



**National Plant  
Monitoring Scheme**

National Plant Monitoring Scheme  
**SPECIES  
IDENTIFICATION  
GUIDE**



# SPECIES IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

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## Key

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**Traffic light system**  
Species with the symbol **G** are generally easier to identify; species with the symbol **A** may be harder to identify and additional information is provided, particularly on illustrations, to support you. Those with the symbol **R** may be confused with other species. In this instance distinguishing features are provided.



**WF symbol**  
For those recording at the Wildflower Level only.



## Introduction

This guide has been produced to help you identify the plants we would like you to record for the National Plant Monitoring Scheme. There is an index at the back of this guide which lists the species by scientific and common names. The New Flora of the British Isles by Clive Stace (third edition) has been used as the reference for names. Where names have recently changed these are also shown.

## How to use this guide

Wildflowers have been arranged in colour sections indicated by the coloured strips on the edge of each page. Groups of species that are more difficult to identify are included in separate sections. These include aquatic plants, grasses, sedges, rushes, ferns and horsetails, wood-rushes and shrubs and trees. Within each section species are in alphabetical order based on their scientific name. Both the English and scientific names for each plant are given as well as information about flowering times, plant size and key features.

Species lists for NPMS habitats are provided in a separate booklet. Where possible try to identify the fine habitat you are recording in and use that species list. All plants included in this guide are included on the Indicator Species Lists and should be recorded if you are surveying at Indicator or Inventory Level. For those recording at the Wildflower Level record only those plants with the WF symbol. A traffic light system has been used in all sections (see key opposite). An appendix at the back of this guide provides an illustration of a wildflower, fern, grass, rush and sedge with their features labelled. This should help you with identification.

*Achillea millefolium*

Yarrow



Umbel-like heads of small white (rarely pink) flowers on tough stems.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Very dissected feathery leaves which smell aromatic when crushed.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

*Aethusa cynapium*

Fool's Parsley



Up to 100cm tall with umbels of tiny white flowers with narrow green modified leaves hanging down (bracteoles).

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fern-like leaves with pointed leaflets.

FLOWERING TIME



© Rob Pettifer

*Alisma plantago-aquatica*

Water-plantain



Flower spike emerges from mud or water without leaves, grows up to 1m and has branches in whorls with 3-petalled white flowers 1cm across at the end.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves rounded or heart-shaped at base, not tapering into stem.

FLOWERING TIME



© Tim Wilkins



## *Allium ursinum* Ranunculus



Often carpets damp areas. Leafless flower stalks up to 45cm with a round head of up to 20 white, 6-petaled flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Bright green leaves up to 25cm x 7cm, on stalks.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



## *Anemone nemorosa* Wood Anemone



Solitary star-like white flowers with 5-8 petals, often pinkish underneath.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Long-stalked stem leaves divided into three lobes, with each lobe divided.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife



## *Angelica sylvestris* Wild Angelica



Robust herb up to 200cm or more. Umbels up to 15cm across of white or pinkish flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves to 60cm, divided, with a triangular outline, leaf-stalks broad, clasping hollow stems, purplish at nodes. Smells celery-like.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D



© Tim Waters (CC BY-NC-NO 2.0)

## *Anthemis cotula* Stinking Chamomile



Flowerheads 2-4.5cm across, in loose clusters, with yellow disc florets and white ray florets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves very finely divided and with an unpleasant smell.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Scentless Mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*)  
Scented Mayweed (*Matricaria recutita*)  
Scentless Mayweed has no smell. Scented Mayweed has a pleasant, fruity smell.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© J P Martin/Plantlife

## *Anthriscus sylvestris* Cow Parsley



One of the earliest flowering of the Carrot family. 60-100cm tall with umbels up to 6cm across of pure white tiny flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fern-like leaves with pointed leaflets. Stems hollow, furrowed, without spots.



stem unspotted

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

***Apium graveolens***  
Wild Celery



flowers greenish-white

leaflets lobed and toothed



Stout plant to 1m smelling of celery. Umbels 4-6cm across of tiny greenish-white flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**

Shiny leaves with lobed leaflets. Stem solid, strongly ridged.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Inger Vedel/NonCommercial 2.0 Generic

***Apium nodiflorum***  
Fool's-water-cress



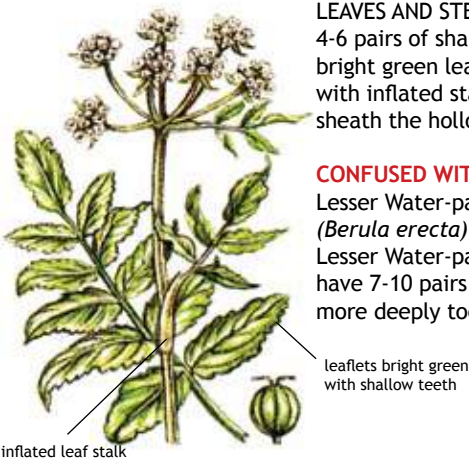
Creeping plant with upright stems bearing umbels of tiny white 5-petaled flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**

4-6 pairs of shallowly toothed, bright green leaflets on leaves with inflated stalks which sheath the hollow stems.

**CONFUSED WITH**

Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*)  
Lesser Water-parsnip leaves have 7-10 pairs of dull, bluish, more deeply toothed leaflets.



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Kevin Walker



## *Arabis hirsuta* Hairy Rock-cress

A

Hairy plant to 60cm. White, 4-petalled flowers, 3-5mm across, in a long, narrow cluster at the top of the stem.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of leaves; stem leaves upright, held close to stem.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Tim Wilkins



## *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* Bearberry

A

Mat-forming evergreen shrub. White to pink urn-shaped flowers in dense clusters and red berries.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves leathery, dark green on top, paler underneath.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg / Plantlife



## *Bellis perennis* Daisy

G



Erect flower stems to 15cm bearing solitary white flowerheads 1.5-3cm across, with yellow disc florets and slender white ray florets, often reddish below.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Spoon-shaped leaves all in a basal rosette.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Luke Morton / Plantlife



***Berula erecta***  
**Lesser Water-parsnip**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Creeping plant with upright stems bearing umbels of tiny 5-petalled white flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 7-10 pairs of deeply toothed, bluish-green leaflets on leaves with inflated stalks which sheath the hollow stems.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
 Fool's Water-cress  
 (*Apium nodiflorum*)  
 Fool's Water-cress has 4-6 pairs of bright green, more shallowly toothed leaflets.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Calystegia sepium***  
**Hedge Bindweed**



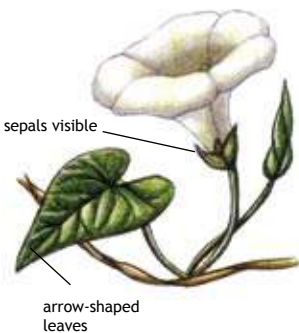
FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Climbs over other plants, fences etc. White (rarely pink) trumpet-like flowers 3-6cm across. Sepals visible between bracteoles.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Arrow shaped leaves on twisting stems.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
 Large Bindweed  
 (*Calystegia silvatica*)  
 The bracteoles on Large Bindweed overlap, hiding the sepals.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Capsella bursa-pastoris***  
Shepherd's Purse



Small 4-petalled white flowers on long stalks held horizontally from the main stem. Fruits distinctive, flat and heart-shaped, held erect.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of variable leaves - undivided to deeply lobed. Stem leaves clasping.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Cerastium arvense***  
Field Mouse-ear



White flowers 12-20mm across with 5 notched petals twice as long as the sepals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired leaves, stems downy.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Cerastium fontanum***  
Common Mouse-ear



White flowers 3-12mm across with 5 notched petals about the same length as sepals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired leaves and stems all very hairy.

FLOWERING TIME

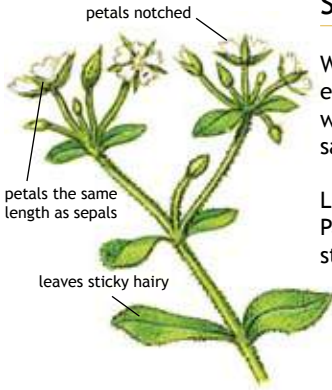
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney

### *Cerastium glomeratum* Sticky Mouse-ear

A



White flowers in tight clusters, each flower 8-10mm across with 5 notched petals the same length as sepals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired leaves; stems with sticky, glandular hairs.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Ceratocapnos claviculata* Climbing Corydalis

A



Delicate climber growing to 80cm. Short spikes of creamy-white 2-lipped flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Divided leaves ending in a tendril.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Chaerophyllum temulum* Rough Chervil

A



Similar to Cow Parsley but flowers a little later. 60-100cm tall with umbels up to 6cm across of tiny pure white flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Hairy, divided leaves with blunt leaflets. Stems hairy, solid, ridged, with purple spots.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Circaea lutetiana***  
**Enchanter's-nightshade**



FLOWERING TIME

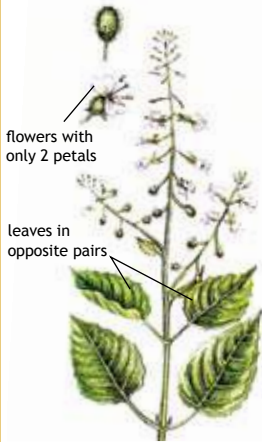
J F M A M J J A S O N D

To 70cm tall bearing spikes of small white flowers, each with 2 deeply divided petals.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
 Leaves in opposite pairs.



© nz\_willowherb (CC BY-NC 2.0)



***Clematis vitalba***  
**Traveller's-joy / Old Man's Beard**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Small, fragrant, greenish-white flowers on a plant that scrambles over trees and shrubs and can reach 30m.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
 Paired leaves divided into pointed leaflets.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Cochlearia sp.***  
**Scurvygrasses**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowers, to 1cm across, with 4 white (usually) petals in a cross shape.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
 Fleshy leaves of various shapes.



***Conopodium majus***  
Pignut



leaves feathery

Delicate umbels 3-7cm across of tiny white flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Upper leaves very divided with linear segments. The smooth stem, 30-50cm tall, becomes hollow after flowering.

FLOWERING TIME



© Cath Shellswell/Plantlife

***Crambe maritima***  
Sea-kale



Herb to 50cm tall and 100cm across with white flowers, each 10-15mm across in branched, flattish-topped heads to 30cm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves large, very fleshy, waxy-grey with wavy edges.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Daucus carota***  
Wild Carrot



Up to 100cm. Umbels 6-7cm across of tiny white flowers, with the central one often red, and a ruff of bracts underneath.

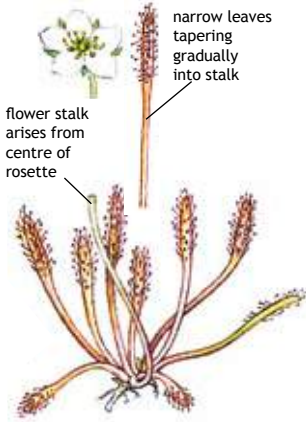
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fern-like leaves clasping roughly hairy, solid, ridged stems.

FLOWERING TIME



© M Cotterill

*Drosera anglica*  
Great Sundew



A flower stalk arises from the centre of the rosette, is up to twice the length of the leaves and bears white flowers.

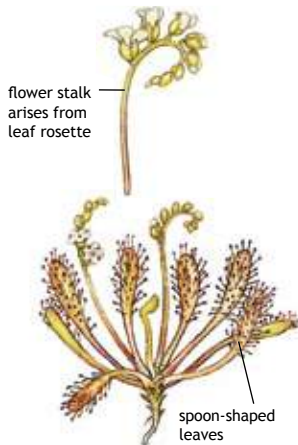
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of narrow leaves up to 3cm long, covered in sticky, red-tipped hairs and tapering gradually into long stalks.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

*Drosera intermedia*  
Oblong-leaved Sundew



A flower stalk arises from below the rosette, is not much longer than the leaves and bears white flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of spoon-shaped leaves to 1cm long are covered in sticky, red-tipped hairs and narrow quickly into long, hairless stalks.

FLOWERING TIME



© M Cotterill

*Drosera rotundifolia*  
Round-leaved Sundew



A flower stalk arises from the centre of the rosette, is 2-4 times the length of the leaves and bears white flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of circular leaves to 1cm across which are covered in sticky, red-tipped hairs and have long, hairy stalks.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

***Filipendula ulmaria***  
Meadowsweet



Fluffy cream heads of honey scented flowers. Grows to 120cm.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves long-stalked, with 2-5 pairs of toothed, larger leaflets with small leaflets in between.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Filipendula vulgaris***  
Droppwort



Cream flowers with a reddish-tinge, 10-22mm across, in clusters shaped like an upside-down triangle. Grows up to 50cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 8-20 pairs of lobed and toothed larger leaflets with smaller leaflets in between.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Fragaria vesca***  
Wild Strawberry



middle leaflet  
terminal tooth  
larger than others



petals overlap  
or touch

Low herb to 15cm with long runners. White flowers 12-18mm across with petals close together, followed by red fleshy fruits.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Bright, glossy, green, toothed leaves with 3 leaflets, with end tooth of middle leaflet usually longer than those on either side.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Galium album* (*Galium mollugo*)**  
Hedge Bedstraw



leaves in whorls of 6-8



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

White flowers 3mm across in loose, branched clusters on a sprawling, upright or scrambling plant to 1m.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Pale green leaves with prickly edges in whorls of 6-8 round the 4-angled stem.

***Galium aparine***  
Cleavers / Goosegrass



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Tiny white flowers on a sprawling plant reaching 1.8m with sticky bristles which stick onto clothing.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves in whorls of 6-8 round the 4-angled stems. Both leaf edges and stems have backward-pointing prickles.



© Luke Morton/PlantLife

***Galium boreale***  
Northern Bedstraw



leaves in whorls of 4



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

White flowers 4mm across in branched clusters on an upright plant to 60cm tall.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Dark green leaves in whorls of 4 round the 4-angled stems.



© Kevin Walker



## *Galium odoratum* Woodruff



leaves in whorls  
of 6-8

White funnel-shaped flowers up to 6mm long in dense clusters on upright, carpet-forming plants to 30cm tall.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves with prickly edges in whorls of 6-8 round the 4-angled stem. Fragrant when dried.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Galium palustre* Common Marsh-bedstraw



leaves in whorls  
of 4-6

White flowers about 4mm across in branched clusters on a straggling plant with upright stems to 100cm tall.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves with prickly edges in whorls of 4-6 round the 4-angled stem.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Galium saxatile* Heath Bedstraw



White flowers 3mm across in open clusters on a mat-forming plant with upright stems to 20cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with prickly edges in whorls of 6-8 round the 4-angled stem.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Limestone Bedstraw (*Galium sternerii*)  
Limestone Bedstraw has backwards pointing prickles on leaf edges, Heath Bedstraw has forward pointing prickles.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Galium sternerii* Limestone Bedstraw



Cream flowers 2-3mm across in long clusters on a mat-forming plant with upright stems to 20cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with prickly edges in whorls of 7-8 (usually) round the 4-angled stem.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*)  
Limestone Bedstraw has backwards pointing prickles on leaf edges, Heath Bedstraw has forward pointing prickles.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Heracleum mantegazzianum* Giant Hogweed

G



### CAUTION - DO NOT TOUCH, PHOTOTOXIC EFFECT

Possibly the largest wild herb, to 500cm tall. Umbels up to 50cm across of white or pinkish flowers each up to 25mm across.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves enormous, to 100cm, divided, clasping hollow, ridged, red-purple spotted stems.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© GBNNSS

## *Heracleum sphondylium* Hogweed

G



Robust herb to 200cm or more. Umbels up to 20cm across of small white or pinkish flowers.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves large, to 60cm, divided, clasping hollow, ridged stems.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* Frogbit

G



Aquatic, floating plant with long runners. The 3-petaled white flowers 2cm across have crumpled petals and long stalks.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

The floating leaves have long stalks and are a rounded kidney shape.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© P Shannon

***Leucanthemum vulgare***  
Oxeye Daisy



Long-stalked, large, white, daisy-like flowerheads on a plant to 70cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of long-stalked, spoon-shaped leaves. Stem leaves toothed and stalkless.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg / Plantlife

***Ligusticum scoticum***  
Scots Lovage



Stout plant, smelling of celery, 20-90cm tall, with dense umbels 4-6cm across of tiny greenish-white flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Shiny bright green hairless leaves with leaflets in 3s. Stems often purplish.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Pete Stroh

***Linum catharticum***  
Fairy Flax



Slender herb to 25cm tall bearing branching, very open clusters of 5-petalled white flowers, each 4-6mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Opposite pairs of narrow, hairless, stalkless leaves to 8mm long.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg / Plantlife

***Littorella uniflora***  
Shoreweed



white flowers on long stalks  
stamens longer than petals



Carpet forming plant with rosettes of leaves joined by runners. Submerged plants usually non-flowering. Flowers on exposed plants are tiny.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Linear leaves, semi-circular in cross-section, in basal rosettes or tufts.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Lycopus europaeus***  
Gypsywort



flowers dotted white, tightly clustered in leaf axils



Upright herb to 1m, with white, 4-petalled flowers, 3mm across, in dense whorls spaced out along the stem.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Pointed, deeply toothed/lobed leaves in opposite pairs on a squarish stem.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Ray Woods/Plantlife

***Matricaria chamomilla*  
(*Matricaria recutita*)**  
Scented Mayweed



Daisy-like flowers, 10-25mm across; plant usually pleasantly scented. Flowers with white rays pointing down stem and conical yellow centre.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves very finely divided.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Stinking Chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and Scentless Mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*)  
Stinking Chamomile has an unpleasant smell, Scentless Mayweed has no smell and flowers flatter at first.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J** A S O N D



© Kevin Walker

***Menyanthes trifoliata***  
Bogbean



Aquatic plant with spikes of fringed white flowers tinged with pink.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Trefoil leaves held above the surface of the water.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A **M J J** A S O N D



© Deborah Long

## *Minuartia verna* Spring Sandwort

R

petals broad, not notched,  
slightly longer than sepals



Cushion forming plant.  
Flowers, 8-12mm across, have  
5 white petals a little longer  
than the sepals.

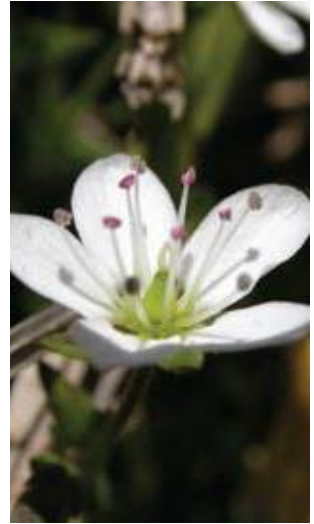
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, dark green, linear  
leaves, 6-15mm long with 3  
veins.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Knotted Pearlwort  
(*Sagina nodosa*)  
Knotted Pearlwort has petals  
twice as long as sepals and no  
veins on leaves.

paired, linear  
leaves with 3 veins

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Tim Wilkins

## *Moehringia trinervia* Three-nerved Sandwort

A



petals not divided  
petals shorter  
than sepals



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Plant usually sprawling.  
White flowers 6mm across  
with 5 undivided petals  
shorter than the sepals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves in pairs, with 3 strong  
veins. Stem hairy all round.

Leaves in pairs,  
with 3 strong veins.

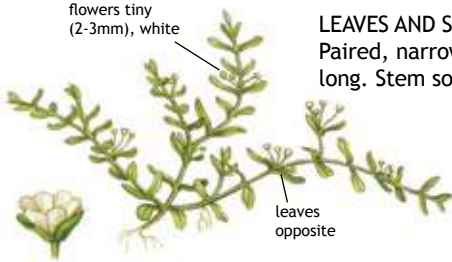
Stem hairy all round.

**Montia fontana**  
Blinks



Small straggling plant. The tiny white flowers have stalks and are in groups of 2 or 3.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, narrow leaves 2-20mm long. Stem sometimes reddish.



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney

**Oxalis acetosella**  
Wood-sorrel



Solitary white flowers with lilac veins. To 10cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Delicate, drooping, yellow-green leaves with 3 leaflets.



