The fair mainly features *Rhynchostylis gigantea*, which is a species of orchids with beautiful hanging clusters of fragrant flowers.

*Rhynchostylis* is considered part of Shukhothais heritage. The flowering season for *Rhynchostylis* takes place in January, and this orchid species is in full bloom only once a year.

The fair also includes contests of 12 orchid species, such as *Cymbidium*, *Vanda*, *Mokara*, and *Ladys Slipper*. Visitors will be able to buy orchids and other decorative plants directly from growers.

Thailands natural environment encourages the growth of a variety of fine orchids, whether wild or cultivated. The main species that are exported by Thailand are *Dendrobium*, *Mokara*, and *Vanda*. Major markets include Japan, Italy, the United States, the Netherlands, China, and India.

Thailand earns about 2.5 billion baht from orchid exports each year. Around 40 percent of Thai cut orchid production is for export and 60 percent for use in the country. There are about 100 Thai orchid exporters and 3,000 growers in the country.

Orchids are used as a symbol of the warm-hearted welcome Thailand extends to visitors. They are beautiful, colorful, and long-lasting.