



**National Plant
Monitoring Scheme**

National Plant Monitoring Scheme
**SPECIES
IDENTIFICATION
GUIDE**



SPECIES IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

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Key



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

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Aethusa cynapium

Fool's Parsley



bracteoles long and hanging down



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

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



© Rob Pettifer

Alisma plantago-aquatica

Water-plantain



leaves with rounded or heart-shaped bases

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

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



© 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-lobed 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



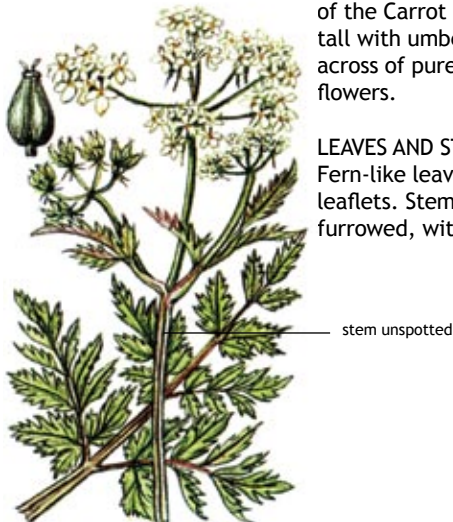
© J P Martin/Plantlife

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.



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



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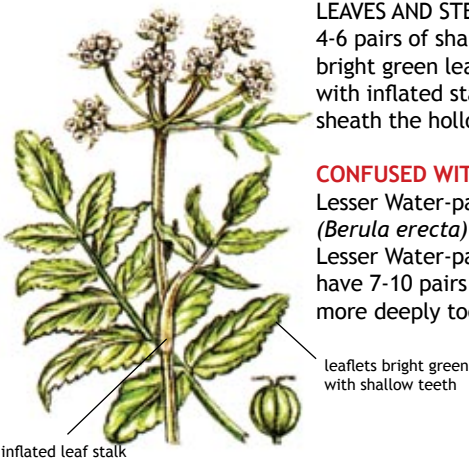
Apium nodiflorum
Fool's-water-cress



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



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



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



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

R

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.



FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Calystegia sepium Hedge Bindweed

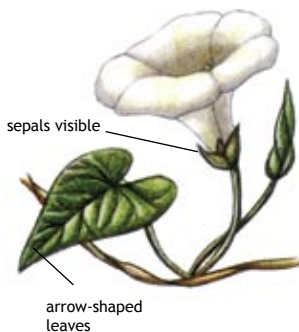
R



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.



FLOWERING TIME

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



© 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.

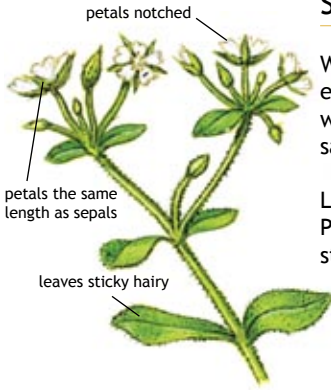
FLOWERING TIME

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



© Liam Rooney

Cerastium glomeratum Sticky Mouse-ear



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.

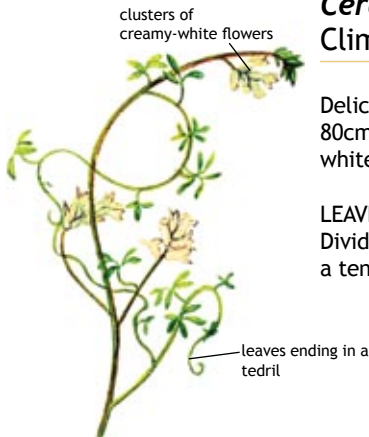
FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Ceratocapnos claviculata Climbing Corydalis



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
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© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Chaerophyllum temulum Rough Chervil



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
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© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Circaea lutetiana
Enchanter's-nightshade



FLOWERING TIME

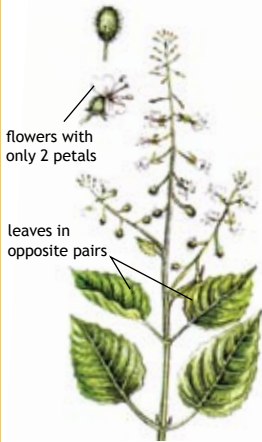


To 70cm tall bearing spikes of small white flowers, each with 2 deeply divided petals.

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



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



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.

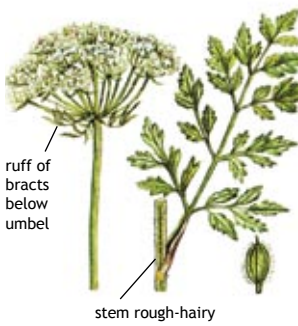
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves large, very fleshy, waxy-grey with wavy edges.

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

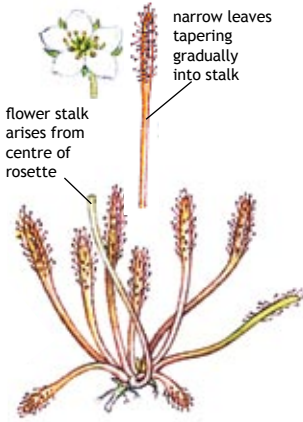


FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



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.

Drosera intermedia
Oblong-leaved Sundew

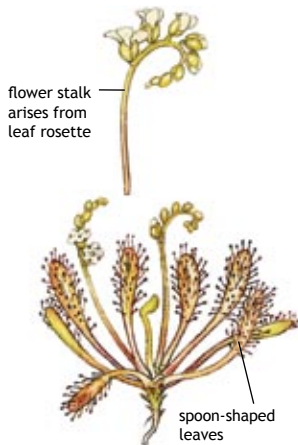


FLOWERING TIME

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



© M Cotterill



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.