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski

**Persicaria lapathifolia**  
Pale Persicaria



Dense, oval spikes of greenish-white (rarely pink) flowers, the flower stalk with conspicuous glands.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves long and pointed, sometimes with black blotches. Stems branched.



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

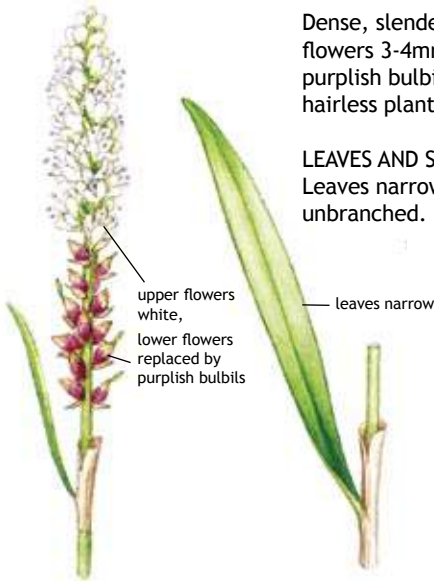


***Persicaria vivipara***  
Alpine Bistort

A

Dense, slender spike of white flowers 3-4mm across above purplish bulbils on usually hairless plant to 30cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves narrow to 7cm. Stems unbranched.



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

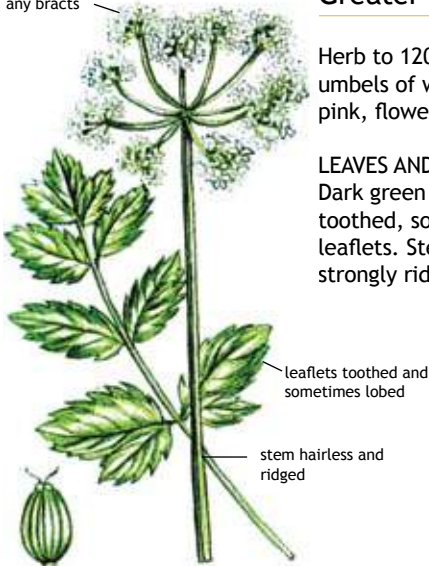
***Pimpinella major***  
Greater Burnet-saxifrage

A

flowers white or pink without any bracts

Herb to 120cm tall with umbels of white, sometimes pink, flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Dark green lower leaves with toothed, sometimes lobed, leaflets. Stem hairless, hollow, strongly ridged.



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Pete Stroh

***Platanthera bifolia***  
**Lesser Butterfly-orchid**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Loose spike of creamy flowers with a slight greenish tinge, 11-18mm across, with the spur often held horizontally.

LEAVES AND STEMS

2 oval leaves near the base of the stem.

CONFUSED WITH

Greater Butterfly-orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*) Greater Butterfly-orchid flowers have a more greenish-tinge and the spur is strongly curved down.



© Trevor Dines

***Potentilla sterilis***  
**Barren Strawberry**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Low herb to 15cm. White flowers 10-15mm across, with petals separated, showing the green sepals in between.

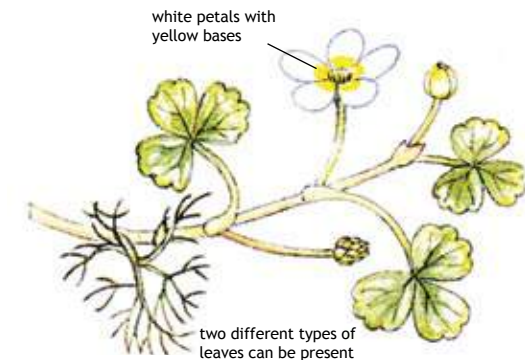
LEAVES AND STEMS

Bluish-green, toothed, leaves with 3 leaflets, with end tooth of middle leaflet rarely longer than those either side.



© P Shannon

***Ranunculus sp.***  
**Water-crowfoots**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

5 white petals with yellow bases.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves either finely-divided or with a broad blade or both types present.

***Rubus chamaemorus***  
Cloudberry

A

Creeping plant without prickles. The rare, solitary, white flowers are 15-25 mm across are followed by fruits at first red then orange.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
The few leaves are 5-7 lobed and wrinkled.



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Rubus fruticosus* agg.**  
Bramble

G



Variable scrambling shrub 1-3m with arching stems. Flowers white or pink, 20-30mm across, black fruits with many parts.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 3-5 hairy or prickly, toothed leaflets. Stem spiny, prickly or hairy.



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Rubus saxatilis***  
Stone Bramble

A

Creeping plant with only a few, weak prickles. White flowers 5-10mm across and red fruits with few sections.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 3 leaflets.



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Ruscus aculeatus***  
Butcher's-broom



Evergreen shrub to 1m tall. Greenish-white flowers 5mm across in the middle of the tops of the 'leaves' are followed by red berries.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves are dark green, tough and with a spiny tip.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© M Cotterill



***Sagina nodosa***  
Knotted Pearlwort



Cushion forming plant. Flowers, 5-10mm across, have 5 white petals twice as long as the sepals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Veinless linear leaves in pairs and groups along the stem giving a knotted feel.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*)  
Spring Sandwort has petals only a little longer than the sepals and leaves in pairs only.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney



***Sagittaria sagittifolia***  
Arrowhead



Flowers in a long, whorled cluster, each 20-25mm across, with 3 white petals with a purple spot at the base.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Long-stalked, arrow-shaped aerial leaves and linear, translucent submerged leaves.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

flowers white or pink

***Sanicula europaea***  
Sanicle



Herb to 120cm tall with umbels of tight clusters of white or pink flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Long-stalked leaves are shiny underneath and have 3-7 toothed lobes.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

flowers in a loose cluster

***Saxifraga granulata***  
Meadow Saxifrage



Upright hairy herb 10-50cm tall bearing loose clusters of silvery white flowers each 15-30mm across.

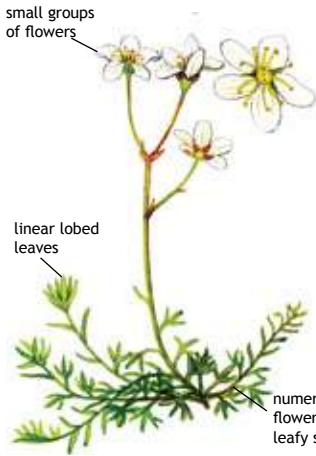
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of long-stalked leaves with edge divided into at least 5 rounded lobes.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Saxifraga hypnoides***  
Mossy Saxifrage



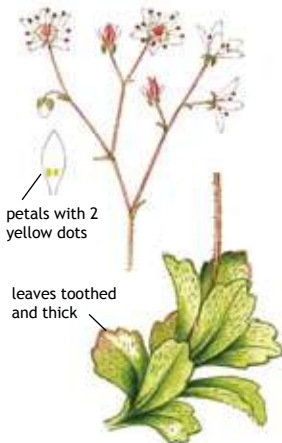
Mat-forming herb with upright flowering shoots bearing a few white flowers each 10-20mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of mostly 3-linear-lobed leaves plus linear stem leaves.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Saxifraga stellaris***  
Starry Saxifrage



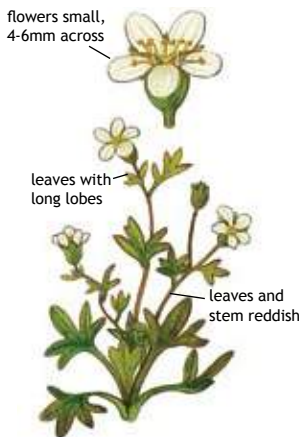
Upright herb to 30cm tall with loose groups of white flowers with 2 yellow dots at the base of the petals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Toothed thick leaves without distinct stems in basal rosettes or leafy shoots.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Saxifraga tridactylites***  
Rue-leaved Saxifrage



Sticky-hairy herb to 15cm tall with either single or loose groups of white flowers 4-6mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves have stalks and 3-5 long lobes. Leaves and stems reddish.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Sedum anglicum***  
English Stonecrop



Mat-forming plant to 5cm tall with white, 5-petaled, star-like flowers in small groups at the end of stems.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fleshy, egg-shaped, evergreen leaves, greyish-green or red-tinged.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Silene latifolia***  
White Campion



White flowers 25-30mm across with notched petals on a softly hairy, sticky plant to 1m tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Opposite, oval, softly hairy leaves, hairy stems.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Silene uniflora***  
Sea Campion



Cushion forming plant bearing white flowers 20-25mm across with notched petals that overlap.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Opposite, greyish, waxy, fleshy leaves.

FLOWERING TIME

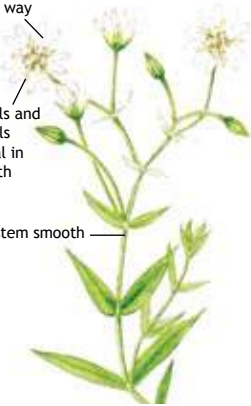


© Paul Gillard (paulgillard.com)

petals divided more than half way

petals and sepals equal in length

stem smooth



### *Stellaria graminea* Lesser Stitchwort



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

White flowers, 5-18mm across, with 5 petals divided more than half way and the same length as sepals.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves narrow, with smooth edges, stalkless, in pairs. Stem square.

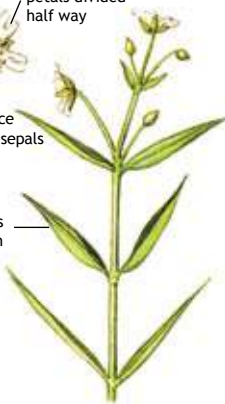


© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

petals divided half way

petals twice as long as sepals

leaf edges rough



### *Stellaria holostea* Greater Stitchwort



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

White flowers, 20-30mm across, with 5 petals divided half way and twice as long as the sepals.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves narrow, with rough edges, stalkless, in pairs, each pair at right angles to the next. Stem square.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

petals and sepals equal in length

petals divided to base

single line of hairs on stem



### *Stellaria media* Common Chickweed



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Plant usually sprawling. White flowers 5-10mm across with 5 deeply divided petals the same length as the sepals.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves in pairs, lower long-stalked, upper almost unstalked. Stem rounded with a single line of hairs.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife





***Thalictrum flavum***  
Common Meadow-rue



Small white 4-lobed flowers in dense clusters appear yellow due to erect, yellow stamens.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves have divided leaflets, each longer than they are wide.

FLOWERING TIME

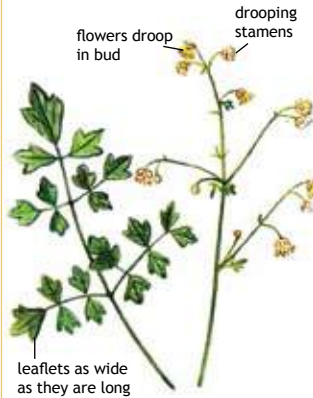
J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Thalictrum minus***  
Lesser Meadow-rue



Loose groups of small white 4-lobed flowers with drooping yellow stamens.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves have divided leaflets, each as wide as they are long.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Torilis japonica***  
Upright Hedge-parsley



Herb to 125cm tall with umbels up to 4cm across of tiny white or pink flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Dull green, roughly hairy, fern-like leaves with pointed leaflets. Stems solid, rough, hairy, without spots.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Trientalis europaea***  
Chickweed-wintergreen



Slender herb to 25cm tall bearing 1 or 2 long-stalked starry white flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Most leaves in a single whorl below flowers.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Trifolium repens***  
White Clover



Long-stalked white flowerheads to 2cm on a creeping plant.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 3 oval, toothed leaflets, usually with a whitish band.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney

***Tripleurospermum inodorum***  
Scentless Mayweed



Daisy-like flowers 15-35mm across, in loose clusters. Flowers flat at first, later with conical yellow centre.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves very finely divided and scentless.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



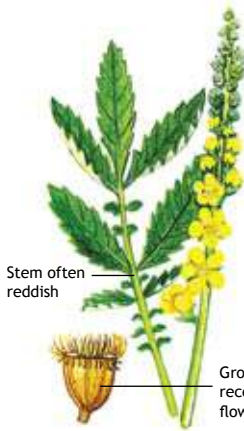
© nz\_willowherb (CC BY-NC 2.0)

**CONFUSED WITH**

Stinking Chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and Scented Mayweed (*Matricaria Chamomilla*)  
Stinking Chamomile has an unpleasant smell, Scented Mayweed has a pleasant smell and more conical flowers.

### *Agrimonia eupatoria* Agrimony

A



Stem often reddish

Grooved receptacle below flower head

Spikes of yellow flowers 5-8mm across in narrow spikes on stems to 60cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves with 3-6 pairs of larger toothed leaflets interspersed with smaller leaflets. Stems softly hairy, often reddish.

FLOWERING TIME

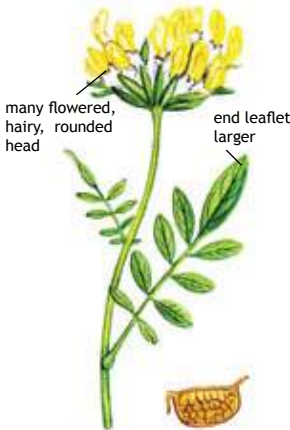
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Anthyllis vulneraria* Kidney Vetch

A



many flowered, hairy, rounded head

end leaflet larger

Yellow (or sometimes white, cream, pink or purple) pea flowers in rounded, hairy heads, often paired.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with narrow leaflets, the end one larger.

FLOWERING TIME

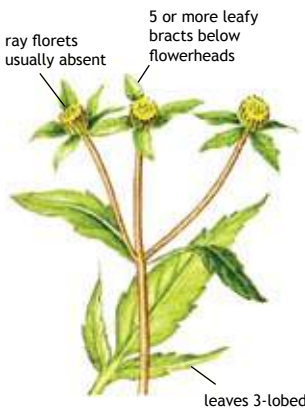
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Bidens tripartita* Trifid Bur-marigold

A



ray florets usually absent

5 or more leafy bracts below flowerheads

leaves 3-lobed

Long-stalked flowerheads, in branched clusters, have dull yellow disc florets, no (rarely a few) ray florets and leaf-like bracts underneath.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves in pairs, usually with 3, pointed, toothed, leaflets.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Pete Stroh

***Blackstonia perfoliata***  
Yellow-wort



Yellow flowers, 10-15mm across, with 6-8 petals, in loose, branching clusters.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Pairs of waxy, greyish, triangular leaves join forming a ring around the stem.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney

***Caltha palustris***  
Marsh-marigold



Yellow buttercup-like flowers 2-4cm across with 7-12 petals - one of the earliest flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Kidney-shaped shiny leaves.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Carlina vulgaris***  
Carlina Thistle



Straw-coloured flowerheads to 4cm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with wavy, spiny lobes. Spiny stems.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Crepis paludosa***  
Marsh Hawk's-beard



Flowerheads, 15-25mm across, of yellow ray florets with 2 rows of black hairy bracts underneath.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Wavy-edged, clasping stem leaves have back-pointing lobes at base. Branching stems.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Crithmum maritimum***  
Rock Samphire



Umbels 3-6cm across of tiny yellow-green flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fleshy leaves divided into narrow segments. Solid, ridged, branching stems.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Cruciata laevipes***  
Crosswort



Yellow flowers, 2-3mm across, in dense clusters above whorls of leaves.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Groups of 4, hairy leaves in whorls around the 4-angled hairy stem.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Cytisus scoparius***  
Broom



Spineless, evergreen shrub with yellow pea flowers up to 2cm long.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Stalked leaves, with 1-3 leaflets. Stems are hairless, straight and 4-angled.

FLOWERING TIME



© Ray Woods/Plantlife

***Filago minima***  
Small Cudweed



Whole plant grey-woolly. Small oval clusters of yellow flowerheads with disc florets only.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow leaves 5-10mm long. Stems branch from above the middle.

FLOWERING TIME



© Tim Pankhurst/Plantlife

***Galium verum***  
Lady's Bedstraw



Golden-yellow flowers 2-3mm across on a creeping plant to 60cm tall.

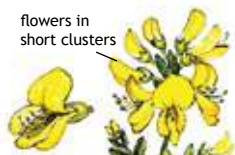
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Dark green, linear leaves in whorls of 8-12 around the weakly 4-angled stems.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski

flowers in short clusters



stem with long spines



### *Genista anglica* Petty Whin



Straggling, evergreen shrub with yellow pea flowers, each 6-9mm long, in short clusters.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Waxy leaves and long spines.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

flowers in long terminal racemes



Hairs on leaf margins only

### *Genista tinctoria* Dyer's Greenweed



Erect, evergreen shrub to 50cm or more with yellow pea flowers, each about 15mm long, in long spikes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow, pointed leaves, hairs only on leaf margins.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



### *Geum urbanum* Wood Avens



Hairy herb to 60cm with long-stalked yellow, 5 petalled flowers 8-15mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves with a large 3-lobed upper leaflet and 2-3 pairs of smaller leafletes. Stem leaves usually with 3 lobes.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Glaucium flavum***  
**Yellow Horned-poppy**



Branched herb with 4-petalled yellow flowers 6-9cm across. Fruit up to 30cm curved - the horn in the common name.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Waxy, deeply divided leaves.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Glebionis segetum***  
**(*Chrysanthemum segetum*)**  
**Corn Marigold**



Solitary flowerheads 35-60mm across with golden-yellow ray and disc florets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Slightly fleshy grey-green leaves, lobed and toothed.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Tim Wilkins/Plantlife

***Helianthemum nummularium***  
**Common Rock-rose**



Spreading sub-shrub to 50cm. Bright yellow, 5-petalled flowers to 25mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Narrow, paired leaves, white-woolly underneath.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Beth Helski/Plantlife



***Helminthotheca echiodes***  
***(Picris echiodes)***  
**Bristly Oxtongue**



Loose groups of yellow flowerheads, each 20-25mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Leaves with swollen-based bristles, like blisters.  
 Stem ridged and bristly.

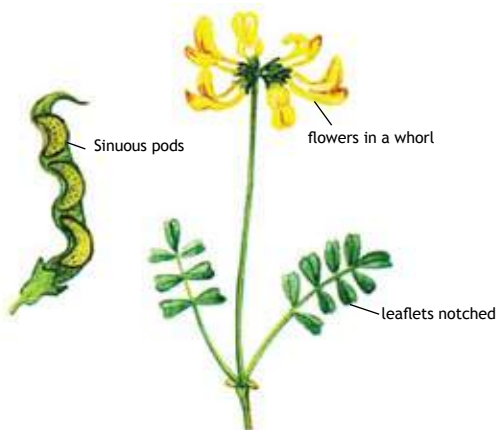
FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© Steve Chilton/2.0 Generic

***Hippocrepis comosa***  
**Horseshoe Vetch**



Clear yellow pea flowers in whorls of 5-8 on long stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Leaves with notched leaflets.

FLOWERING TIME

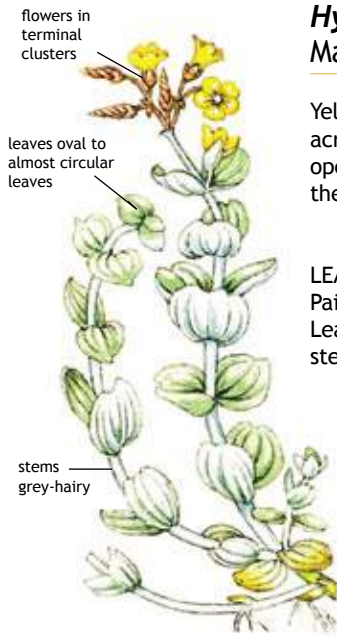
J F M A M **M J J A S** O N D



© Tim Wilkins/Plantlife



### *Hypericum elodes* Marsh St John's-wort



Yellow flowers, 10-15mm across, that only partially open, borne in clusters at the top of upright stems.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, broad oval leaves. Leaves and the creeping stems grey-hairy.

FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© Liam Rooney



### *Hypericum tetrapterum* Square-stalked St John's-wort



Pale yellow flowers, 20mm across, in clusters.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired leaves with translucent dots. Stem reddish, square with 4 wings.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Perforate St. John's-wort (*H. perforatum*) and Imperforate St. John's-wort (*H. maculatum*)  
Perforate St John's-wort has round stems with 2 raised ridges. Imperforate St John's-wort has square stems without wings and leaves without translucent dots.

FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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## *Hypochaeris radicata* Cat's-ear



Flowerheads, 20-40mm across, bright yellow on hairless stalks with scales.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves in a basal rosette, wavy-edged and bristly. Stem enlarges near flowerhead.

### CONFUSED WITH

Smooth Cat's-ear (*H. glabra*) and Spotted Cat's-ear (*H. maculata*)  
Smooth Cat's ear has hairless leaves. Spotted Cat's-ear has leaves with red-purple blotches.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



## *Inula conyzae* Ploughman's-spikenard



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Dense, branching clusters of dark yellow flowerheads, each 10mm across. Ray florets may be absent.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Lower leaves to 15cm, pointed, toothed, downy, with a flattened stalk. Stems downy.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Iris pseudacorus***  
Yellow Iris



Clusters of 2-3 bright yellow flowers 7-10cm across with 3 large tepals curving downwards on stalks to 120cm.

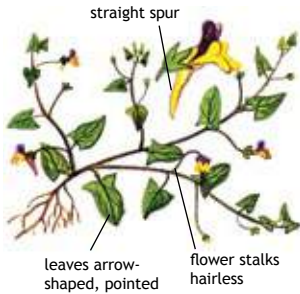
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves sword-shaped, to 1m long by 3cm wide, greyish-green.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski

***Kickxia elatine***  
Sharp-leaved Fluellen



Low-growing, hairy herb. 2-lipped flowers, yellow with pale purple upper lip and straight spur, and hairless stalks.

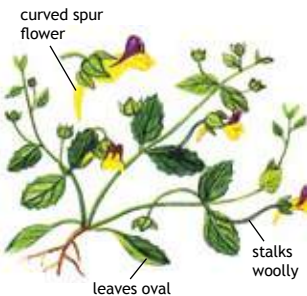
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves triangular in outline with arrow-shaped bases. Young plants may have less angular leaves.

FLOWERING TIME



© M Cotterill

***Kickxia spuria***  
Round-leaved Fluellen



Low-growing, very hairy and sticky herb. 2-lipped flowers, yellow with dark purple upper lip and curved spur, and woolly stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves oval.

FLOWERING TIME



© P Shannon

## *Lactuca serriola* Prickly Lettuce

A

Upright herb to 120cm bearing loose clusters of yellow flowerheads, 11-13mm across, with 7-12 ray florets and no disc florets.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Thick, grey-green leaves with prickly edges and arrow-shaped lobes claspng often reddish stems.



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Lamiaeum galeobdolon* Yellow Archangel

G



Hairy plant with whorls of bright yellow, 2-lipped flowers.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Opposite pairs of pointed leaves with toothed edges. Stems squarish.

### CONFUSED WITH

*Lamiaeum galeobdolon* ssp. *argentatum*

This garden escape has conspicuously white-blotched leaves.



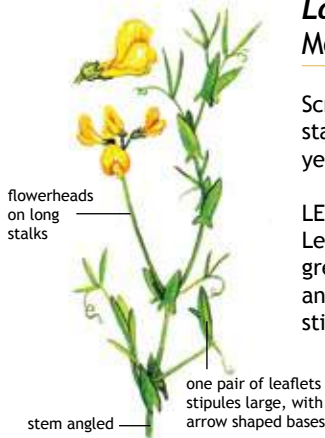
### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Luke Morton

***Lathyrus pratensis***  
Meadow Vetchling



Scrambling herb with long-stalked clusters of 5-12 yellow pea flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with narrow, grey-green leaflets, tendrils, and leaf-like, arrow-shaped stipules. Stem angled.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Lonicera periclymenum***  
Honeysuckle



Twining shrub to 6m with creamy-yellow trumpet-shaped flowers in whorls at the end of stems.

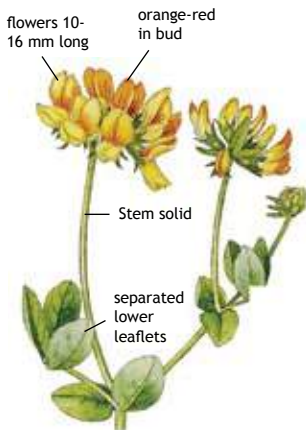
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Grey-green pointed leaves in opposite pairs.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski

***Lotus corniculatus***  
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil



Deep yellow pea flowers in clusters of 2-7, often red-tinged. Calyx teeth erect, not bent back, in bud.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 5 narrowly oval leaflets, the lower 2 bent back by the stem so that leaves appear trefoil. No tendrils. Stem solid.

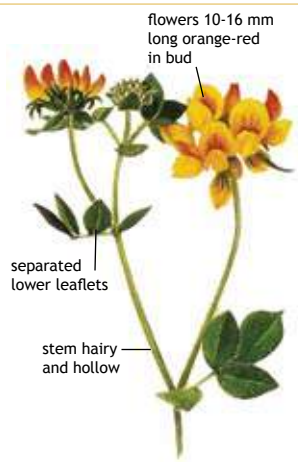
FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski



***Lotus pedunculatus***  
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil



Clear yellow pea flowers in clusters of 2-8, not red-tinged. Calyx teeth bent back, in bud.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 5 narrowly oval leaflets, the lower 2 bent back by the stem so that leaves appear trefoil. No tendrils. Stem hollow.

FLOWERING TIME  
J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Lysichiton americanus***  
American Skunk-cabbage

Yellow spathe and yellow-green spadix, smells awful.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves can range in size between 30-150cm x 25-70cm.

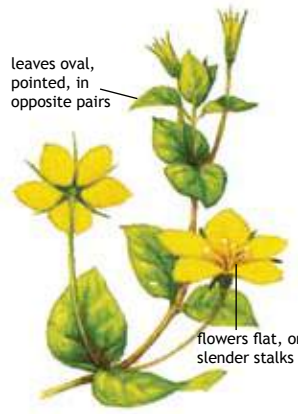
FLOWERING TIME  
J F M **A M** J J A S O N D



© GBNNSS



***Lysimachia nemorum***  
Yellow Pimpernel



Evergreen, prostrate herb with 5-petalled, yellow flowers on slender stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Opposite (paired), pointed leaves.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Creeping-Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) Creeping-Jenny has rounded leaves.

FLOWERING TIME  
J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© Beth Halski







**Melampyrum pratense**  
Common Cow-wheat



FLOWERING TIME



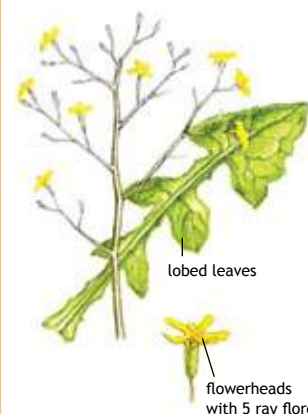
Pairs of pale yellow, 2-lipped flowers 10-17mm long, both turned to one side, in the axils of leaves.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Paired, narrow untoothed leaves to 8 cm, unstalked or with short stalks.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



**Mycelis muralis**  
Wall Lettuce



FLOWERING TIME



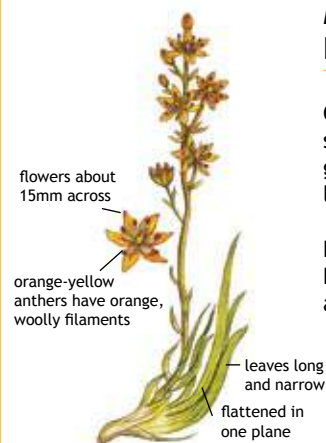
Upright herb to 100cm bearing loose clusters of yellow flowerheads, 7-10mm across, usually with 5 ray florets and no disc florets.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Thin, often reddish, lobed leaves, lower with winged stalks, upper with arrow-shaped lobes clasping stems.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



**Narthecium ossifragum**  
Bog Asphodel



FLOWERING TIME



Creeping plant with upright stems to 45cm tall. Deep golden yellow or orange star-like flowers with 6 petals.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves long and narrow and all flattened in one plane.



© Michael Scot/Plantlife



***Ornithopus perpusillus***  
Bird's-foot



Downy, prostrate herb to 40cm long with small clusters of red-veined, creamy pea flowers, which can look orange.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves have 4-13 pairs of leaflets.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Bob Gibbons/PlantLife



***Pastinaca sativa***  
Wild Parsnip



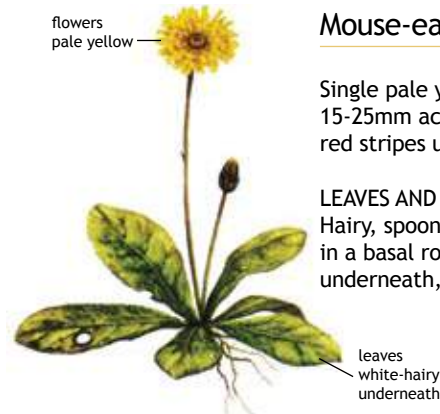
To 100cm tall with umbels of tiny yellow flowers 5-10cm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Downy leaves with toothed leaflets. Stems usually hollow, ridged, angled and downy.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Andrew Gagg/PlantLife



***Pilosella officinarum***  
Mouse-ear-hawkweed



Single pale yellow flowerheads 15-25mm across. Florets with red stripes underneath.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Hairy, spoon-shaped leaves in a basal rosette, white underneath, green on top.

**FLOWERING TIME**



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**Potentilla anserina**  
Silverweed



Yellow, 5 petalled saucer-shaped flowers 1.5-2 cm across, on long stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Divided silvery, silky, leaves in rosettes and on long rooting runners.

FLOWERING TIME



© Luke Morton/Plantlife

**Potentilla erecta**  
Tormentil



Creeping plant with loose groups of yellow 4-petalled flowers on long stalks.

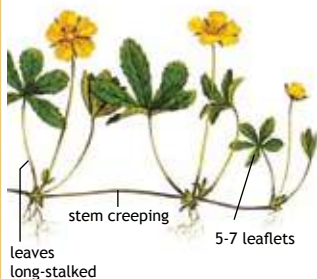
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 3 leaflets, but can look like 5, without stalks.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

**Potentilla reptans**  
Creeping Cinquefoil



Yellow, 5-petalled flowers. 17-25mm across, on long stalks.

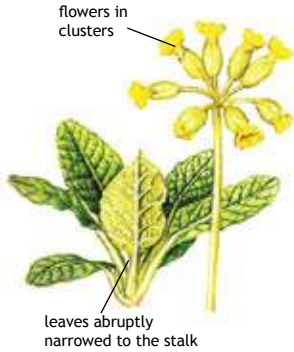
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 5 or 7 leaflets on long stalks. Stems all creeping and rooting.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

*Primula veris*  
Cowslip



Deep yellow, cup-shaped, 10mm flowers, clustered at the top of a stem to 30cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Rosette of wrinkly leaves each up to 15cm long, abruptly narrowed to the stalk.

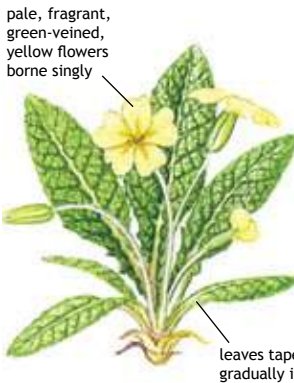
FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Bob Gibbons/Plantlife

*Primula vulgaris*  
Primrose



Pale yellow, green-veined, flowers to 3cm across, borne singly on stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Rosette of wrinkled leaves tapering gradually to stalk, each up to 15cm long.

FLOWERING TIME

J F **M** A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski

*Ranunculus acris*  
Meadow Buttercup



Shiny yellow flowers with sepals cupping the petals. No runners.

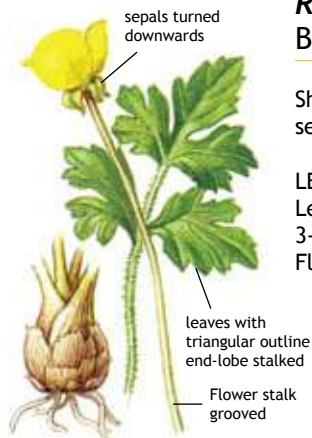
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with a polygonal outline, 3-5 deeply divided lobes. Flower stalk ungrooved.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Ray Woods



### *Ranunculus bulbosus* Bulbous Buttercup



Shiny yellow flowers with sepals bent back. No runners.

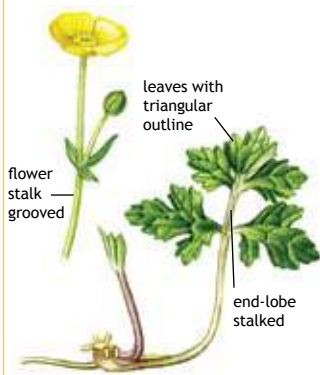
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with triangular outline, 3-lobed, the end lobe stalked. Flower stalk grooved.

FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© Liam Rooney



### *Ranunculus repens* Creeping Buttercup



Shiny yellow flowers with sepals cupping the petals. Creeping runners root at the nodes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with triangular outline, 3-lobed, the end lobe stalked. Flower stalk grooved.

FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© Bob Gibbons/Plantlife



### *Ranunculus sceleratus* Celery-leaved Buttercup



Branched clusters of shiny pale yellow flowers with sepals bent back. No runners.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves with long stalks and 3 lobes, stem leaves more deeply divided.

FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© P Shannon

***Reseda lutea***  
Wild Mignonette



flowers have 6 petals



divided leaves with narrow lobes

Greenish-yellow 6-petalled flowers in a conical spike on stems 30-75cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette and stem leaves divided with narrow lobes. Stems ribbed, solid, branched.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A** S O N D



© Beth Halski

***Reseda luteola***  
Weld



flowers have 4 petals



leaves unlobed

Greenish-yellow 4-petalled flowers in a long, narrow spike on stems 50-150cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
All leaves long, thin and unlobed and with a wavy margin.

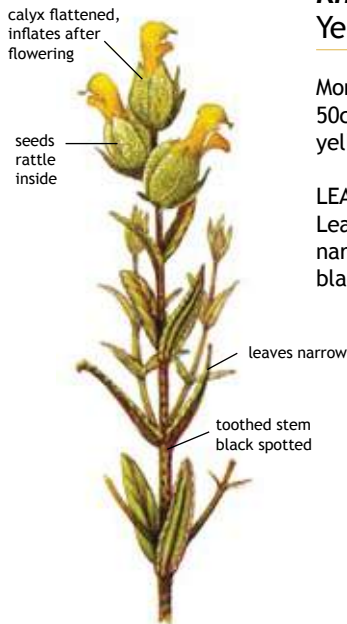
FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A** S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Rhinanthus minor* Yellow-rattle



More or less hairless plant to 50cm tall with leafy spikes of yellow 2-lipped flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves unstalked, opposite, narrow and toothed. Stem black-spotted.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Rorippa palustris* Marsh Yellow-cress



Upright herb to 60cm tall with clusters of yellow, 4-petalled flowers with petals and sepals equal in length and >1.6mm long.

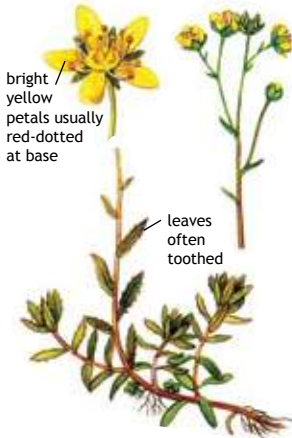
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves deeply divided with toothed lobes and a pair of small lobes at the base of the leaf by the stem.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Creeping Yellow-cress (*Rorippa sylvestris*) and Northern Yellow-cress (*Rorippa islandica*)  
Creeping Yellow-cress is less upright and has petals longer than sepals. Northern Yellow-cress has petals and sepals <1.6mm and no auricles.

***Saxifraga aizoides***  
Yellow Saxifrage



bright yellow petals usually red-dotted at base

leaves often toothed

Creeping plant with upright flowering shoots bearing loose clusters of bright yellow flowers each 7-15mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Stalkless, narrow leaves, often toothed.

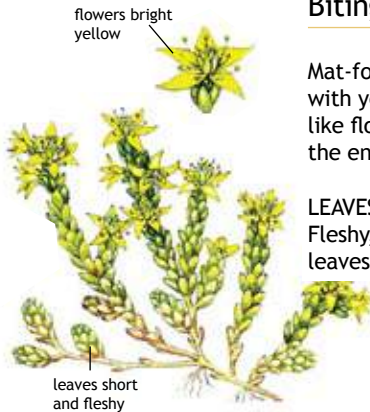
FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Sedum acre***  
Biting Stonecrop



flowers bright yellow

leaves short and fleshy

Mat-forming plant to 10cm tall with yellow, 5-petalled, star-like flowers in small groups at the end of stems.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fleshy, egg-shaped, evergreen leaves 3-5mm long.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Bob Gibbons/Plantlife

***Sedum rosea***  
Roseroot



flowers small in large terminal cluster

leaves thick, fleshy and abundant

Upright, succulent herb with large clusters of small, dull yellow flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fleshy grey-green leaves.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife





## *Senecio aquaticus* Marsh Ragwort



Erect plant 30-100cm.  
Loosely branched clusters of flowerheads, each 25-30mm across, with golden yellow ray and disc florets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal leaves undivided, stem leaves with divided lobes, the end one large and oval.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobea*) and Oxford Ragwort (*Senecio squalidus*)  
Common Ragwort basal leaves have divided lobes. Oxford Ragwort is more spreading and bushy.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



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## *Senecio erucifolius* Hoary Ragwort

Erect plant 30-100cm.  
Loosely branched clusters of flowerheads, each 15-10mm across, with pale yellow ray and disc florets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves grey-green, all with narrow, pointed lobes.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



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## *Senecio jacobaea* Common Ragwort



flower clusters dense and more or less flat-topped



lower leaves with divided lobes

Erect plant 30-100cm. Terminal clusters of flowerheads, each 15-25mm across, with bright yellow ray and disc florets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette leaves and stem leaves with divided lobes.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Marsh Ragwort (*Senecio aquaticus*) and Oxford Ragwort (*Senecio squalidus*). Marsh Ragwort basal leaves have undivided lobes. Oxford Ragwort is more spreading and bushy.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Silaum silaus* Pepper-saxifrage



flowers yellow



leaves triangular in outline with narrow leaflets

To 100cm tall with umbels to 2-6cm across of tiny bright yellow flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves much divided with narrow leaflets. Stems solid and ridged.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Solidago virgaurea***  
Goldenrod



Numerous flowerheads  
6-10mm across in leafy  
spikes with yellow ray and  
disc florets.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
Leaves narrow.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Alan Hamilton/Plantlife

***Sonchus arvensis***  
Perennial Sowthistle



bracts and stalks with  
yellow sticky hairs



Stout plant to 150cm tall  
with deep yellow flowerheads  
40-50mm across on sticky  
hairy stalks.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
Shiny green, lobed leaves with  
fine spines on the edges and  
rounded clasping bases.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski



### *Sonchus asper* Prickly Sowthistle



Stout plant to 100cm tall with golden yellow flowerheads 20-25mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lobed green leaves with deeply-toothed, spiny edges and rounded clasping bases.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Smooth Sowthistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*)  
Smooth Sowthistle has dull, grey leaves, not spiny to touch.

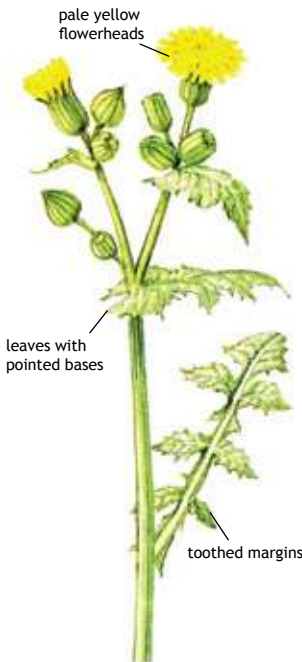
FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



### *Sonchus oleraceus* Smooth Sowthistle



Stout plant to 100cm tall with pale yellow flowerheads 20-25mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lobed grey-green leaves with toothed, spiny edges and pointed clasping bases.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Prickly Sowthistle (*Sonchus asper*)  
Prickly Sowthistle has shiny leaves which are spiny to touch.

