

1st wreath

School: Erythres Gymnasium
Village of Erythres, Greece

List of plants

Base of the wreath: *Olea europaea* (Elia – Ελιά)

- *Malva sylvestris* (Molocha – Μολόχα)
- *Syringa vulgaris* (Paschalia – Πασχαλιά)
- *Papaver rhoeas* (Paparouna – Παπαρούνα)
- *Chrysanthemum segetum* (Xrysanthemo – Χρυσάνθεμο)
- *Lavandula stoechas* (Levanta – Λεβάντα)
- *Ocimum basilicum* (Vasilikos – Βασιλικός)
- *Ranunculus ficaria* (Lazaraki – Λαζαράκι)
- *Anthemis peregrina guicciardii* (Margarita – Μαργαρίτα)

I selected these plants because they grow in the area that I live, this time of year. *Olea europaea*, the olive tree, is the one used for the Olympic wreaths in ancient Greece, so this plant was chosen as the base for my wreath. *Olea* is very important for us Greeks, as we use olive oil every day in our cooking. We also use it as medicine for burns and muscle aches. *Malva sylvestris*, *lavandula stoechas* and *ocimum basilicum* were chosen for their unique aromas and their medicinal use. I wanted to produce an aromatic wreath, with a special meaning. *Lavandula* and *ocimum* are widely used in our village in cooking and as herbal teas. *Ranunculus* and *chrysanthemum* were chosen for their beautiful yellow and orange colors, and *papaver* for its red color, which is dominant this time of year in our fields. *Anthemis peregrina guicciardi* is one of the 900 endemic plants native only to Greece and represents the richness, the diversity and the uniqueness of my country's flora. It is well-known that Greece hosts almost ¼ of the European flora. Many of these plants are under threat, mainly due to human activities. So, *Anthemis* is one of the species in need of conservation.