Drosera rotundifolia
Round-leaved Sundew



FLOWERING TIME

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



© Beth Halski/Plantlife



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.

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
Dropwort



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



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



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 **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



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
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© Beth Halski/Plantlife

Galium palustre
Common Marsh-bedstraw



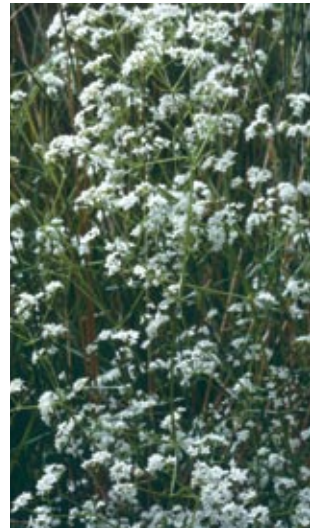
leaves in whorls of 4-6

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
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© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Galium saxatile Heath Bedstraw



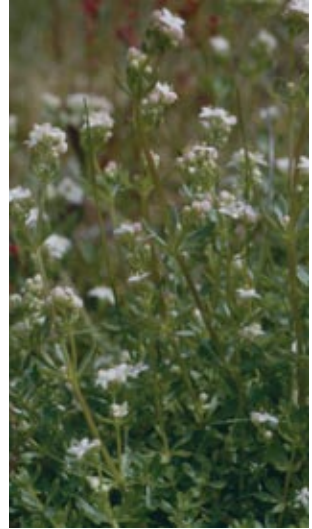
White flowers 3mm across in open clusters on a mat-forming plant with upright stems to 20cm tall.

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



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



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



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.

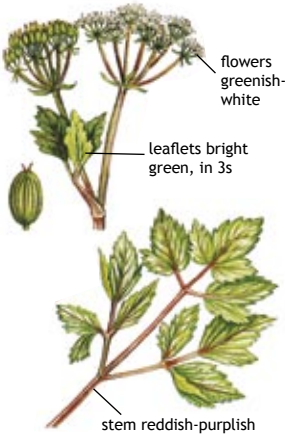
FLOWERING TIME

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.

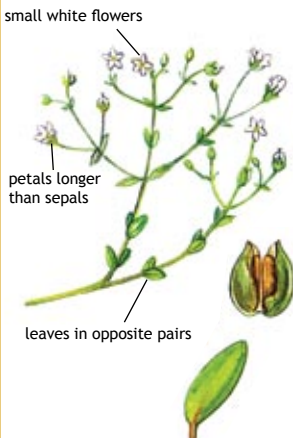
FLOWERING TIME

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

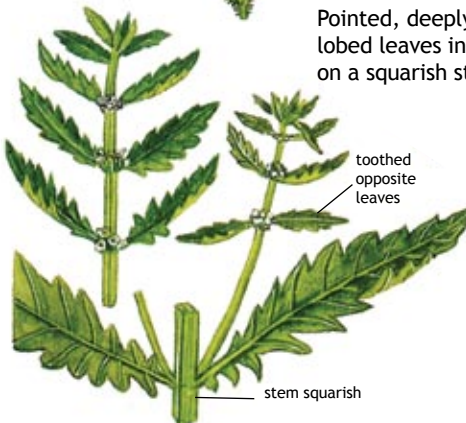


© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

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



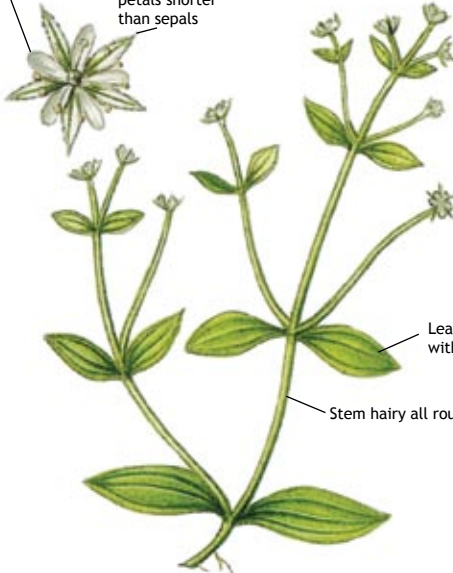
© Tim Wilkins

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.

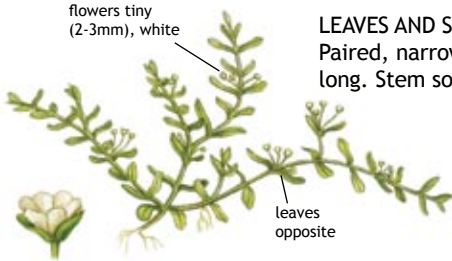
Stem hairy all round.

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



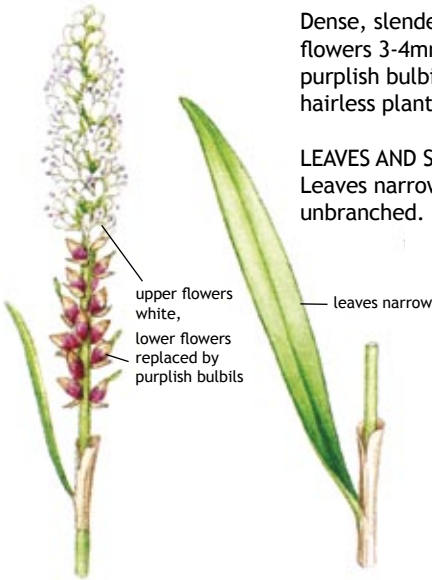
© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

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

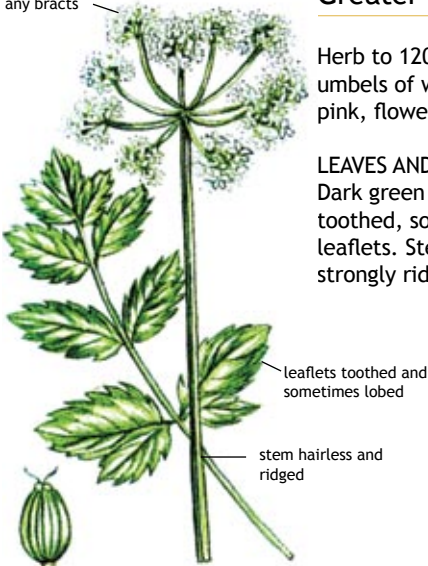
Pimpinella major
Greater Burnet-saxifrage

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



© Trevor Dines

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.