FLOWERING TIME



© H Higgins/IWNHAS

## *Trifolium campestre* Hop Trefoil



Upright herb to 30cm with rounded flowerheads 10-15mm across of more than 25 yellow flowers.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
Trifoliate leaves.

### CONFUSED WITH

Lesser Trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*) and Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*)

Lesser Trefoil is smaller with less dense flowerheads. Black Medick has a minute point in the centre of the leaflet tip.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Trifolium dubium* Lesser Trefoil



Upright herb to 30cm with rounded flowerheads 5-9mm across of 3-24 yellow flowers.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
Trifoliate leaves.

### CONFUSED WITH

Hop Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*) and Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*)

Hop Trefoil is larger with denser flowerheads. Black Medick has a minute point in the centre of the leaflet tip.

flowerhead with less than 25 flowers



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



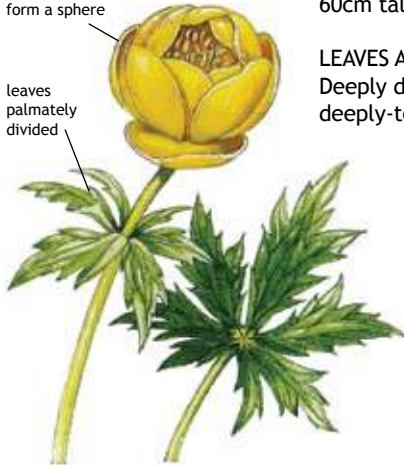
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## *Trollius europaeus* Globeflower



petal-like sepals  
curl inwards to  
form a sphere

leaves  
palmately  
divided



Yellow globe-shaped flowers  
on an upright plant to  
60cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Deeply divided leaves with  
deeply-toothed lobes.

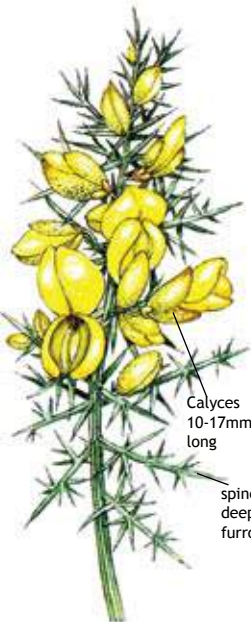
FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Ulex europaeus* Gorse



Calyces  
10-17mm  
long

spines long,  
deeply  
furrowed

Spiny evergreen shrub to 2m  
tall with yellow pea flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
All leaves are spines, 15-  
25mm, deeply furrowed.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*)  
and Dwarf Gorse (*Ulex minor*)  
Gorse has deeply furrowed  
spines.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Deborah Long/Plantlife

## *Ulex gallii* Western Gorse



Spiny evergreen shrub with yellow pea flowers. Intermediate between Gorse and Dwarf Gorse. Record as *Ulex gallii* / *Ulex minor* unless on Dry montane heathland.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
All leaves are spines, 10-25mm, faintly furrowed.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Dwarf Gorse (*Ulex minor*)  
Western Gorse is a stronger growing plant than Dwarf Gorse and has calyces >9mm long.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Ulex minor* Dwarf Gorse



Spiny evergreen shrub to 1m tall, often spreading, with yellow pea flowers. Record as *Ulex gallii* / *Ulex minor* unless on Dry montane heathland.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
All leaves are spines, about 10mm, faintly furrowed, and not rigid. Stems weaker.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*)  
Dwarf Gorse is weaker and more spreading than Western Gorse and has calyces < 9mm long.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Viola arvensis***  
Field Pansy



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

sepals at least as long as petals



Flowers, 15mm across, with petals mostly creamy yellow but upper sometimes bluish-violet. Petals shorter or same length as sepals.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves oval and toothed. Stipules look like lobed leaves.



© Kevin Walker

***Viola lutea***  
Mountain Pansy



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



stipules deeply lobed

Flowers, 15-25mm across, with petals bright yellow or sometimes bluish-violet or mixed. Petals shorter or same length as sepals.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves oval and toothed. Stipules look like lobed leaves.



© Cath Shellswell/Plantlife





**Anagallis arvensis**  
Scarlet Pimpernel



5-20cm sprawling or prostrate plant with bright red (or sometimes blue or pink) flowers borne singly on long stalks from leaf axils.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Oval leaves opposite or whorled. Squarish stem.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



**Centranthus ruber**  
Red Valerian



Tall herb with terminal red, pink or white flowerheads.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, grey-green leaves.

FLOWERING TIME



© P Shannon



**Cynoglossum officinale**  
Hound's-tongue



Greyish-downy herb 30-80cm tall bearing clusters of purplish-red, funnel-shaped flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Pointed basal leaves to 30cm long. Stem leaves smaller and narrower.

FLOWERING TIME



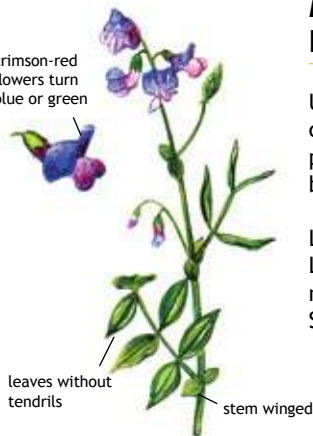
© Liam Rooney

### *Lathyrus linifolius*

#### Bitter-vetch



crimson-red flowers turn blue or green



Upright herb with small clusters of crimson-red pea flowers which turn blue or green.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves have 2-4 pairs of narrow leaflets, no tendrils. Stems have 2 narrow wings.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



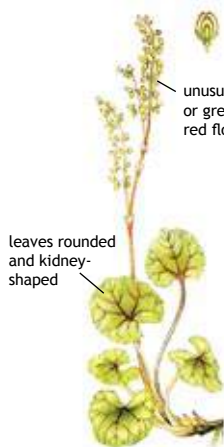
© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Oxyria digyna*

#### Mountain Sorrel



unusual green or greenish-red flowers



Flowers greenish-red in loose spikes on plants to 30cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves fleshy, kidney-shaped, mostly at the base of the plant.

#### FLOWERING TIME

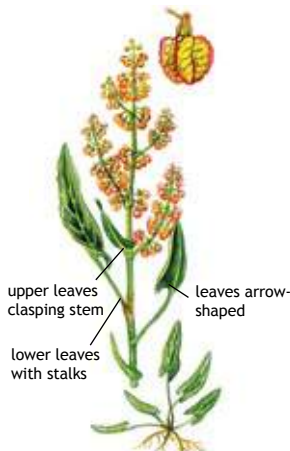
J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Rumex acetosa*

#### Common Sorrel



Flowers greenish-red in loose spikes on plant 30-80cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves arrow-shaped at base to 10cm. Lower leaves stalked, upper clasping stem.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

***Rumex acetosella***  
**Sheep's Sorrel**

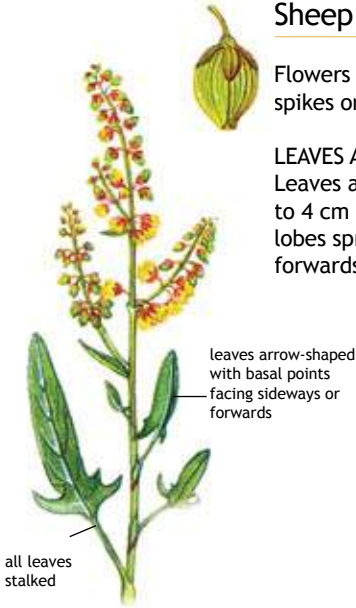


FLOWERING TIME

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Flowers greenish-red in loose spikes on plant to 30cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Leaves arrow-shaped at base to 4 cm long with side-lobes spreading or pointing forwards. All leaves stalked.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Sanguisorba officinalis***  
**Great Burnet**



FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Upright plant to 100cm bearing oblong heads of tiny burgundy flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Basal leaves with long-stalked, toothed leaflets in 3-7 pairs. Stem leaves smaller.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Anagallis tenella* Bog Pimpernel



Tiny creeping plant with funnel-shaped flowers borne singly on long stalks from leaf axils. Petals appear pink but actually white with red veins.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, oval leaves.



#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© R G Woods

### *Antennaria dioica* Mountain Everlasting



2-8 pink or whitish flowerheads in a dense cluster.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
All leaves white woolly underneath. Stems woody, producing runners.



#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Pete Stroh

### *Armeria maritima* Thrift



Cushion forming plant. Globular heads of pink flowers have stalks 5-30cm long.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Flattened, linear, dark green leaves.



#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Sue Nottingham



## *Butomus umbellatus* Flowering-rush

A

Aquatic plant to 150cm. Pink flowers, 15-30mm across, in loose clusters at the top of leafless stems.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
Leaves linear, 3-angled.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



## *Cardamine pratensis* Cuckooflower / Lady's Smock

G



Variable plant, to 60cm, sometimes with runners. Flowers rose-pink to white, 12-18mm across, with 4 petals.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
Lower leaves with round leaflets, terminal leaflet much larger. Upper leaves with narrow leaflets.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Carpobrotus edulis* Hottentot-fig

G



Creeping plant that can cover large areas. Single short-stalked pink or yellow flowers with many narrow petals.

LEAVES AND STEMS  
Narrow paired leaves that are fleshy and curved. Stems angled, woody at the base.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Clinopodium acinos* Basil Thyme



Small plant to 15cm tall with whorls of 4-6 2-lipped violet flowers with white blotches on lower lip.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves opposite and hairless.  
Stem square and hairy.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Colchicum autumnale* Autumn Crocus



Flowers with 6 pink-purple tepals on a long white tube arise directly from the ground in autumn after the leaves have died.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Glossy green, leaves 12-30cm wide by 1.5-4cm wide, are produced in spring.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liz Fleming-Williams



## *Cuscuta epithymum* Dodder



A parasitic climbing plant with dense clusters, 10-15mm across, of tiny pink, bell-shaped flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves scale-like, stems reddish, threadlike, twining anti-clockwise around the host plant.



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



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## *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* Common Spotted-orchid



flowers pale pink with red-purple dots and streaks

Flowers in a dense spike, pale pink with darker streak and dot markings, lower lip deeply lobed.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Broad grey-green basal leaves and smaller stem leaves all, usually, with wide, purple blotches.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Heath Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*)  
Heath Spotted-orchid has narrower leaves with rounder blotches and flowers with a more shallowly lobed lip.



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

flowers with red-purple loops and streaks



central tooth of lip not longer than side lobes

leaves narrow, pointed, spotted

## *Dactylorhiza maculata* Heath Spotted-orchid



Flowers in a dense spike, white, pink or pale purple, with darker streak and loop markings.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Pointed leaves with round purple blotches.

### CONFUSED WITH

Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*)  
Common Spotted-orchid has broader leaves with wider blotches and flowers with a more deeply lobed lip.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

flowers with dots and streaks on lip only

lip shallowly 3-lobed



leaves 2-ranked

## *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* Southern Marsh-orchid



Flowers in a dense spike, pale purplish-pink, with darker markings on the lip only.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves in 2 ranks up the stem, usually unspotted.

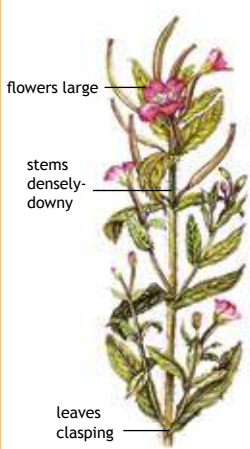
### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Joe Sutton/Plantlife





***Epilobium hirsutum***  
Great Willowherb



FLOWERING TIME



Tall (to 2m) herb with pink-purple flowers to 2.5 cm in diameter.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Opposite leaves, claspingleaves the round, downy stem.



© Ray Woods/Plantlife



***Erica tetralix***  
Cross-leaved Heath



FLOWERING TIME



Similar to bell heather but pink flowers larger (0.7cm) and in a tight one-sided cluster.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves grey in distinct whorls of 4 up the stem.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) larger pale pink flowers, and grey hairy leaves



© S Rae/2.0 Generic



***Fumaria sp.***  
Fumitories



FLOWERING TIME



Delicate, sprawling herbs with tubular 2-lipped flowers, white, pink or purple.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves much divided.



## *Geranium robertianum* Herb-Robert



To 50cm tall, hairy, with a strong, unpleasant smell. Pink (occasionally white) flowers 2cm across.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves with a triangular outline, divided to base. Leaves and stems sometimes reddish.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Geranium sanguineum* Bloody Crane's-bill



Bushy herb to 50cm tall. Solitary, long-stalked, deep pink flowers 20-30mm across with unnotched petals.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

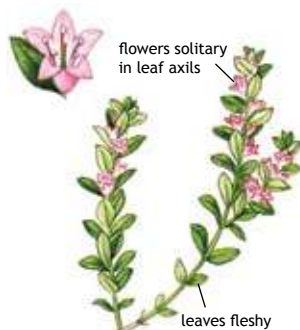
Leaves hairy, deeply divided into 5-7 lobes.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## *Glax maritima* Sea Milkwort



Creeping herb with solitary pink (or white) flowers 5mm across.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Lower leaves in pairs, upper alternate, fleshy.

### CONFUSED WITH

Sea Sandwort (*Honckenya peploides*)  
Sea Milkwort has pink calyx, and prefers wetter habitats.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Gymnadenia conopsea* Fragrant Orchid\*

A



Scented, rosy-pink unspotted flowers with a long spur in a cylindrical spike.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Basal rosette of glossy green, unspotted leaves and narrower leaves in 2 ranks on stem.

\*Some authors differentiate 3 separate taxa as either sub-species or species (Stace, 2010).

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A** S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* Marsh Pennywort

G



Creeping plant. Flowers are tiny, pinkish-green, infrequent and often hidden amongst the leaves.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Circular leaves are attached to their long stalks in the centre.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A** S O N D



© Pete Stroh

## *Impatiens glandulifera* Himalayan Balsam

G



A large plant (1-3m) often found in clumps with large 'policeman's helmet' pink-purple flowers 4cm long.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves with small red teeth at edge, in whorls of 3 or opposite, reddish stem.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A** S O N D



© Ray Woods/Plantlife

***Lamium amplexicaule***  
Henbit Dead-nettle



Downy plant with whorls of pink-purple, 2-lipped flowers, above leaf-like bracts.

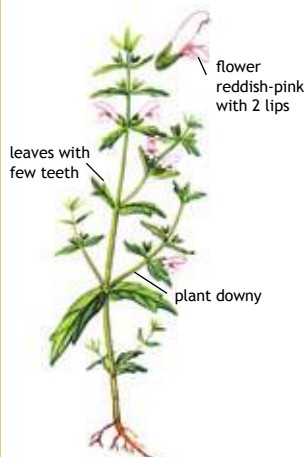
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Opposite pairs of long-stalked, rounded leaves with toothed edges. Stems squarish.

FLOWERING TIME



© P Shannon

***Odontites vernus***  
Red Bartsia



Reddish-pink, 2-lipped flowers in a leafy spike on a downy plant to 50cm.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, unstalked leaves with few teeth.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski

***Pedicularis palustris***  
Marsh Lousewort



Many pink-red 2-lipped flowers, the upper lip with 4 teeth, in a leafy spike on a plant to 60cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves deeply dissected with toothed lobes on a single, branched stem.

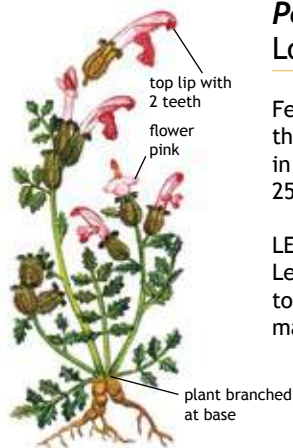
FLOWERING TIME



© Bob Gibbons/Plantlife

## *Pedicularis sylvatica* Lousewort

A



Few pink 2-lipped flowers, the upper lip with 2 teeth, in a leafy spike on a plant to 25cm tall.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves deeply dissected with toothed lobes on a plant with many stems.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Tim Pankhurst/Plantlife

## *Persicaria amphibia* Amphibious Bistort

A



terminal spike  
of pink flowers



Dense, oval spike of tiny pink flowers on a plant that either floats in water or is upright on land.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Aquatic leaves hairless, land leaves hairy.

### FLOWERING TIME

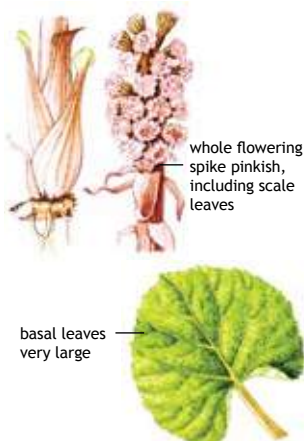
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Petasites hybridus* Butterbur

A



Reddish-pink, tubular flowers in a spike to 60cm tall which appears before the leaves.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Huge basal leaves, up to 90cm across, heart-shaped and stalked.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Nick Stewart/Plantlife

## *Plantago media* Hoary Plantain



Pinkish-purple flower spikes  
2-6cm long on long stalks up  
to 30cm.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of broad,  
greyish-downy leaves with a  
very short stalk.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Rosa rugosa* Japanese Rose



Suckering, prickly shrub to  
2m. Bright pink flowers,  
sometimes white, 6-9cm  
across then broad orange-red  
fruits.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaflets shiny, wrinkled  
and hairy.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney

## *Scutellaria minor* Lesser Skullcap



flowers pink  
and spotted



untoothed  
leaves

Pairs of pink, spotted,  
2-lipped flowers in leaf axils,  
each 6-10mm long, towards  
the top of flower stems that  
grow up to 25cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, untoothed leaves on  
suarish stems.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

### *Sherardia arvensis* Field Madder



Pale purple-pink funnel-shaped flowers in dense clusters above a green ruff on a horizontally growing plant to 40cm long.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with prickly edges in whorls of 4-6 round the stem.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Silene dioica* Red Campion



Deep pink flowers 20mm across with notched petals on a softly hairy plant to 1m tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Opposite, oval, softly hairy leaves, hairy stems.

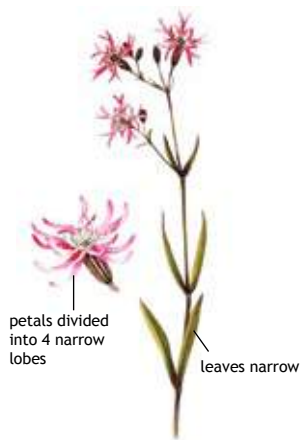
#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Silene flos-cuculi (Lychnis flos-cuculi)* Ragged-Robin



Petals deep-pink or white, each divided into 4 narrow lobes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves narrow and rough to touch.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Trevor Dines

### *Spergularia marina* Lesser Sea-spurrey



Deep pink flowers 5-8mm across on a low plant to 35cm long.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, cylindrical, fleshy leaves.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

### *Spergularia media* Greater Sea-spurrey



Pink or white flowers 8-12mm across on a low plant to 40cm long.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, cylindrical, fleshy leaves.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© H Higgins\_IWNHAS

### *Spergularia rubra* Sand Sea-spurrey



Pink flowers 3-5mm across on a sticky hairy low plant to 25cm long.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, narrow, grey-green leaves.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



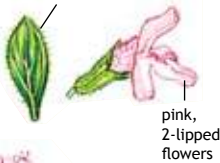
## *Thymus polytrichus* Wild Thyme



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

leaves flat, stem  
suarish, hairy on 2  
opposite faces



pink,  
2-lipped  
flowers



Mat-forming, slightly scented herb with dense heads of pink, 2-lipped flowers 3-4mm across. Record as *Thymus pulegiodes* / *Thymus polytrichus*.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Paired, toothed, flat leaves on 4-angled stems that are very hairy on 2 opposite faces.

### CONFUSED WITH

Large Thyme

(*Thymus pulegiodes*)

Large Thyme usually has whorls of flowers and the stem is only hairy on the angles.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Thymus pulegioides* Large Thyme



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

leaves flat



pink,  
2-lipped  
flowers



stem squarish,  
hairy on the angles

Creeping, strongly scented herb with spaced out (usually) whorls of pink, 2-lipped flowers 3-4mm across. Record as *Thymus pulegioides* / *Thymus polytrichus*.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Paired, toothed, leaves, slightly curved, on 4-angled stems that are hairy on the angles.

### CONFUSED WITH

Wild Thyme

(*Thymus polytrichus*)

Wild Thyme has dense heads of flowers and the stem is very hairy on 2-opposite faces.



© Kevin Walker

*Trifolium fragiferum*  
Strawberry Clover



Creeping plant with long-stalked pink flowerheads 10-15mm across which become fleshy in fruit.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 3 oval, many-toothed leaflets, usually with a whitish band.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

*Trifolium pratense*  
Red Clover



Unstalked purple flowerheads to 3cm on a sprawling plant to 50cm.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Downy leaves with 3 oval leaflets, usually with a white 'V' mark.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

*Trifolium striatum*  
Knotted Clover



Downy herb with egg-shaped clusters 10-15mm across of reddish-pink pea flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Downy, trifoliate leaves.

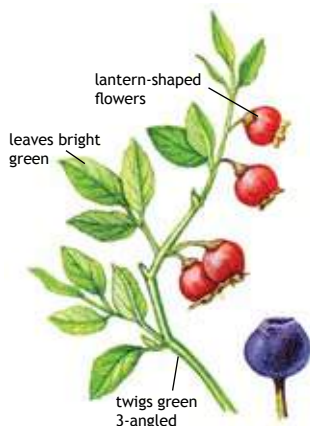
FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney

## *Vaccinium myrtillus* Bilberry, Blaeberry



Small deciduous shrub with lantern-shaped green-pink flowers and edible blue-black berries.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves finely toothed, 1-3 cm long.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Vaccinium oxycoccos* Cranberry

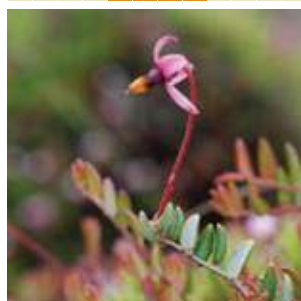


Tiny evergreen creeping shrub. Flowers rosy-pink with 4 bent back petals and red or brown fruits.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves leathery, with rolled under edges. Stems thread-like.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* Cowberry



Scrambling, dwarf, evergreen shrub. Bell-shaped flowers with 4 white or pink petals then red berries to 1cm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves leathery, with edges turned down.

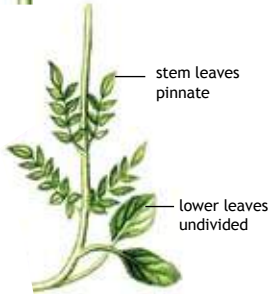
FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D



© Ray Woods/Plantlife

flowers mainly in terminal cluster



## *Valeriana dioica* Marsh Valerian



Herb to 40cm with runners. Terminal clusters of pale pink flowers, 4cm across in male plants, 1-2cm in female.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired stem leaves deeply divided, with short or no stalk. Basal leaves long-stalked and undivided.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D



© Bob Gibbons/Plantlife

## *Valeriana officinalis* Common Valerian



flowers mainly in terminal cluster



Tall herb to 1.5m. Pale pinkish funnel-shaped flowers 5mm long mostly in terminal clusters 5-12cm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Opposite paired leaves with toothed leaflets.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Ajuga reptans* Bugle



Stem square  
with hairs.

Creeping plant with upright, dense, leafy flower spikes 10-30cm tall of 2-lipped blue flowers.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Opposite leaves sometimes bronzy, hairless and scarcely toothed.

### CONFUSED WITH

Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*) Stem with 2 hairsides confirms Bugle.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Arctium minus / nemorosum* Lesser/Wood Burdock



globular flower  
heads

leaves longer  
than wide, with  
hollow stalks

Robust plant to 130cm. Flowerheads in loose clusters, red-purple, forming burrs in fruit.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Basal leaves up to 40cm long with heart-shaped bases.

### CONFUSED WITH

Greater Burdock (*Arctium lappa*) has basal leaves as wide as they are long and with solid stalks.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Aster tripolium* Sea Aster



Daisy type flowerheads in loose groups with mauve or white (or sometimes absent) ray florets and yellow disc florets.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves narrow and fleshy.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Betonica officinalis (Stachys officinalis)***  
Betony



Red-purple 2-lipped flowers 12-18mm mostly in a compact head at the top of a stem up to 60cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, toothed leaves with stalks that get shorter up the stem.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Calluna vulgaris***  
Heather



Bushy evergreen shrub to 60cm. Pinky-purple flowers, 4mm long, in long, dense spikes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Tiny scale-like leaves, in 4 tight rows, pressed against stem.

FLOWERING TIME



© Deborah Long/Plantlife



***Campanula glomerata***  
Clustered Bellflower



Bell-shaped, violet-blue flowers mostly in a dense cluster at the top of the stem but with a few lower down.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves stalked, upper clasping stem, all toothed.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Campanula latifolia* Giant Bellflower

R



Bell-shaped, violet-blue flowers, to 5cm across, each on a 2cm stalk, in a leafy spike.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves tapering into stalks. Stem with blunt angles.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Nettle-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*)  
Check whether stem is bluntly or sharply angled and whether basal leaves taper or narrow abruptly into stalks.

FLOWERING TIME

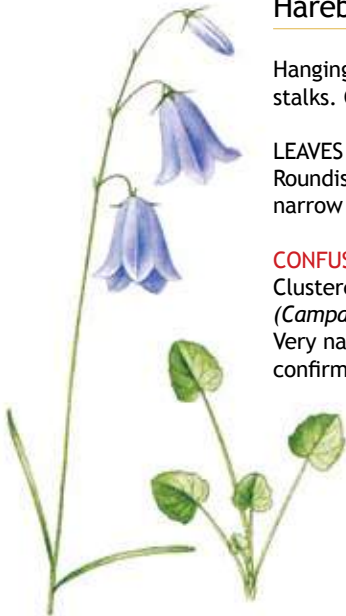
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Ian Keith (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

## *Campanula rotundifolia* Harebell

G



Hanging blue bells on slender stalks. Grows 15-40cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Roundish leaves at base, very narrow linear leaves up stem.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Clustered Bellflower (*Campanula glomerata*)  
Very narrow linear leaves confirm Harebell.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife



***Campanula trachelium***  
**Nettle-leaved Bellflower**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Bell-shaped, dark violet-blue flowers, up to 4cm across, each on a 1cm stalk, in a leafy spike.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Lower leaves narrowing abruptly into stalks. Stem with sharp angles.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

**CONFUSED WITH**

Giant Bellflower (*Campanula latifolia*) Check whether stem is bluntly or sharply angled and whether basal leaves taper or narrow abruptly into stalks.



***Carduus nutans***  
**Musk Thistle / Nodding Thistle**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Drooping, solitary red-purple flowerheads, 4-6cm across, on long spineless stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Leaves lobed and spiny. Stems with spiny wings.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Centaurea scabiosa***  
**Greater Knapweed**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Solitary, bright purple-red flowerheads 3-6cm across on stalks to 120cm.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Leaves deeply lobed and toothed.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Chaenorhinum minus***  
Small Toadflax



Solitary pale purple flowers with a short spur, on long stalks, on a plant to 25cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow, sticky-downy leaves.

FLOWERING TIME



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife

***Cirsium acaule***  
Dwarf Thistle



flowerheads usually without a stalk



leaves very spiny, all in a basal rosette

Red-purple oval flowerheads, 3-4cm long, usually solitary and usually stalkless.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Deeply divided, spiny leaves in a rosette.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Cirsium arvense***  
Creeping Thistle



flowers pale pinkish-purple



stem mostly without spines

Far-creeping herb. Flowerheads in open clusters, 20mm x 10-15mm, pinkish-purple.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves stalked, upper clasping stem, all deeply divided with spiny edges. Flowering stem to 1m tall, unwinged and spineless.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Cirsium dissectum* Meadow Thistle



Solitary dark red-purple flowerheads.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow leaves are white-cottony underneath and have wavy edges with soft prickles. Stems are spineless.

### CONFUSED WITH

Melancholy Thistle (*Cirsium heterophyllum*)  
Melancholy Thistle has broader leaves and downy stems.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Joe Costley/Plantlife



## *Cirsium heterophyllum* Melancholy Thistle



Dark red-purple flowerheads  
3.5-5cm long by 3-5cm wide in clusters of 2-4.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves have stalks and upper leaves clasp the spineless stem. All leaves have softly-prickly teeth and are white-felted underneath.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*)  
Meadow Thistle has narrower leaves that are cottony underneath.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Pete Stroh



flowerheads in dense clusters

leaves very spiny

stem spiny winged



### *Cirsium palustre* Marsh Thistle



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Dark red-purple (sometimes white) flowerheads 1.5-2cm long in dense clusters. Whole plant often has a reddish tinge.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves deeply lobed and spiny. Stem with spiny wings.



© 2012 Dr. Amadej Trnkoczy

### *Cirsium vulgare* Spear Thistle



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

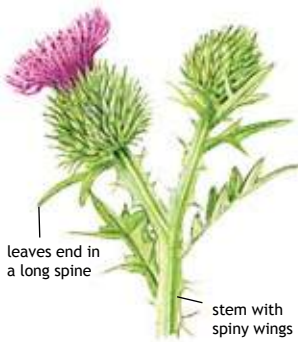
Flowerheads solitary or in loose clusters, 3-5cm long, red-purple.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Basal leaves to 30cm, deeply lobed, spiny, upper leaves smaller, prickly. Stems erect, branched, with spiny wings.

leaves end in a long spine

stem with spiny wings



© Phil Sellens (CC BY 2.0)

### *Comarum palustre (Potentilla palustris)* Marsh Cinquefoil



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Star-shaped purple flowers up to 2.5cm across on a plant up to 45cm tall.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves with 5-7 leaflets becoming 3-leaved up the stem. Leaflets are toothed and bluish-green below.

petals pointed, purple-red

leaves with 5 or 7 leaflets



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Digitalis purpurea***  
Foxglove



Flower spikes to 1.8m with many large purple tubular flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Large (30cm) leaves downy, especially underneath.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S O N D**



© Beth Halski/PlantLife



***Dipsacus fullonum***  
Wild Teasel



Herb growing to 2m. Purple flowerhead is egg-shaped and surrounded by long, spiny bracts.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Opposite leaves have prickles and join around the prickly stem, catching water.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S O N D**



© Beth Halski/PlantLife



***Empetrum nigrum***  
Crowberry



Mat-forming shrub with tiny purple, stalkless, starry flowers nestling among the leaves. The small berries start green, go pink, purple and finally black.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Crowded linear leaves up to 7mm long with rolled margins.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A **M J J A S O N D**



© Ray Woods/PlantLife

## *Erica cinerea* Bell Heather



flowers reddish purple in groups along stem



**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Dark green hairless leaves in 3s.

leaves hairless and dark green in 3s

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Deborah Long/Plantlife

## *Gentianella amarella* Autumn Gentian



Herb to 30cm. Purple, bell-shaped flowers in dense, branching clusters.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette and 4-10 pairs of pointed stem leaves. The distance between the top 2 pairs of leaves is 20% or less of the height of the plant.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Early Gentian  
(*Gentianella anglica*)  
Early Gentian is shorter, has fewer pairs of stem leaves and the distance between the top two pairs is 40% or more of the height of the plant.

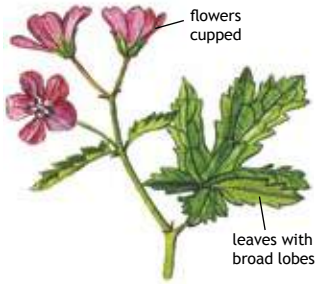
### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Geranium sylvaticum***  
Wood Crane's-bill



To 50cm tall. Flowers cup-shaped, pinkish-violet to reddish-purple.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves deeply divided into 5-7 broad lobes.

FLOWERING TIME



© Kevin Walker

***Glechoma hederacea***  
Ground-ivy



Creeping plant with upright flowering stems bearing 2-4 violet 2-lipped flowers in a whorl.

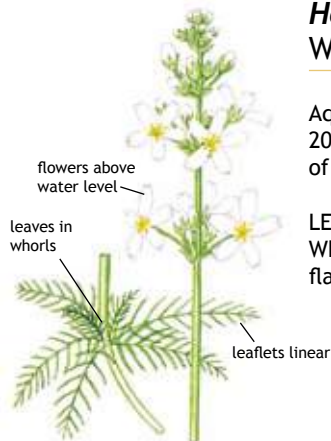
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves rounded, kidney-shaped, blunt tipped with toothed edges on long stalks. Strong smell.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Hottonia palustris***  
Water-violet



Aquatic plant. Lilac flowers, 20-25mm across, in whorls of 3-8.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Whorls of leaves with linear, flattened leaflets.

FLOWERING TIME



© Pete Stroh



### *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* Bluebell



Narrow tube-like violet-blue scented flowers with up-rolled tips.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow leaves 1-2cm wide.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife



### *Jasione montana* Sheep's-bit



Pale blue button flowerheads to 35mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Hairy, wavy-edged strap-shaped leaves to 5cm long in a basal rosette and smaller leaves on the downy stem.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



### *Knautia arvensis* Field Scabious



Stout plant to 75cm. Rounded flowerheads 30-40mm across on hairy stalks, each flower having 4 lobes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal leaves unlobed, stem leaves deeply divided, all roughly hairy.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Limonium* sp.**  
Sea-lavender



Branched clusters of pale purple flowers with papery, coloured, sepals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
All leaves in a basal rosette.

**FLOWERING TIME**

J F M A M J **J A S** O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Lythrum salicaria***  
Purple-loosestrife



Upright herb to 150cm tall with long, leafy spikes of 6-petalled, purple-red flowers each 10-15mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Pointed, untoothed leaves in opposite pairs or 3s. Stems have 4 or more raised lines.

**FLOWERING TIME**

J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

***Mentha aquatica***  
Water Mint



Downy, upright herb to 60cm, with a strong mint scent. Dense whorls of mauve flowers at the top of the stem and lower down.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves in opposite pairs. Stem squarish.

**FLOWERING TIME**

J F M A M J **J A S** O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

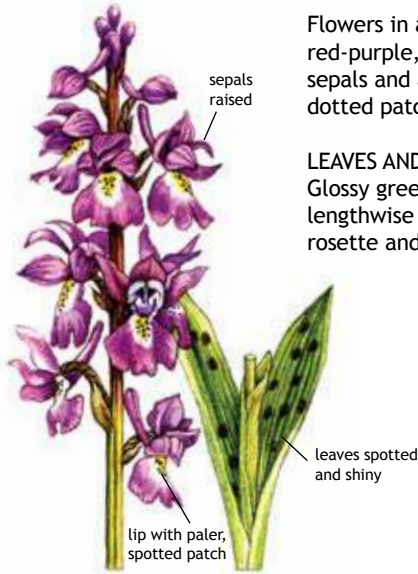


***Orchis mascula***  
**Early-purple Orchid**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A M J** J A S O N D



Flowers in a loose spike, red-purple, with 2 raised sepals and a lip with paler, dotted patch.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**

Glossy green leaves with lengthwise blotches, in a rosette and on stem.



© Beth Halski/PlantLife

***Origanum vulgare***  
**Wild Marjoram**



FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D

flowers in dense terminal heads



Pink-purple 2-lipped flowers in dense clusters at the top of stems to 70cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**

Stalked leaves in opposite pairs. Stem squarish.



© Beth Halski/PlantLife

## *Pinguicula lusitanica* Pale Butterwort



Single pale violet flowers, 5-8mm across, held on stalks 3-10cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of flat olive-green leaves 1-2cm long.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) Pale Butterwort has smaller leaves and a pale flower

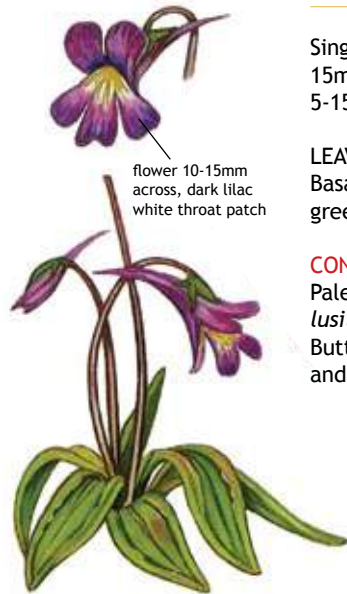
FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© G Toone/IWNHAS

## *Pinguicula vulgaris* Common Butterwort



Single deep violet flowers, 10-15mm across, held on stalks 5-15cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of flat yellowish-green leaves 2-8cm long.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Pale Butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*) Common Butterwort has larger leaves and a bright violet flower

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Polygala serpyllifolia* Heath Milkwort



flowers often dark blue  
but can be purple, pink  
or white



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Low, spreading, branching plant with spikes of 3-10 deep blue, purple, pink or white flowers 6-8mm long. Record as *Polygala serpyllifolia* / *vulgaris*.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Narrow, pointed leaves, alternate or opposite on stem, opposite pairs at the base.

### CONFUSED WITH

Common Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*)  
Common Milkwort is a larger, more upright plant with all leaves alternate.

## *Polygala vulgaris* Common Milkwort



flowers often blue  
but can be purple,  
pink or white



Low, branching plant with spikes of 10-40 bright blue, purple, pink or white flowers 6-8mm long. Record as *Polygala serpyllifolia* / *vulgaris*.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Narrow, pointed leaves, all alternate along the stem.

### CONFUSED WITH

Heath Milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*)  
Heath Milkwort is a smaller, more spreading plant with some lower leaves in opposite pairs.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

***Prunella vulgaris***  
Selfheal



Violet-blue flowers 10-15mm in a compact head at the top of the stem up to 20cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Hairy leaves, oval to diamond-shaped, often purple tinged. Plant often mat-forming.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

violet-blue flowers to 15mm long



***Salvia verbenaca***  
Wild Clary



Downy herb to 80cm. Violet-blue 2-lipped flowers 7-15mm long in long spikes. Flowers may not open.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Stalked rosette leaves with deep, jagged teeth/lobes, upper stem leaves purplish-blue in pairs.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© M Cotterill/WNHAS

lower leaves with deep, jagged teeth

***Saxifraga oppositifolia***  
Purple Saxifrage



flowers purple



leaves in opposite pairs



Mat-forming plant bearing rosy-purple flowers 10-20mm across.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Tiny, thick, dark-green leaves in opposite pairs.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

A

## *Scabiosa columbaria* Small Scabious

individual florets  
have 5 lobes

stalks of flowerheads  
long, slender and  
downy-hairy



stem leaves  
pinnately divided

lowest leaves  
undivided or  
shallowly lobed

Slender plant to 70cm.  
Rounded flowerheads 20-  
30mm across on downy stalks,  
each flower having 5 blue-  
violet lobes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal leaves long-stalked,  
toothed or lobed. Stem leaves  
with narrow lobes.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Field Scabious  
(*Knautia arvensis*)  
Field Scabious has 4-lobed  
florets.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



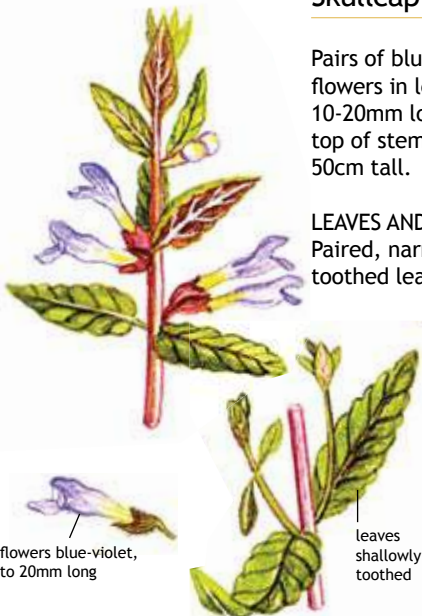
© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

A

## *Scutellaria galericulata* Skullcap

Pairs of blue-violet 2-lipped  
flowers in leaf axils, each  
10-20mm long, towards the  
top of stems that grow up to  
50cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, narrow, shallowly  
toothed leaves.



flowers blue-violet,  
to 20mm long

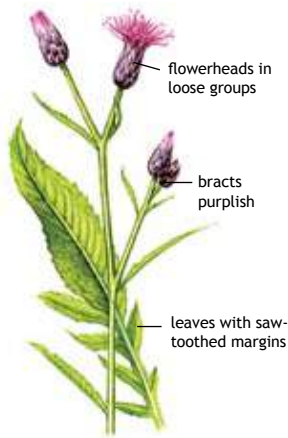
leaves  
shallowly  
toothed

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife



***Serratula tinctoria***  
Saw-wort



Loose groups of red-purple flowerheads 1.5-2cm across, with purplish bracts.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaf edges with fine teeth. Stems wiry and grooved, to 1m.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Solanum dulcamara***  
Bittersweet / Woody Nightshade



Woody scrambling perennial. Loose clusters of purple flowers with 5 bent back petals and a cone of yellow stamens are followed by red berries.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Pointed leaves, to 8cm, often have 2 spreading lobes at the base.