Potentilla sterilis
Barren Strawberry



FLOWERING TIME

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



© P Shannon

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.

Ranunculus sp.
Water-crowfoots



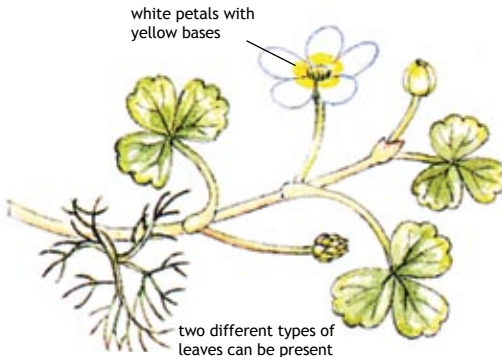
FLOWERING TIME

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



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



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



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.

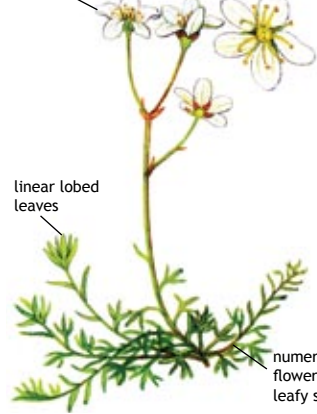
FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

small groups of flowers



linear lobed leaves

numerous non-flowering creeping leafy shoots

Saxifraga hypnoides Mossy Saxifrage



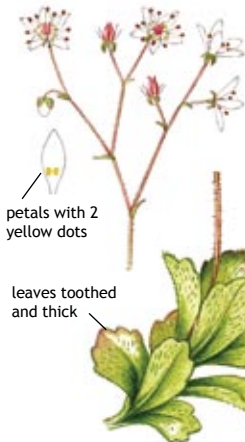
Mat-forming herb with upright flowering shoots bearing a few white flowers each 10-20mm across.

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

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



petals with 2 yellow dots

leaves toothed and thick

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.

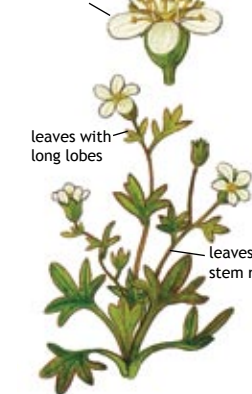
LEAVES AND STEMS
Toothed thick leaves without distinct stems in basal rosettes or leafy shoots.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

flowers small, 4-6mm across



leaves with long lobes

leaves and stem reddish

Saxifraga tridactylites Rue-leaved Saxifrage



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

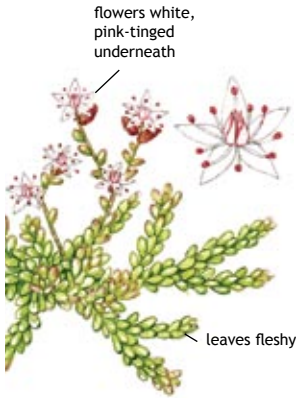
LEAVES AND STEMS
Lower leaves have stalks and 3-5 long lobes. Leaves and stems reddish.

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

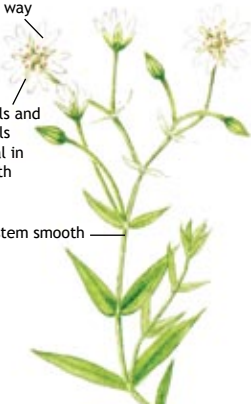


© Paul Gillard (paulgillard.com)

petals divided more than half way

petals and sepals equal in length

stem smooth



Stellaria graminea Lesser Stitchwort



FLOWERING TIME



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.

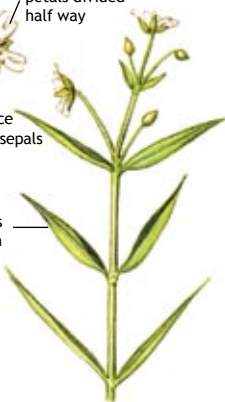


© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

petals divided half way

petals twice as long as sepals

leaf edges rough



Stellaria holostea Greater Stitchwort



FLOWERING TIME



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



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

LEAVES AND STEMS

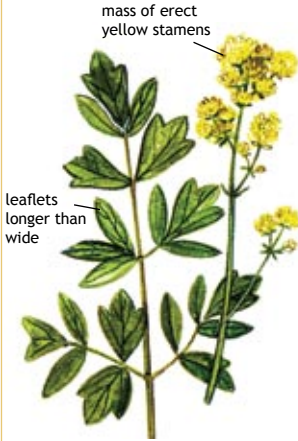
Leaves in pairs, lower long-stalked, upper almost unstalked. Stem rounded with a single line of hairs.



© 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

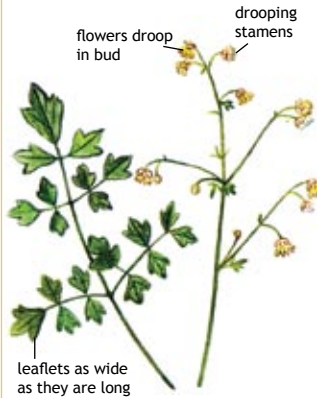
J F M A M **J J A** S O N D



© 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



© 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



© Liam Rooney

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.