FLOWERING TIME



© G Toone/IWNHAS



***Stachys palustris***  
Marsh Woundwort



Pink 2-lipped flowers 7-9mm in whorls. Bristly-hairy plant to 100cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow, paired, toothed leaves.

FLOWERING TIME



© Pete Stroh

## *Succisa pratensis* Devil's-bit Scabious



Rounded flowerheads 15-25mm across, all flowers the same size with 4 mauve to dark violet-blue lobes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
All leaves unlobed. Stem leaves narrower.

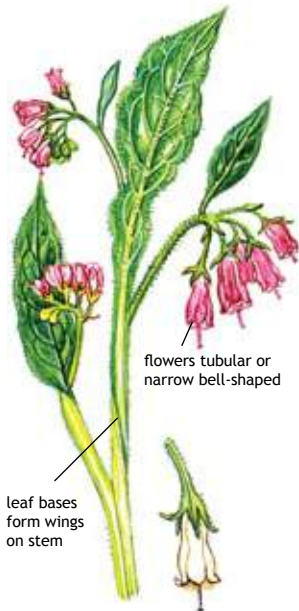
### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S O N** D



© Plantlife

## *Symphytum officinale* Common Comfrey



Bristly herb to 120cm bearing coiled clusters of cream, pink or purple tubular or bell-shaped flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
The bases of upper leaves extend down the stem. All leaves hairy.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Russian Comfrey  
(*Symphytum X uplandicum*)  
Russian Comfrey often has purplish-blue or deep red flowers and the stem is only slightly winged.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **M J J A S O N** D



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***Valerianella locusta***  
Common Cornsalad



Slender much-branched herb to 30cm. Dense terminal heads 1-2cm across of tiny pale mauve flowers.

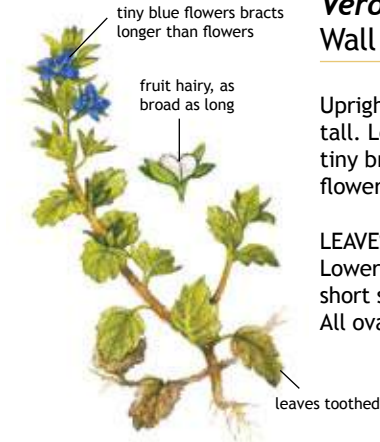
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, long leaves.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© C Gibson



***Veronica arvensis***  
Wall Speedwell



Upright, downy, herb 5-25cm tall. Long terminal spikes of tiny bright blue 4-petalled flowers. Fruit hairy.

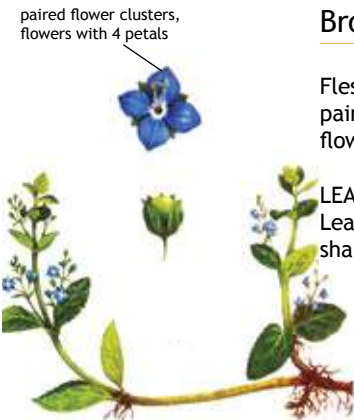
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves in pairs with short stalks, upper stalkless. All oval, toothed.

FLOWERING TIME

J F **M** A M J J A S O N D



© C Gibson



***Veronica beccabunga***  
Brooklime



Fleshy creeping herb with paired clusters of bright blue flowers in leaf axils.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves in pairs, thick, shallowly lobed. Stems fleshy.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A **M** J J A S O N D

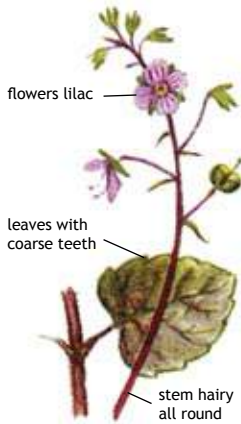


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### *Veronica montana* Wood Speedwell

A



Creeping, hairy plant. Long-stalked clusters of 4-petalled lilac flowers, each on a 4mm stalk, in leaf axils. Fruit almost round.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves in opposite pairs, stalked, coarsely toothed.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© C Gibson

### *Veronica officinalis* Heath Speedwell

A



Creeping herb with upright flower spikes. Long-stalked clusters of 4-petalled lilac flowers, each on a 2mm stalk, in leaf axils. Fruit heart-shaped.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves in opposite pairs, no stalk, shallowly toothed. Stem hairy all round.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



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### *Vicia cracca* Tufted Vetch

A



Scrambling herb to 2m bearing long-stalked, narrow, one-sided clusters of many blue-purple pea flowers.

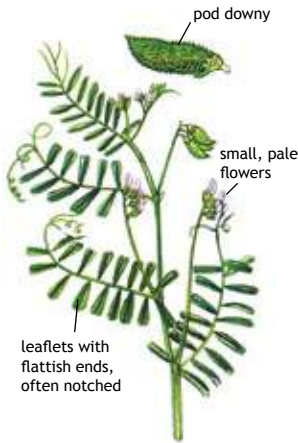
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with 8-13 pairs of narrow leaflets and branched tendrils at tips.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



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***Vicia hirsuta***  
Hairy Tare



Slender trailing herb to 70cm bearing long-stalked clusters of 1-9 whitish-mauve pea flowers, each 4-5mm. Calyx-teeth all the same length. Pod downy.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with tendrils and 4-10 pairs of linear leaflets, often with a flattish and/or notched end.

FLOWERING TIME



**CONFUSED WITH**  
Smooth Tare  
(*V. tetrasperma*) and  
Slender Tare (*V. parviflora*)  
Both Smooth Tare and  
Slender Tare have hairless  
pods and calyx teeth unequal  
in length.



***Viola hirta***  
Hairy Violet



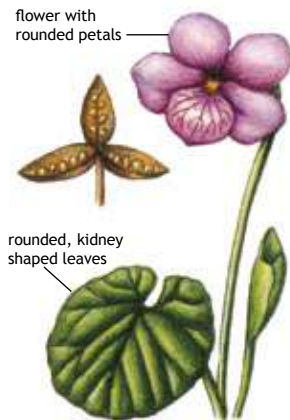
Low growing herb. Flowers with hairy stalks and pale blue-violet petals with darker veins.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Heart-shaped leaves on hairy stalks all in a basal rosette.

FLOWERING TIME



© C Gibson



***Viola palustris***  
Marsh Violet



Low growing herb. Flowers 10-15mm across with blunt, pale lilac petals with darker veins.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Few kidney shaped leaves all in basal rosettes from creeping runners.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Viola reichenbachiana* Early Dog-violet



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Low growing herb. Flowers 15-20mm across with narrow, pale blue-violet petals with darker veins, spur darker than petals. Record as *Viola riviniana* / *Viola reichenbachiana*.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Heart-shaped leaves in a basal rosette and on flowering shoots.

### CONFUSED WITH

Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*)

Common Dog-violet has petals darker than the spur which is curved, blunt and notched.

## *Viola riviniana* Common Dog-violet



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Low growing herb. Flowers 15-25mm across with rounded blue-violet petals with darker veins, spur paler than petals. Record as *Viola riviniana* / *Viola reichenbachiana*.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Heart-shaped leaves in a basal rosette and on flowering shoots.

### CONFUSED WITH

Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*)

Early Dog-violet has petals lighter than the spur which is straight, pointed and not notched.



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

flowers in clusters



leaves silvery underneath

leaves divided to the base

## *Alchemilla alpina* Alpine Lady's-mantle



Sprawling plant on acid rocks of NW England and Scotland with clusters of small yellow-green flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
5-7 narrow leaflets, silvery and silky underneath.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

tip of spathe erect



spadix purplish brown

leaves often wrinkled with dark spots

## *Arum maculatum* Lords-and-Ladies / Cuckoo-pint



Purple-brown (rarely yellow) club-shaped spathe releases a rotting-meat odour to attract flies. Fruit is a spike of bright orange berries.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Shiny arrow shaped leaves, often with dark spots, sometimes wrinkled.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



## *Atriplex portulacoides* Sea Purslane



leaves with whitish-meal lower leaves in opposite pairs with stalks

Shrub to 1m bearing spikes of yellow-green to grey flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves with whitish-meal, lower stalked and paired. Stems brown and woody.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney

## *Atriplex* sp. Orache



Mealy plants with spikes of inconspicuous flowers, male and female on separate plants. Female flowers within two triangular modified leaves, not sepals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves often fleshy.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.)  
Goosefoots have male and female flowers on the same plant and all have sepals.

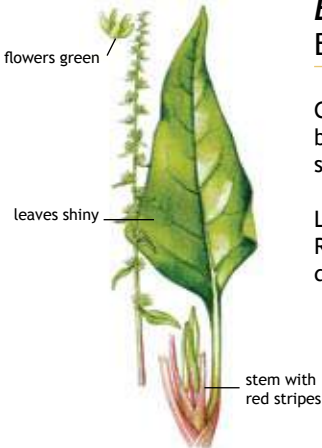
FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Beta vulgaris* Beet



Green flowers in spikes become conspicuous in fruit as several stick together.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Red-striped stems and shiny, dark-green leaves.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Chenopodium album* Fat-hen



Very variable plant, 30-100cm tall, covered with whitish-grey meal. Flowers, 2mm across, in dense groups.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves grey-green, roughly diamond-shaped. Stem often reddish.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Chrysosplenium oppositifolium***  
**Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage**



leaves in opposite pairs

Tiny yellowish-green flowers 3-5mm across on a low growing, patch-forming plant.

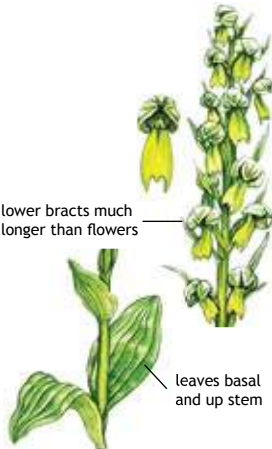
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Rounded, toothed, paired leaves. Creeping, rooting stems.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Coeloglossum viride (Dactylorhiza viridis)***  
**Frog Orchid**



lower bracts much longer than flowers

leaves basal and up stem

Greenish flowers, with long bracts, in a spike.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Basal rosette of broad, unspotted leaves and narrower leaves on stem.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Daphne laureola***  
**Spurge-laurel**



Evergreen shrub to 1m tall. Clusters of fragrant, yellow-green, tubular flowers are followed by fleshy black fruits.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Dark-green, shiny, leathery leaves mostly towards the top of shoots.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife



## *Euphorbia amygdaloides* Wood Spurge

upper bracts  
joined in pairs



Upright herb 30-90cm tall. Clusters of tiny yellowish-green flowers without true petals but cupped by bracts.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves dark-green, downy, narrow.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



## *Euphorbia exigua* Dwarf Spurge

flowers in  
small clusters



Grey-green herb to 15cm, sometimes taller. Small clusters of tiny yellowish-green flowers without true petals but cupped by bracts.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves linear and untoothed. Branching stems.

FLOWERING TIME

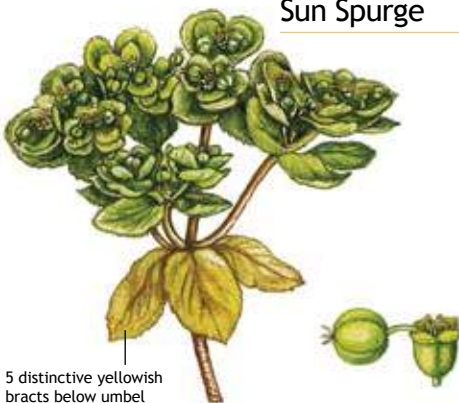
J F M A M J J A S O N D



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## *Euphorbia helioscopia* Sun Spurge



5 distinctive yellowish  
bracts below umbel

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Herb 15-30cm tall. Umbel with 5 branches with 5 yellowish-leaf-like bracts below. Flowers similar to other spurges.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves blunt.



## *Hedera helix* Common Ivy



Evergreen woody climber, carpeting the ground or growing up walls, trees. Flowers in green umbels.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves dark green glossy above, paler below, 3-5 lobes; on flowering shoots, leaves are pointed oval.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Ray Woods/Plantlife

## *Honckenya peploides* Sea Sandwort



Creeping plant. Flowers amongst the leaves, 6-10mm across with 5 greenish-cream petals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, fleshy leaves and fleshy stems.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife



## *Mercurialis perennis* Dog's Mercury



Male plants have catkin-like spikes of flowers. Female plants have groups of 1-3 flowers on long stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired leaves with small teeth on the edge.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



## *Myrica gale* Bog-myrtle

G



Deciduous, suckering shrub to 2.5m tall. Male catkins red-brown, female catkins red-green.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow grey-green leaves smell resinous when bruised. Twigs red-brown.

### FLOWERING TIME

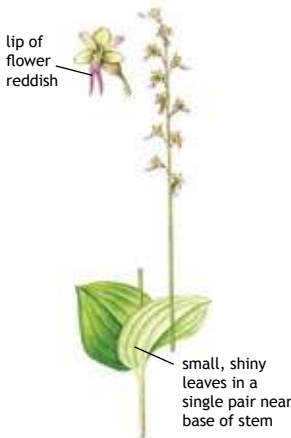
J F M A M J J A S O N D



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## *Neottia cordata* (*Listera cordata*) Lesser Twayblade

A



Erect plant to 20cm with spikes of reddish-green flowers, with drooping, forked lips.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
One pair only of shiny leaves, up to 4cm long, below the middle of the reddish stem.

### FLOWERING TIME

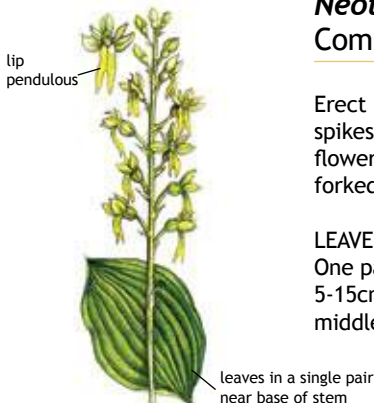
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Pete Stroth

## *Neottia ovata* (*Listera ovata*) Common Twayblade

A



Erect plant to 60cm with spikes of yellowish-green flowers, with drooping, forked lips.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
One pair only of broad leaves, 5-15cm long, below the middle of the stem.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

***Plantago coronopus***

**Buck's-horn Plantain**



Numerous greenish flower spikes 2-4cm long with arching stems longer than the leaves.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**

Basal rosette of deeply lobed narrow leaves up to 20cm long.

**FLOWERING TIME**

J F M A M **J J** A S O N D



© Liam Rooney/PlantLife

***Plantago lanceolata***

**Ribwort Plantain**



short flower spike



Greenish flower spikes 2cm long, on long stalks up to 45cm.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**

Basal rosette of long, narrow, hairy dark green leaves to 25cm long.

**FLOWERING TIME**

J F M **A** M J J A S O N D



© Bob Embleton

***Plantago maritima***

**Sea Plantain**



Numerous yellowish-brown flower spikes 2-6cm long.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**

Loose basal rosette of narrow, fleshy leaves.

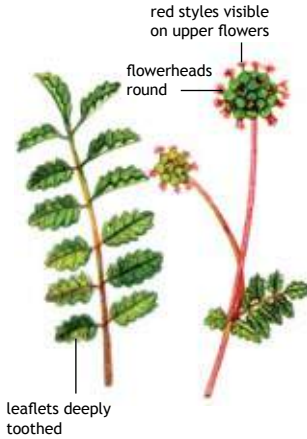
**FLOWERING TIME**

J F M A M **J J** A S O N D



© P Shannon

***Poterium sanguisorba*  
(*Sanguisorba minor*)**  
Salad Burnet



Upright plant to 40cm bearing round heads of tiny greenish flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette of leaves with 4-12 pairs of toothed leaflets. Stem leaves smaller.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*)  
Great Burnet is much larger in all parts (to 1m)

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



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***Rumex crispus***  
Curled Dock



Stout plant up to 100cm. Flower spikes branched. Record as *Rumex crispus* / *Rumex obtusifolius* unless on Coastal vegetated shingle.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves to 30cm with strongly waved edges, rounded or tapered at the base.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© H Higgins/IWNHAS



***Rumex hydrolapathum***  
Water Dock

G

Very large plant, to 200cm. Dense whorls of flowers in much branched spikes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves to 100cm long, pointed and tapering at the base.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J **J A S O N D**



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Rumex obtusifolius***  
Broad-leaved Dock

A



Stout plant to 100cm. Flower spikes branched. Record as *Rumex crispus* / *Rumex obtusifolius* unless on Coastal vegetated shingle.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Lower leaves to 25cm with only slightly wavy edges and heart-shaped bases.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A S O N D**



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Sagina apetala***  
Annual Pearlwort

R

Branching herb, 3-10cm tall. Flowers on long stalks, have 4 green sepals but no petals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Basal rosette withers early. Stem leaves linear, fleshy, in pairs.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Procumbent Pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*)  
Procumbent Pearlwort retains its basal rosette.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A **M J J A S O N D**



© G Toone/IWNHAS



## *Sparganium erectum* Branched Bur-reed

G

Tallest Bur-reed to 1.5m.  
Branched spike of flower  
heads.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Broad leaves, rarely floating.  
Veins have no dark border.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

tiny greenish  
flowers in  
leaf axils



## *Suaeda maritima* Annual Sea-blite

A

Tiny greenish flowers in small  
clusters in leaf axils on a  
succulent plant to 60cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Pointed, fleshy leaves. Leaves  
and stems bluish grey-green to  
purplish-red.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Bahamut Chao (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

male flowers  
in long clusters

leaves  
heart-shaped



female flowers  
in short clusters

## *Tamus communis* Black Bryony

A



Clockwise twining herb, no  
tendrils. Yellow-green bell-  
shaped flowers, 4-5mm across,  
in clusters in leaf axils and  
round, red berries.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Glossy green heart-shaped  
leaves on long stalks.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

***Teucrium scorodonia***  
Wood Sage



Upright herb to 60cm with spikes of paired, greenish-yellow flowers in leaf axils.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Pairs of wrinkled, downy leaves on a squarish stem.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Triglochin maritimum***  
Sea Arrowgrass



Small greenish, fleshy flowers in long dense spikes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Linear, half-cylindrical leaves, not grooved on top.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Triglochin palustre***  
Marsh Arrowgrass



Small greenish flowers widely spaced in long spikes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Linear leaves, rounded underneath, deeply grooved on top.

FLOWERING TIME



© Liam Rooney

## *Typha latifolia* Bulrush / Common Reedmace

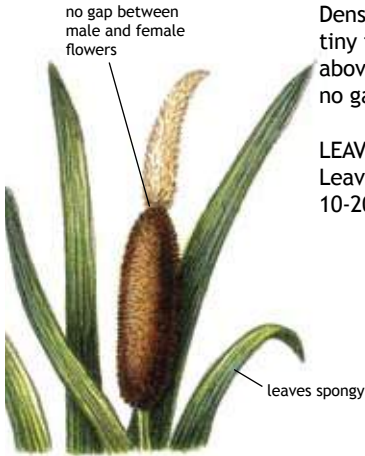


### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Tall, stout herb to 2.5m.  
Dense, cylindrical spike of tiny flowers, male yellow above female brown, with no gap between.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves linear, flat, grey-green, 10-20mm wide, in 2 ranks.



© Ellen Pisolkar/Plantlife

## *Urtica dioica* Common Nettle



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Patch-forming plant with stinging hairs and tassels of tiny flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves pointed and toothed in opposite pairs. Square stems.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Azolla filiculoides***  
Water Fern



Fronds like a large feathery duckweed, overlapping along the stems. Carpets still freshwater.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves are bluish-green, reddening in autumn.

FLOWERING TIME



© Liam Rooney /PlantLife

***Crassula helmsii***  
New Zealand Pigmyweed



Aquatic plant with either erect or trailing stems. The 4-petalled flowers are whitish and on long stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves in opposite pairs, fleshy and linear.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg /PlantLife

***Elodea canadensis***  
Canadian Waterweed



Submerged aquatic plant. Female flowers, 5mm across, float on the surface on long, thin stalks. Record as *E.canadensis* / *E.nuttallii*.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Translucent green, blunt-tipped, widest at middle, usually in whorls of 3.



FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg /PlantLife



## *Elodea nuttallii* Nuttall's Waterweed

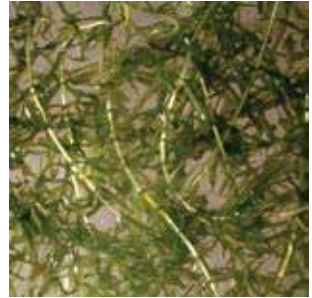


Submerged aquatic plant. Female flowers, 5mm across, float on the surface on long, thin stalks. Record as *E.canadensis* / *E.nuttallii*.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Translucent green, pointed, widest at base, usually in whorls of 3, often twisted or curved.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Hippuris vulgaris* Mare's-tail



Aquatic plant. Tiny greenish flowers at base of leaves have no petals.

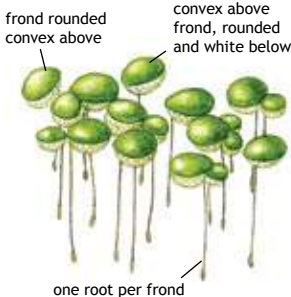
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Whorls of 6-8 strap-shaped leaves up to 7cm long on stout, spongy stems.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife



## *Lemna gibba* Fat Duckweed



Tiny plants, each consisting of one frond and one root, which float on the surface of water and often form carpets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Frond 3-5mm, rounded, opaque, upper surface convex, sometimes swollen and white spongy underneath.

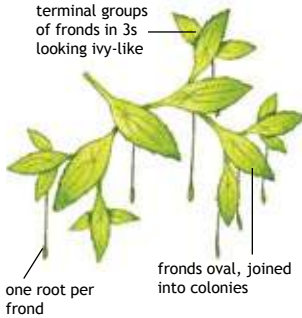
### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Common Duckweed  
(*Lemna minor*)  
Common Duckweed is flat both sides.



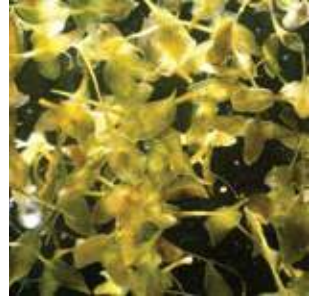
***Lemna trisulca***  
Ivy-leaved Duckweed



Tiny plants, each consisting of one frond and one root, which float just beneath the surface of water often forming carpets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Frond 5-15mm, oval, translucent, often joining together into branched colonies, with the end 3 looking like an ivy leaf.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Lobelia dortmanna***  
Water Lobelia



Aquatic plant with few-flowered spikes of drooping, pale lilac 5-lobed flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fleshy, linear leaves all in a submerged, basal rosette.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Myriophyllum aquaticum***  
Parrot's-feather



Aquatic herb with both emergent and submerged shoots with whorled leaves and whorls of tiny, whitish flowers in leaf axils.

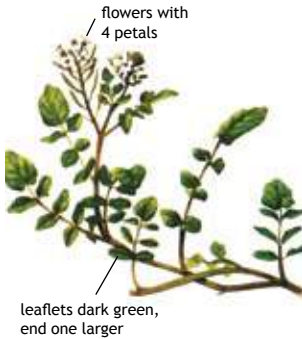
**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Finely divided leaves with 8-30 blue-grey segments in whorls of 4-6.

FLOWERING TIME



© GBNNSS

***Nasturtium officinale***  
**(*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*)**  
**Water-cress**



Aquatic plant bearing clusters of white, 4-petalled flowers each 4-6mm across. Strong cress scent.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Divided dark green leaves remain over winter.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
 Narrow-fruited Water-cress (*Nasturtium microphyllum*) and hybrids with this. Narrow-fruited Water-cress has fruits up to 1.8mm wide. Record Water-cress (broad sense) unless fruits examined.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Nuphar lutea***  
**Yellow Water-lily**



Bright yellow flowers, 4-6cm across, are held on long stalks above the water.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Large, leathery, heart-shaped, floating leaves.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Nymphaea alba***  
**White Water-lily**



White flowers, 10-20cm across, with 20 or more petals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Large leaves, almost round.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Persicaria bistorta***  
**Common Bistort**



flowers pink in a dense cluster



leaves broad, triangular in shape

Dense, oval spike of pink flowers 4-5mm across on a hairless plant to 100cm tall.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Leaves triangular, lower ones with winged stalks. Stems unbranched.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Potamogeton crispus***  
**Curled Pondweed**



Aquatic herb with flowers in loose spikes on slender stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 All leaves submerged, unstalked, narrow, translucent, with wavy, toothed, margins.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Potamogeton perfoliatus***  
**Perfoliate Pondweed**



Aquatic herbs with flowers in dense spikes on long stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 All leaves submerged, completely clasping stems.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Potamogeton polygonifolius***  
**Bog Pondweed**



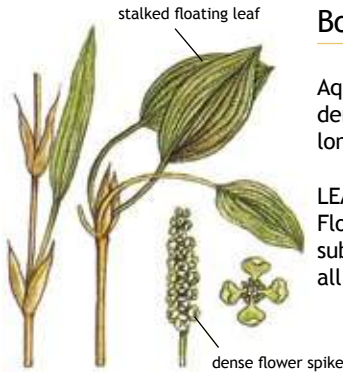
Aquatic herb with flowers in dense spikes to 40mm long on long stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Floating leaves leathery, submerged leaves translucent, all stalked.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Spirodela polyrhiza***  
**Greater Duckweed**



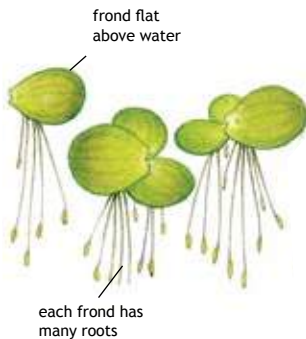
Tiny plants, each consisting of one frond with several roots, which float on the surface of water often forming carpets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
 Frond 1.5-10mm, flat both sides and often purplish underneath.

FLOWERING TIME



© Pete Stroh



***Diphasiastrum alpinum***  
Alpine Clubmoss



Horizontally growing plant to 50cm or more long with upright, flattened branches to 10cm in a fan shape. Cones 10-20mm long.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Blue-grey leaves 1-2mm long, closely pressed to stem giving smooth appearance.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Huperzia selago***  
Fir Clubmoss



Upright, branching, plant to 30cm, looking like a large moss or a conifer seedling. Cream-coloured spore capsules among upper leaves.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Spirally arranged, yellowish-green, narrow leaves, 4-8mm long.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Michael Scott/Plantlife

***Lycopodium clavatum***  
Stag's-horn Clubmoss



Horizontally growing plant to 100cm long with upright branches to 25cm. Cones 2-5cm long, 1, 2 or 3 together on a long stalk.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Spirally arranged, narrow leaves, 3-5mm long, with a long, white flexible hair at the tip.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Pete Stroh

***Asplenium ceterach* (*Ceterach officinarum*)**  
Rustyback



Distinctive small fern.  
Underside of leaves covered in rust coloured scales that partly hide the spore-cases.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Linear-oblong in outline,  
mid-green wintergreen  
leaves 3-25cm.

FLOWERING TIME



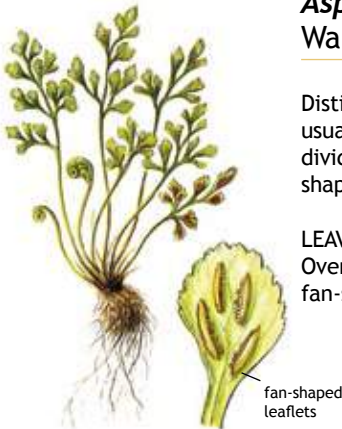
© Liam Rooney/Plantlife

***Asplenium ruta-muraria***  
Wall-rue



Distinctive small fern,  
usually 2-6cm, with finely  
divided fronds with fan-  
shaped leaflets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Overwintering leaves with  
fan-shaped leaflets.



fan-shaped leaflets

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Asplenium scolopendrium***  
**(*Phyllitis scolopendrium*)**  
Hart's-tongue



Our only fern with strap-  
shaped leaves. Spore-cases  
in diagonal rows.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Evergreen, 10-60cm long,  
3-6cm wide. Strap-shaped.

FLOWERING TIME



Strap-shaped leaves



© Ray Woods/Plantlife

blackish stalks,  
midribs



dark  
central  
stripe

## *Asplenium trichomanes* Maidenhair Spleenwort



Small, tufted fern. Scales on rootstock with a black central stripe.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow, overwintering, leaves (5-20cm). Oval, slightly toothed leaflets. Blackish stalks and midribs.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A **S** O N D



© Ray Woods / PlantLife

narrow, oval,  
pointed leaves



## *Blechnum spicant* Hard-fern



Overwintering tufts. Spores only on inner leaves.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Tough, mid-green to dark green, lanceolate leaves.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J **A** S O N D



© Andrew Gagg / PlantLife



## *Cryptogramma crispata* Parsley Fern



Short (15-30cm), distinctive tufts of leaves. Spores only on inner leaves.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves are bright yellow-green, well crisped. Present May-Nov.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J **J** A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg / PlantLife



G

### *Cystopteris fragilis* Brittle Bladder-fern



Tufted, green leaf-stalks with few scales, blackish at base. Black spores in whitish cases.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Delicate, lanceolate leaves with veins ending in teeth.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A** S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

G

### *Equisetum arvense* Field Horsetail



Our commonest horsetail. Sterile stems to 80cm sometimes sprawling, patch forming. Green sheaths with spreading green teeth. Whorls of thick simple branches.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Sterile stems (Apr-Oct) almost solid with white inner tube. Fertile stems (Apr-May) whitish/pinkish, unbranched.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M **A M** J J A S O N D



© G Toone/IWNHAS

G

### *Equisetum fluviatile* Water Horsetail



Often growing in the water. Medium/tall to 150cm. Stems present May-Nov.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Unbranched stems, smooth, hollow, yellow-green with whitish teeth and a black midrib.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J A** S O N D



© M Cotterill/IWNHAS



***Equisetum palustre***  
Marsh Horsetail



Short/medium. Stems to 50cm present May-Oct. Branches with black tips, green sheath-teeth. Pointed cone.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Small, hollow stems with loose sheaths - black teeth with broad white edges.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Gymnocarpium dryopteris***  
Oak Fern



Short/medium. Dark purple stems. Creeping rootstock with leaves growing singly.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves (May-Sept) triangular in shape, rolled into 3 balls in bud.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Ophioglossum vulgatum***  
Adder's-tongue



Annual, spore-case in a plantain-like green spike

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Single, short stem to 30cm. Single leaf present May-Nov.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Oreopteris limbosperma***  
Lemon-scented Fern



yellowish-green,  
narrowly tapered

Medium, tufted. Lemon scent when crushed. Black spores when ripe, confined to rolled-under margins of leaflets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Yellowish-green leaves, narrowly tapered at each end.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© GToone/IWNHAS

***Osmunda regalis***  
Royal Fern



golden brown  
spores

Majestic fern 60-120cm tall occasionally up to 4m. Golden brown spores in flower-spikes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves present Apr-Nov in large tufts. Oblong leaflets.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Pteridium aquilinum***  
Bracken



Our commonest fern, extensive, often closed communities cover hillsides.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves appear as a 'shepherd's crook', copper brown in winter. Stems 1-4m.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© James K Lindsey (CC BY-SA 2.5)



***Agrostis capillaris***  
Common Bent



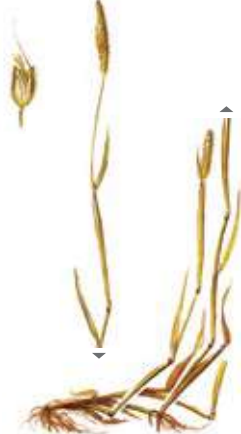
Low growing (c.20cm), hairless, perennial grass with a creeping rootstock. Panicles spreading in flower and fruit.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves fine 1.5 to 4mm, ligules short and blunt.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© S Hammonds



***Alopecurus geniculatus***  
Marsh Foxtail



Short, perennial grass with floating or creeping, rooting stems, often bent. Flower spike to 6cm long.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Ligules blunt, leaf sheaths inflated around stem.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife



***Alopecurus myosuroides***  
Black-grass



Tall (to 85cms) grass. Flowering spike narrow and tapering towards the tip.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Tall and slender.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife

## *Ammophila arenaria* Marram

G

Tall (to 1.2m), stout perennial grass with strong roots that bind sand. Long flower spike with one-flowered straw coloured spikelets.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves grey-green, sharply pointed. Leaf margins inrolled.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife



## *Anthoxanthum odoratum* Sweet Vernal-grass

A

Short (c.20cm) perennial grass with sweet smelling roots. Cylindrical flower spikes. Spikelets with a bent awn.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Stems stiff, leaf-sheaths and leaves sparsely hairy, leaves broad.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© S Hammonds



## *Avenula pratense* (*Helictotrichon pratense*) Meadow Oat-grass

A

Tall (up to 85cm), densely tufted grass, with blue-green leaves.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

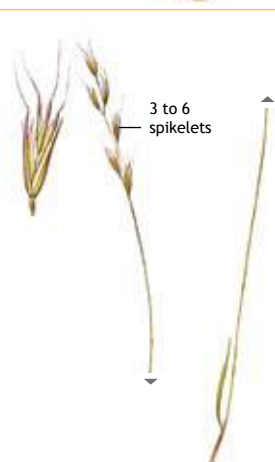
Triangular ligule 3-5mm. Leaves with waxy coating (rubs off) and distinct tram-lines.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Petr Filippov (CC BY-SA 4.0)





***Brachypodium pinnatum*\***  
Tor-grass, Heath False-brome



Tall, clonal grass (to 1m) with bright green leaves. Spikelets with long, narrow unstalked spikelets alternately along spike, each with a short to 5mm awn.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Straight, leaf blades bright green to 45cm, parallel-sided, widest at mid leaf.

\*includes recently identified *B. rupestre* as hard to tell apart

FLOWERING TIME



© P Shannon



***Briza media***  
Quaking-grass



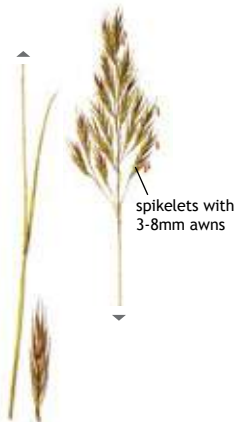
Short to medium to 50cm. Purplish to green, flattened, heart shaped spikelets loosely clustered on slender stalks, that dance in a breeze.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fine stems. Leaves slightly waxy with blunt tips.

FLOWERING TIME



© David Evans



***Bromopsis erecta***  
Upright Brome



Tall grass to 1.2m. Erect clusters with several long purplish spikelets having 3-8mm awns.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Fine lower leaves often rolled inward and with 'herring-bone' hairs along margin.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Bromus hordeaceus* Soft-brome



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Variable to 80cm, usually less. Clusters erect to drooping, plump, short awned, green, downy spikelets.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves grey-green, softly hairy with hairy leaf sheaths.

## *Cynosurus cristatus* Crested Dog's-tail



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Short perennial grass with short awned spikelets, arranged on a slender, unbranched spike. Flower stem exposed on one side.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaf hairless to 4mm wide, finely pointed tip and short, blunt ligule



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Deschampsia cespitosa* Tufted Hair-grass



### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Tall (to 1.5m), densely tufted perennial grass with rigid dark green leaves. Tall stems, large branched clusters, silver/ purple 2 flowered spikelets.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves long, stiff, parallel sided to 5mm with very sharp edges.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Deschampsia flexuosa***  
Wavy Hair-grass

A

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Short tufted grass. Spikelets purplish/silvery and shining, with long bent awn. Spikelets two-flowered on wavy stalks.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves fine, with short, blunt ligules. Purple leaf-sheaths.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



***Elytrigia atherica***  
Sea Couch

A

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Stiff grass occurring in patches. Spikelets sometimes awned, alternate up opposite sides of the stem in a narrow spike.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves sharply pointed, usually inrolled.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Glyceria maxima***  
Reed Sweet-grass

G

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

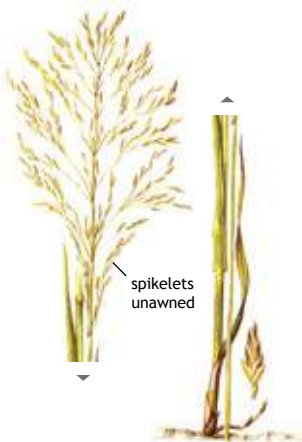
Tall to 2m, patch forming. Open, well branched panicle with unawned green spikelets.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves bright green, narrow to 18mm. Ligules sharply pointed. Brown mark at stem junction.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife





## *Holcus lanatus* Yorkshire-fog



Common, to 1m, a soft grey down gives it its name. Clusters of pink-purple to white spikelets with hooked awns.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Stem joints smooth not downy; lower stem sheath with pink 'pyjama' stripes

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© G Toone/IWNHAS

## *Hordeum secalinum* Meadow Barley



Tufted perennial to 80cm. 1 flowered spikelet with awns to 12mm, in 3s around a node on the spike.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves narrow to 5mm, flat and roughish.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Melica uniflora* Wood Melick



Short to medium to 60cm. Open clusters, spikelets with one floret per stalk.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Pale green leaves. Short ligule, bristle around top of leaf-sheath.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© G Toone/IWNHAS



### *Milium effusum* Wood Millet

A

Tall grass forming loose tufts. Spikelets pale-green, unawned, in a spreading panicle.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Flat, pale-green leaves to 15mm wide. Ligules blunt.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J** A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



### *Molinia caerulea* Purple Moor-grass

G

Robust, tussock forming perennial grass to 90cm. Spikelets with 1-4 long narrow, usually purple, spikelets, occasionally yellow or green. Anthers purple-brown.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Stems closely packed, leaves greyish. Ligule a ring of hairs.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J** A S O N D



© M Cotterill/IWNHAS



### *Nardus stricta* Mat-grass

G

Short to 20cm. Distinctive with one-flowered spikelets on one side only of the dark, narrow spike.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves stiff and wiry, greyish.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J J** A S O N D



© P Shannon



### *Phalaris arundinacea* Reed Canary-grass



Tall, sturdy to 2m. Patch forming, with underground rhizomes. 2-3 flowered pale purple, white or yellow un-awned spikelets in dense clusters .