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.

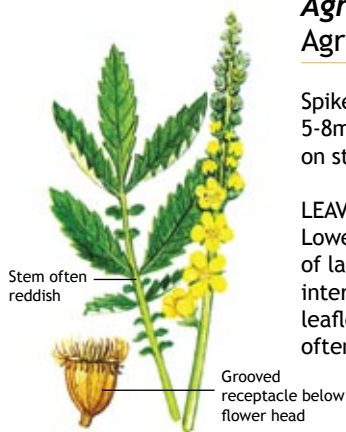
FLOWERING TIME



© nz_willowherb (CC BY-NC 2.0)

Agrimonia eupatoria Agrimony

A



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

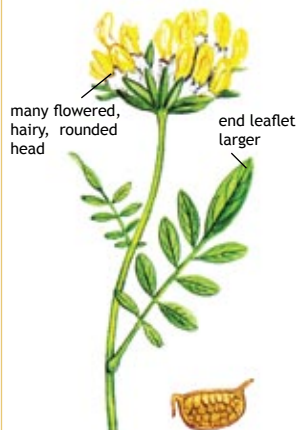
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Anthyllis vulneraria Kidney Vetch

A



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

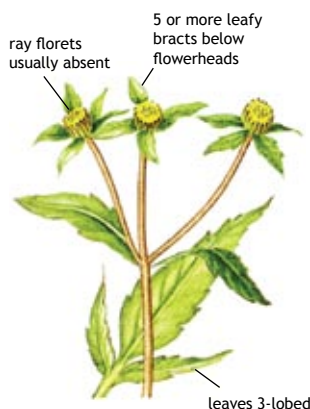
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Bidens tripartita Trifid Bur-marigold

A



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

A

Crepis paludosa
Marsh Hawk's-beard

bracts have black woolly hairs



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.

stem leaves have arrow-shaped leaf bases

FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

G



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

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

G



Crucjata 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

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



© 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.

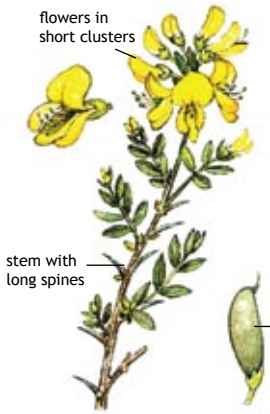
FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski



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
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© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



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
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© 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
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© 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

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



© 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

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



© 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

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



© Beth Helski/Plantlife

Helminthotheca echiodes
(*Picris echiodes*)
Bristly Oxtongue



leaves with swollen, white-based bristles

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

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

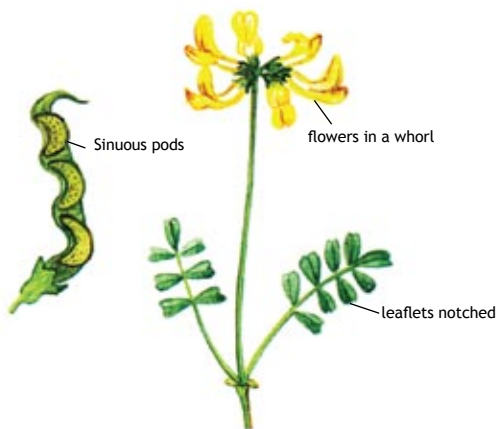
FLOWERING TIME

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



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Hippocrepis comosa
Horseshoe Vetch



Sinuous pods

flowers in a whorl

leaflets notched

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

LEAVES AND STEMS
 Leaves with notched leaflets.

FLOWERING TIME

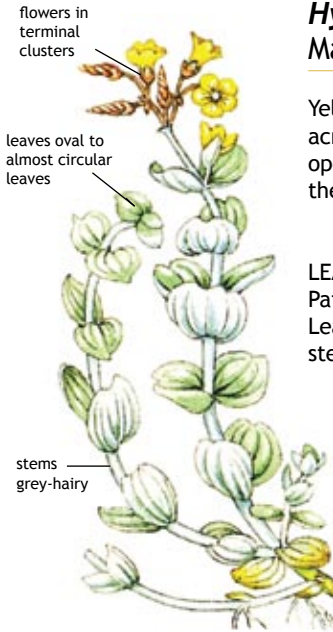
J F M A M **J J A S** O N D



© 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

flowerheads dark yellow with purplish bracts



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.

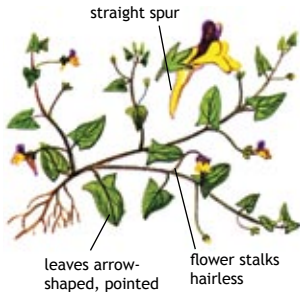
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves sword-shaped, to 1m long by 3cm wide, greyish-green.

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.

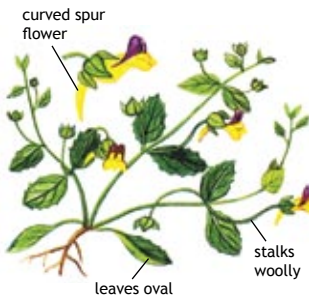
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves triangular in outline with arrow-shaped bases. Young plants may have less angular leaves.

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

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



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



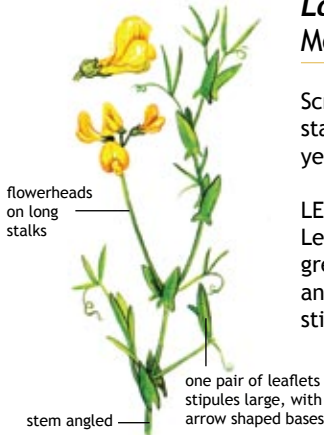
© Luke Morton

Lathyrus pratensis
Meadow Vetchling



FLOWERING TIME

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



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.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Lonicera periclymenum
Honeysuckle



FLOWERING TIME

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



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.



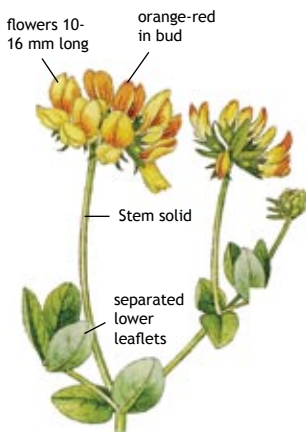
© Beth Halski

Lotus corniculatus
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil



FLOWERING TIME

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



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

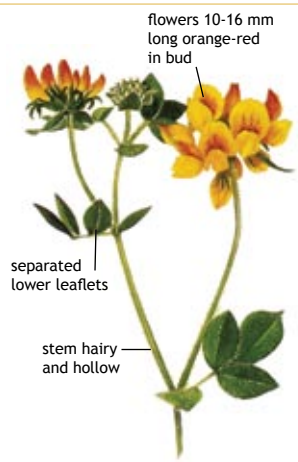
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves with 5 narrowly oval leaflets, the lower 2 bent back by the stem so that leaves appear trefoil. No tendrils. Stem solid.



© 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.

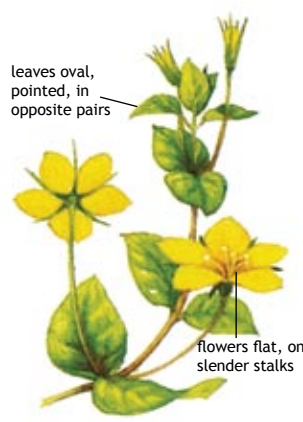
FLOWERING TIME
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© GBNNSS



Lysimachia nemorum
Yellow Pimpernel



Evergreen, prostrate herb with 5-petaled, 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

Lysimachia vulgaris Yellow Loosestrife



Hairy herb with clusters of bright yellow, star-like flowers in leaf axils at the top of upright stems.

LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves in groups of 2, 3 or 4 at intervals along stem.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Medicago lupulina Black Medick



Downy, upright herb to 60cm with rounded flowerheads 3-9mm across of 10-50 yellow flowers followed by black, coiled, fruits.

LEAVES AND STEMS
Trifoliate leaves, with a tiny point in the notch at the tip of each leaflet.

CONFUSED WITH
Hop Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*) and Lesser Trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*)
Hop and Lesser Trefoil have smaller leaflets (<5mm wide) and lack the distinct terminal tooth.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



Melampyrum pratense
Common Cow-wheat



FLOWERING TIME



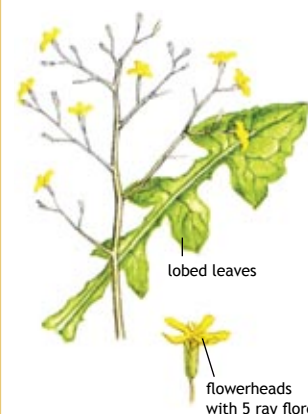
Pairs of pale yellow, 2-lipped flowers 10-17mm long, both turned to one side, in the axils of leaves.

LEAVES AND STEMS

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



Mycelis muralis
Wall Lettuce



FLOWERING TIME



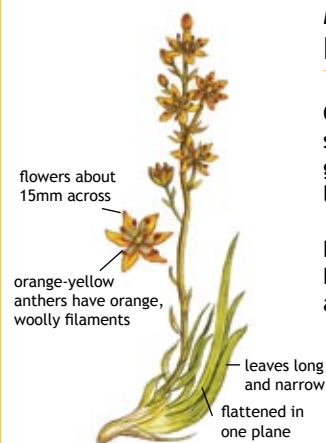
Upright herb to 100cm bearing loose clusters of yellow flowerheads, 7-10mm across, usually with 5 ray florets and no disc florets.

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



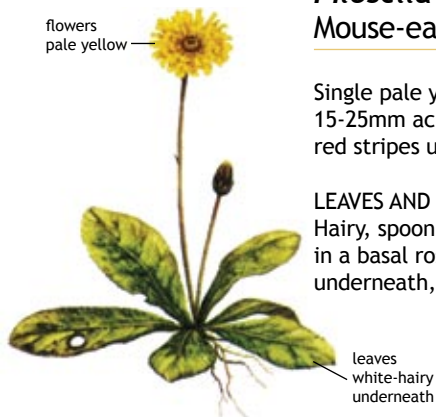
To 100cm tall with umbels of tiny yellow flowers 5-10cm across.

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



© free photos (CC BY 2.0)

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.

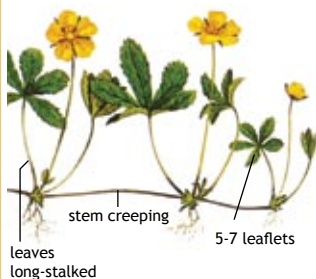
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves with 3 leaflets, but can look like 5, without stalks.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

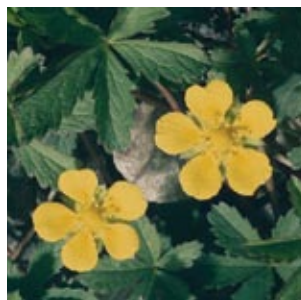
Potentilla reptans
Creeping Cinquefoil



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

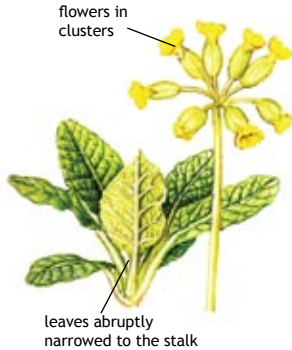
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves with 5 or 7 leaflets on long stalks. Stems all creeping and rooting.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Primula veris
Cowslip



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

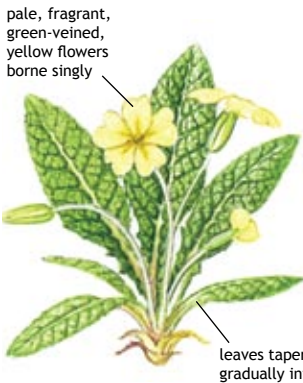
LEAVES AND STEMS
Rosette of wrinkly leaves each up to 15cm long, abruptly narrowed to the stalk.