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves rough-edged remaining over winter. Long blunt ligules.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© G Toone/IWNHAS



### *Puccinellia maritima* Common Saltmarsh-grass



Low mat-forming with stems to 80cm. Narrow, inconspicuous, branched spike with long, often purple, blunt-ended spikelets.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaf sheaths are wide but leaves thin to 3mm, greyish, blunt tipped.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© G Toone/IWNHAS



### *Spartina anglica* Common Cord-grass



A stiff, sward-forming perennial to 1.3m. Single spikelets on clusters of up to 6 spikes. Stem topped by a long bristle.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Yellowish green stiff leaves. Ligule a ring of hairs.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

### *Juncus conglomeratus* Compact Rush



Medium/tall, tufted.  
Dark brown flowers in tight clusters.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Conspicuously ridged, leafless stems.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*)  
Compact Rush has tighter flower clusters, darker brown flowers and ridged stems.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Juncus effusus* Soft-rush



Medium/tall, tufted, common.  
Greenish-brown flowers in tight clusters sometimes looser.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Smooth or faintly ridged, leafless stems.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Compact Rush (*Juncus conglomeratus*)  
Soft-rush has looser flower clusters, greener flowers and smoother stems.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

### *Juncus gerardii* Saltmarsh Rush



Short, patch-forming. Dark brown flowers and pale brown fruits in clusters.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow, dark green leaves.  
Stems, flattened to 40cm.

**FLOWERING TIME**



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Juncus inflexus* Hard Rush



Medium/tall to 1.2m, common. Cluster of brown flowers with unequal stalks.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Hard, ridged, leafless stems, greyish in colour.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Juncus squarrosus* Heath Rush



Short/medium, tufted. Dark brown flowers with a pale edge in branched clusters.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Stiff leafless stems to 50cm. Basal rosette of wiry leaves.

### FLOWERING TIME

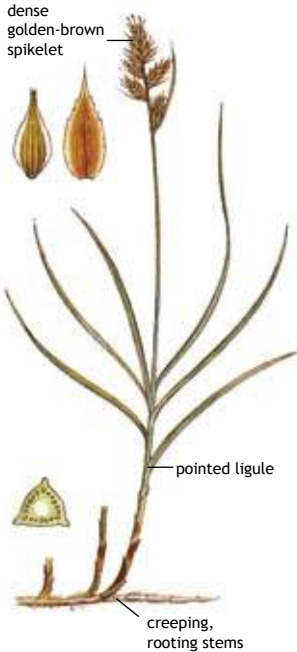
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney



### *Carex arenaria* Sand Sedge



Medium-sized sedge with many tufts, some with no flowering stem. Creeping roots with shoots arising in straight lines.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Mid-green, 4mm wide, pointed ligules. Stems to 60cm.

FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© P Shannov



### *Carex bigelowii* Bigelow's Sedge, Stiff Sedge



Small-medium sedge with shiny red-brown basal sheaths. Cluster of unstalked purple-black female spikes below one male spike.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Glaucous leaves on both sides, pointed ligule. Very stiff three-angled flowering stem (20-40cm).

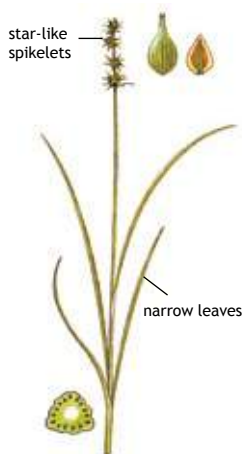
**CONFUSED WITH**  
Green-ribbed Sedge (*Carex binervis*),  
Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*)  
Both Green-ribbed Sedge and Carnation Sedge have a blunt ligule and dull basal sheaths.

FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



© Petr Filippov (CC BY-SA 3.0)



### *Carex echinata* Star Sedge

G

Densely tufted, medium-size sedge with 3-4 short, unstalked, star-like spikelets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Mid-green, narrow leaves (1-2.5mm wide). Stems to 40cm, no leaves or obvious leaf-like bracts.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© G Toone/IWNHAS



### *Carex flacca* Glaucous Sedge

A

Loosely tufted, far creeping. 1-3 male spikes above 1-3 female spikes, purple-brown glumes, lowest bract as long as inflorescence.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
2-6mm wide, stiff blue-green leaves, glaucous beneath. Stems to 60cm, bluntly 3-sided.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon



### *Carex limosa* Bog-sedge

G

Loosely tufted, creeping. 1 thin male spike with 1-3 oblong female spikes, drooping on long stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Glaucous leaves, 1mm wide, rough, grooved. Stems to 40cm, sharply 3-sided.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Pete Stroh



**Carex nigra**  
Common Sedge



Creeping, tufted or forming tussocks. 1-2 male spikes above 1-4 unstalked female spikes, fairly close together.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow glaucous leaves, 1-3mm wide. Stems to 70cm, rough, bluntly 3-sided.

FLOWERING TIME



© Liam Rooney



**Carex otrubae**  
False Fox-sedge



Densely tufted, large sedge with unstalked star-like spikelets - 8-14cm long

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Bright green leaves, 4-10mm wide, pointed ligule. Stems to 100cm, sharply 3-sided.

FLOWERING TIME



© GToone/IWNHAS



**Carex panicea**  
Carnation Sedge



Tufted, shortly creeping. Single male spike above 1-3 female spikes, with inflated yellow utricles and purple-brown glumes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Glaucous leaves, 2-4mm wide, flat. Stems to 50cm, bluntly 3-sided.

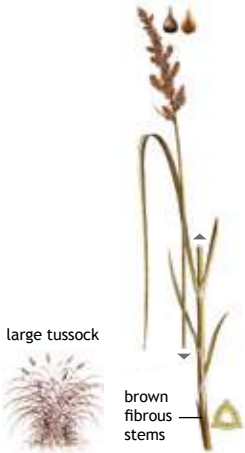
FLOWERING TIME



**CONFUSED WITH**  
Tawny Sedge (*Carex hostiana*)  
Tawny Sedge is yellow-green instead of grey-green.



### *Carex paniculata* Greater Tussock-sedge



Unmistakably huge tussocks up to 1.5m tall. Large flower head, 5-15cm long, with brown spikelets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Dark green leaves to 1.2m, 5-7mm wide. Rough stems to 1.5m

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

### *Carex pendula* Pendulous Sedge



Tall, densely tufted, clump forming. Distinctive, long drooping spikelets.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves to 2cm, yellowish-green above, glaucous below. Stems to 2m, bluntly 3-sided.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/PlantLife

### *Carex pulicaris* Flea Sedge



Short, densely tufted. Single, narrow flower spike, 10-25mm long, red-brown glumes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Narrow, short leaves, 5-25cm, angled sheath. Stems to 30cm, rounded.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© G Toone/IWNHAS

**Carex remota**  
Remote Sedge



small unstalked spikelets, widely spaced



Medium sized, densely tufted. Greenish, short female spikelets spaced far apart each with a long bract.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Mid-green leaves, <2mm wide with a short, blunt ligule. Stems to 60cm.

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D



© G Toone/IWNHAS

**Carex rostrata**  
Bottle Sedge



roundish fruits

greyish green leaves



Tall, slightly tufted, extensively patch forming. Large, blunt, 'flask-shaped' yellow-green female spikes.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves grey above, dark green below. Stems to 1m, bluntly 3-sided.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Bladder-sedge (*Carex vesicaria*)  
Bladder-sedge has yellowish green leaves and a non-swollen stem base.

FLOWERING TIME

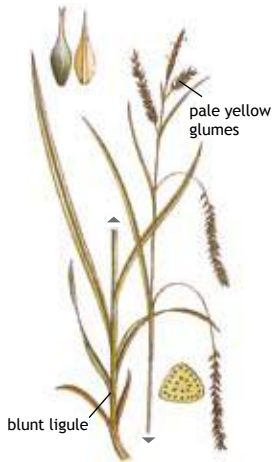
J F M A M **M** J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney

## *Carex sylvatica* Wood-sedge

A



Short-medium, densely tufted. Long stalked female spikelets with pale yellow glumes.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Shiny green leaves to 6mm wide, blunt ligules with hairy sheath. Stems to 60cm.

### CONFUSED WITH

Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*) Rarer with much longer female spikelets and pointed ligules.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© G Toone

## *Eleocharis multicaulis* Many-stalked Spike-rush

A



Dense tufts, each with many stems. 10mm flower spike.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

No leaf blade, top of leaf sheath is angled. Stems to 40cm.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney

## *Eriophorum angustifolium* Common Cottongrass

G



Creeping, scattered stems. White cottony fruit heads conspicuous in summer, drooping in clusters of 3-7.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

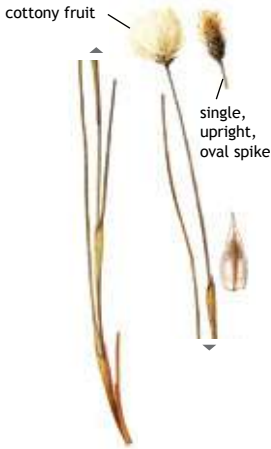
Leaves 5-10cm long, with a tapered tip and short ligule. Stems to 60cm.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife



***Eriophorum vaginatum***  
Hare's-tail Cottongrass

G

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Dense tufts, tussock forming. One upright oval spike, yellowish flowers in spring, cottony fruit head in summer.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Wiry leaves up to 50cm long, triangular in section. Stems to 50cm.



***Rhynchospora alba***  
White Beak-sedge

R

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Tufted stems often forming bulbil like buds at the base. Flattish cluster of whitish to light brown spikelets.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves 1-2mm. Erect stems to 40cm.

CONFUSED WITH

Brown Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora fusca*)  
Red-brown spikelets and no bulbils.



© Pete Stroh



***Schoenoplectus lacustris***  
(*Scirpus lacustris*)  
Common Club-rush

G

FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Tall. Egg-shaped, red-brown spikelets in clusters.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Strap-like leaves, submerged. Stems to 3m, slightly glaucous.



© Kristian Peters (CC BY-SA 3.0)



### *Schoenus nigricans* Black Bog-rush



Medium. 5-10 blackish brown spikelets, with lowest bract longer than the flower head.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Greyish leaves, 1-2mm with blackish sheaths. Stems to 60cm.

#### FLOWERING TIME

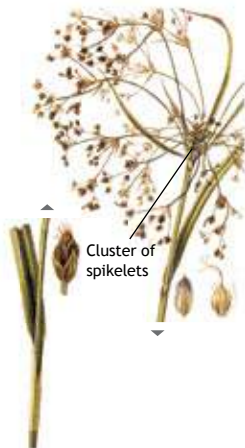
J F M A **M J J** A S O N D



© Bob Gibbons/Plantlife



### *Scirpus sylvaticus* Wood Club-rush



Medium/tall. Egg-shaped brown spikelets with olive-green glumes, long leaf-like bracts.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Rough-edged leaves to 20mm. Stems to 1.2m, bluntly 3-sided.

#### FLOWERING TIME

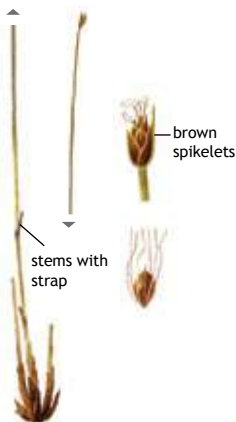
J F M A **M J J** A S O N D



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### *Trichophorum germanicum* (*Trichophorum cespitosum*) Deergrass



Tussock forming, densely tufted. Leafless except a single short strap around stem. Spikelet with 8-20 brown flowers.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Slender, smooth stems, erect to 25cm.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A **M J J** A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Alnus glutinosa*

### Alder



Deciduous tree to 20m. Yellow male catkins appear before leaves. Female catkins are persistent and green and egg-shaped.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves dark green, toothed, rounded with a flattened or dipping-in tip.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Betula pubescens* / *Betula pendula*

### Downy Birch / Silver Birch



Deciduous tree to 25m. Male catkins 3-6cm, female shorter. Record as *Betula pendula* / *Betula pubescens*.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves triangular, serrated. Bark brownish or silver, peeling.

#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Buddleja davidii* Butterfly-bush



1-5m shrub with spikes of fragrant lilac (sometimes purple or white) flowers.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Greyish oval leaves. Long arching stems.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Cornus sanguinea* Dogwood



Deciduous shrub to 4m bearing creamy flat-topped umbels of 4-petalled flowers.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Pointed, paired leaves that turn red in autumn.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Corylus avellana* Hazel



Deciduous shrub to 8m with many stems. The long, male catkins hang down and appear in late winter before the leaves.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves are round with a toothed edge and a drawn out point.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Crataegus monogyna***  
Hawthorn



Deciduous shrub/tree to 10m with flat-topped clusters of white flowers and red berries.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Deeply divided leaves. Thorns on stem.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Euonymus europaeus***  
Spindle



Deciduous tree/shrub to 6m with greenish-white 4-petalled flowers, followed by coral pink fruits with orange seeds.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Paired, oval leaves, turning orange in autumn.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

***Ilex aquifolium***  
Holly



Evergreen tree/shrub to 20m. Flowers borne in the axils of leaves have 4 white petals.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Leaves shiny, dark green, leathery and with spines, particularly on young plants.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



## *Juniperus communis* Common Juniper



Sprawling evergreen tree/  
shrub 2-4m. Fruits ripen to  
black in their second to  
third year.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Needles in whorls of 3,  
4-20mm long, with a white  
band on upper surface.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Prunus spinosa* Blackthorn



Deciduous, thicket-forming  
shrub to 4m. White flowers,  
5-8mm across, appear  
before leaves.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Narrow oval leaves taper into  
stalks. Stems stiff and thorny.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

## *Rhamnus cathartica* Buckthorn



Deciduous tree/shrub to 6m  
with green 4-petalled flowers  
7mm across in small clusters  
followed by black berries.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves are oval, pointed and  
toothed. Twigs often thorny.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

## *Rhododendron ponticum*

### Rhododendron



#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Deborah Long/Plantlife



leaf edges  
not toothed

Tall, evergreen shrub. Violet or pink bell-shaped flowers, 4-6cm long, are borne in rounded clusters.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves are leathery, dark green, with untoothed edges.

untoothed leaf



leaf silky  
hairy below

## *Salix repens*

### Creeping Willow



#### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D



© P Shannon

Creeping shrub to 150cm. Catkins appear before leaves.

#### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves are white, silky hairy underneath.

## *Sorbus aucuparia* Rowan



Deciduous tree to 15m. Dense clusters of creamy-white, 5-petalled flowers are followed by scarlet berries.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves alternate along the stem and have strongly-toothed leaflets.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

## *Symphoricarpos albus* Snowberry



Suckering shrub to 2m. Pink bell-shaped flowers and white berries.

### LEAVES AND STEMS

Paired leaves usually almost round to oval but are sometimes lobed.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M **J** J A S O N D



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## Conifer seedlings and saplings

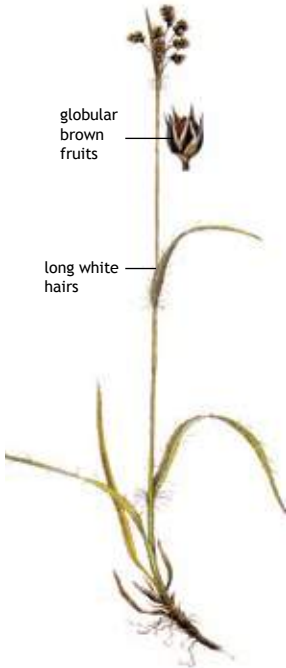


Young conifer trees less than 2m in height.

### FLOWERING TIME

J F M A M J J A S O N D

***Luzula multiflora***  
Heath Wood-rush



Short to 30cm with no runners. Stalked, red-brown flower heads, anthers as long as their stalks.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Green leaves with long white hairs.

**CONFUSED WITH**  
Congested Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora* ssp. *congesta*)  
Heath Wood-rush is shorter with a looser cluster of flowers.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

***Luzula sylvatica***  
Great Wood-rush



Medium/tall to 80cm, our largest wood-rush. Wide-spreading, forking cluster of brown flowers with egg shaped brown fruits.

**LEAVES AND STEMS**  
Glossy leaves, up to 20mm across. Long white hairs.

FLOWERING TIME



© Pete Stroh

**Common name**

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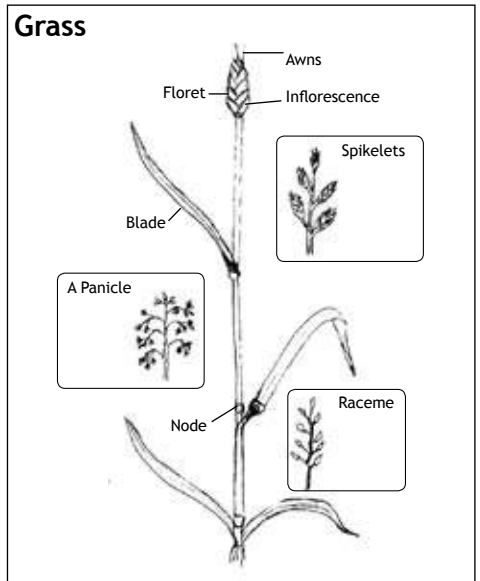
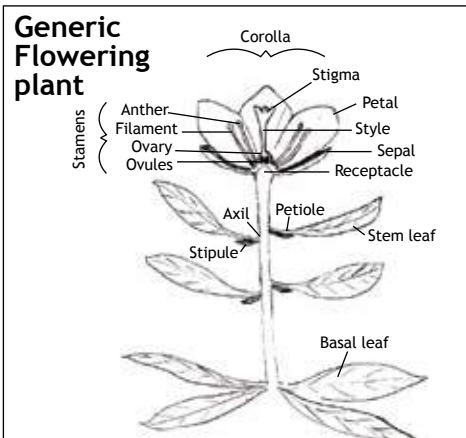
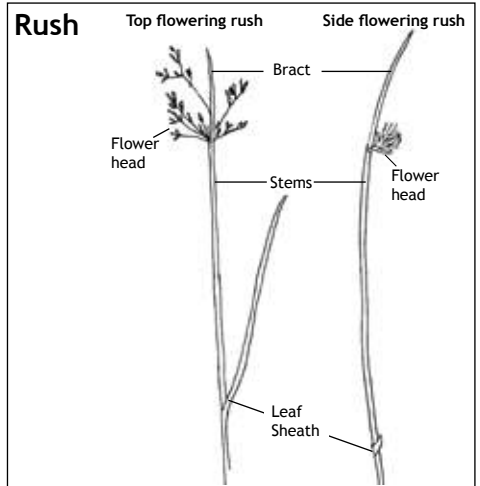
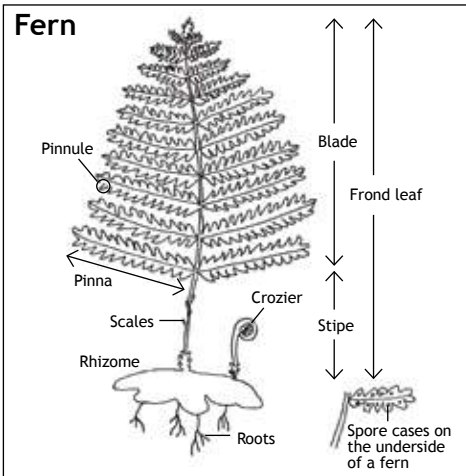
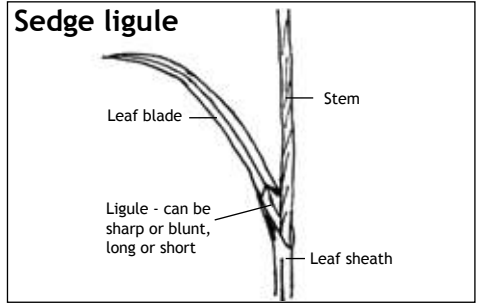
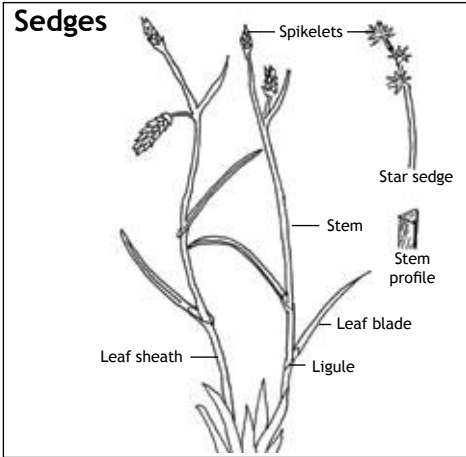
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