FLOWERING TIME



© Bob Gibbons/Plantlife

Primula vulgaris
Primrose



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

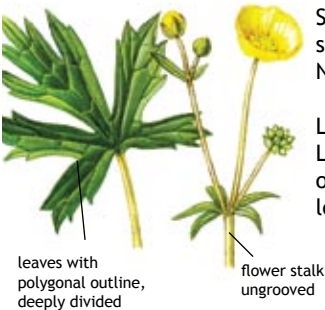
LEAVES AND STEMS
Rosette of wrinkled leaves tapering gradually to stalk, each up to 15cm long.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski

Ranunculus acris
Meadow Buttercup



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

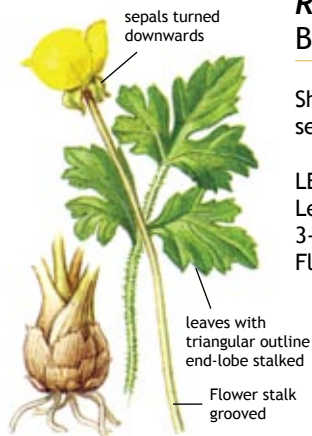
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves with a polygonal outline, 3-5 deeply divided lobes. Flower stalk ungrooved.

FLOWERING TIME



© Ray Woods

Ranunculus bulbosus Bulbous Buttercup



Shiny yellow flowers with sepals bent back. No runners.

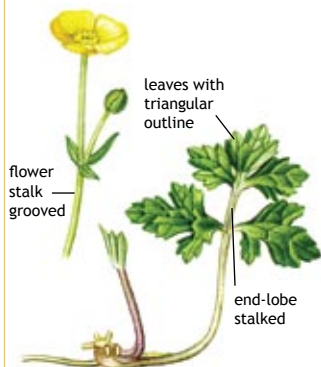
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves with triangular outline, 3-lobed, the end lobe stalked. Flower stalk grooved.

FLOWERING TIME



© 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



© 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



© 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.

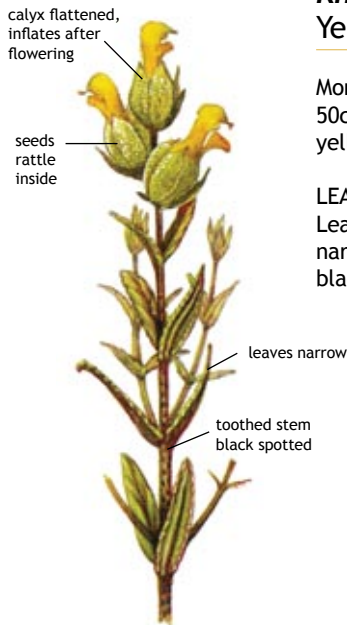
FLOWERING TIME

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.

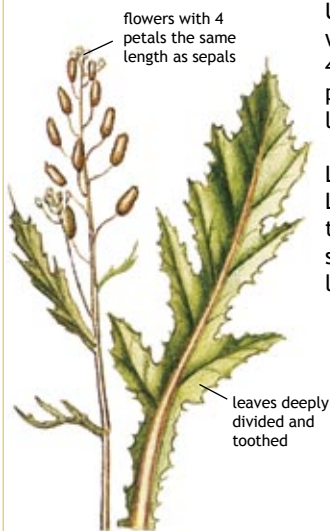
FLOWERING TIME

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© 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.

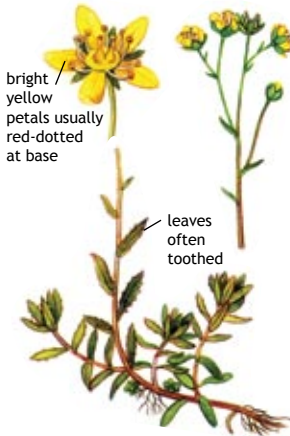
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves deeply divided with toothed lobes and a pair of small lobes at the base of the leaf by the stem.

FLOWERING TIME

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



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.

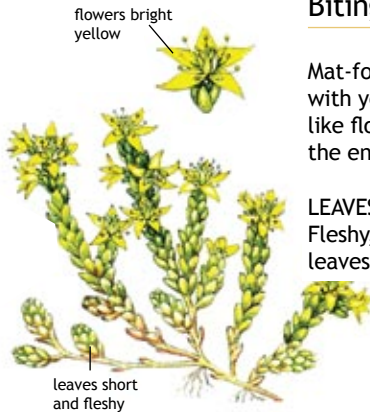
FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Sedum acre
Biting Stonecrop



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.

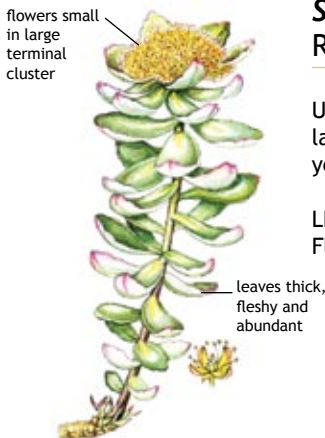
FLOWERING TIME

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



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Sedum rosea
Roseroot



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 **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



© nz_willowherb (CC BY-NC 2.0)



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



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Silaum silaus Pepper-saxifrage



flowers yellow



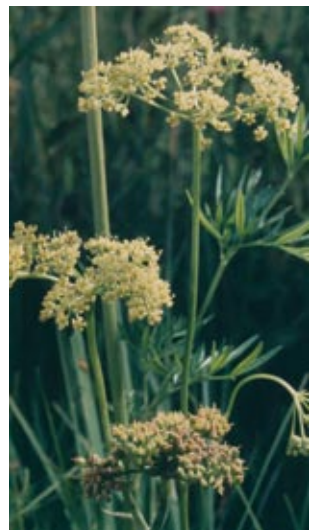
leaves triangular in outline with narrow leaflets

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.

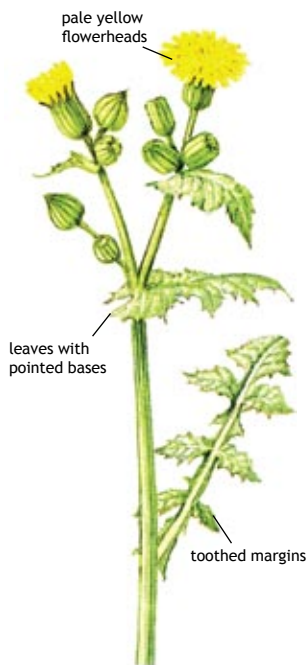
CONFUSED WITH
Smooth Sowthistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*)
Smooth Sowthistle has dull, grey leaves, not spiny to touch.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© 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

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



© 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*)

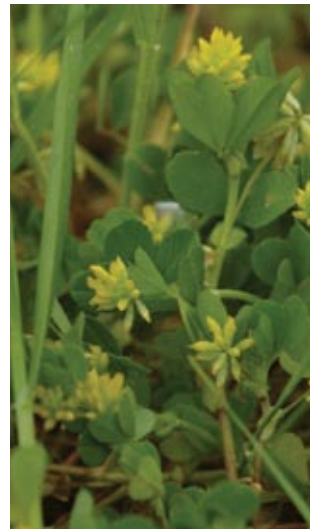
Hop Trefoil is larger with denser flowerheads. Black Medick has a minute point in the centre of the leaflet tip.

flowerhead with less than 25 flowers



FLOWERING TIME

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



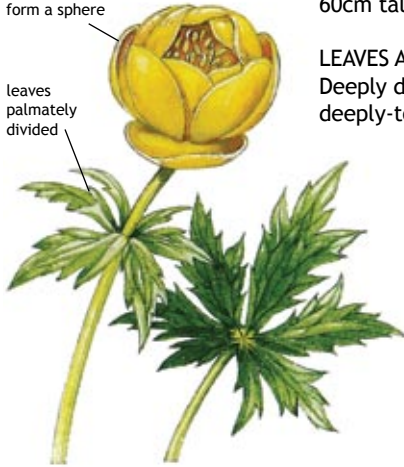
© Anne Tanne (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

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.

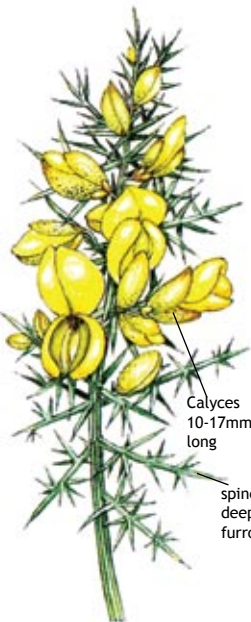
FLOWERING TIME

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.

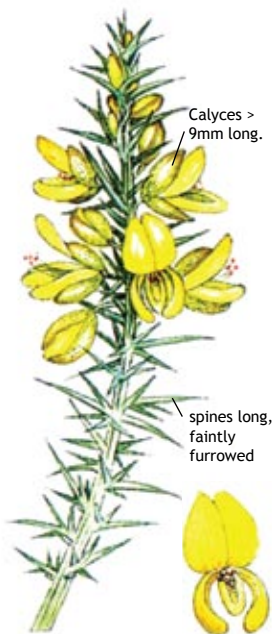
FLOWERING TIME

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



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.

sepals at least as long as petals



FLOWERING TIME

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



© Kevin Walker

Viola lutea
Mountain Pansy



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.



stipules deeply lobed

FLOWERING TIME

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



© 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

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© 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

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© 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

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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© Liam Rooney

Lathyrus linifolius

Bitter-vetch



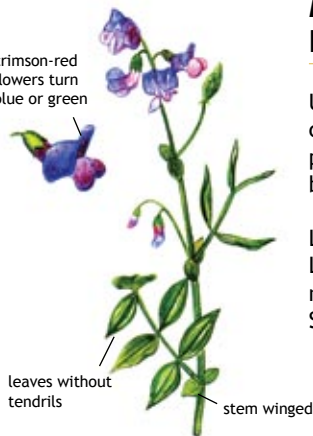
FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

crimson-red flowers turn blue or green



leaves without tendrils

stem winged

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.

Oxyria digyna

Mountain Sorrel



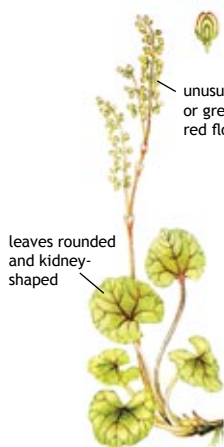
FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

unusual green or greenish-red flowers



leaves rounded and kidney-shaped

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.

Rumex acetosa

Common Sorrel

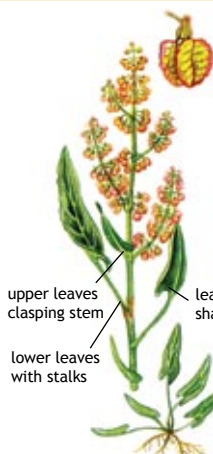


FLOWERING TIME

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



© Beth Halski/Plantlife



upper leaves clasp stem

leaves arrow-shaped

lower leaves with stalks

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.

Rumex acetosella
Sheep's Sorrel



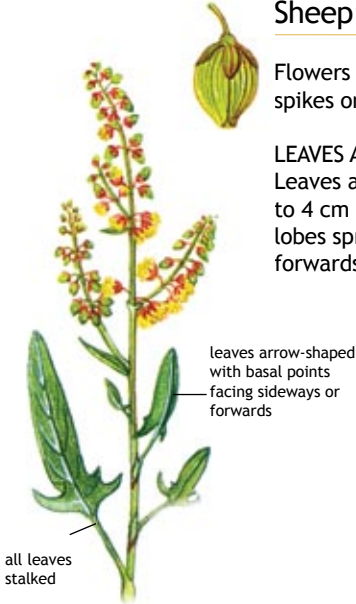
FLOWERING TIME

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

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

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



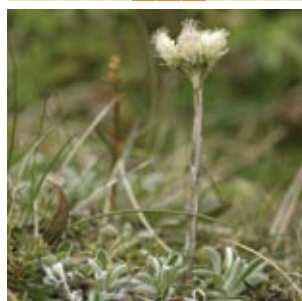
2-8 pink or whitish flowerheads in a dense cluster.

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



© Tico (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Dactylorhiza fuchsii Common Spotted-orchid



flowers pale pink with red-purple dots and streaks



central lobe longer than side lobes

leaves have wide purple blotches

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



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.

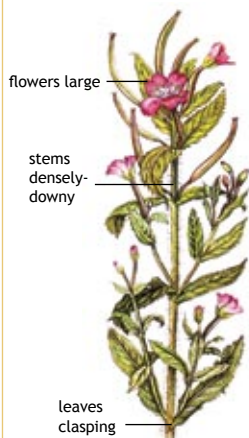
FLOWERING TIME

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



© Joe Sutton/Plantlife

Epilobium hirsutum Great Willowherb



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

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

FLOWERING TIME

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



© Ray Woods/Plantlife

Erica tetralix Cross-leaved Heath



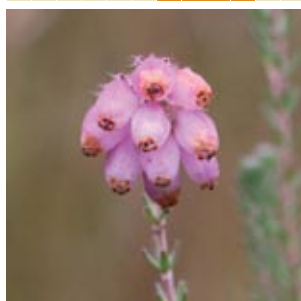
Similar to bell heather but pink flowers larger (0.7cm) and in a tight one-sided cluster.

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

FLOWERING TIME

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



© S Rae/2.0 Generic

Fumaria sp. Fumitories



FLOWERING TIME

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

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



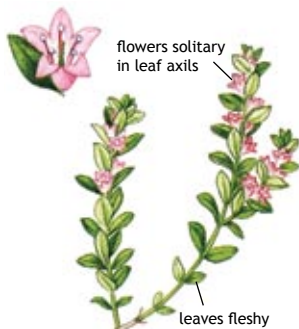
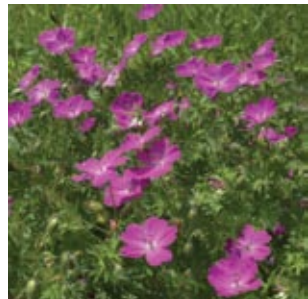
Bushy herb to 50cm tall. Solitary, long-stalked, deep pink flowers 20-30mm across with unnotched petals.

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



Glaux maritima Sea Milkwort



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

LEAVES AND STEMS

Lower leaves in pairs, upper alternate, fleshy.

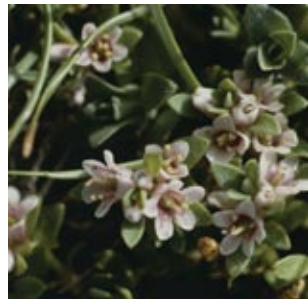
CONFUSED WITH

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.

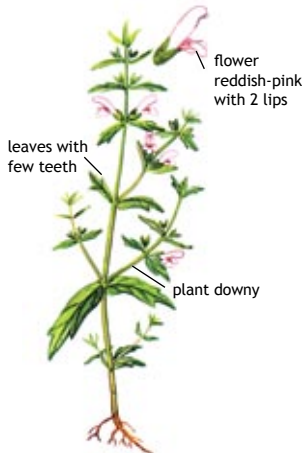
LEAVES AND STEMS
Opposite pairs of long-stalked, rounded leaves with toothed edges. Stems squarish.

FLOWERING TIME



© P Shannon

Odontites vernus
Red Bartsia



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

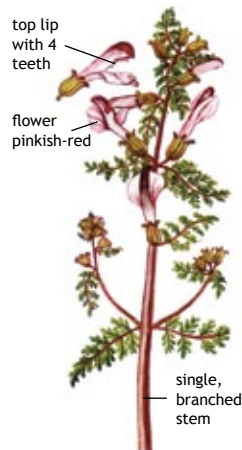
LEAVES AND STEMS
Paired, unstalked leaves with few teeth.

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.

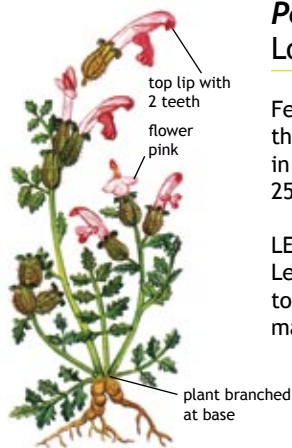
FLOWERING TIME



© Bob Gibbons/Plantlife

Pedicularis sylvatica

Lousewort



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



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



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



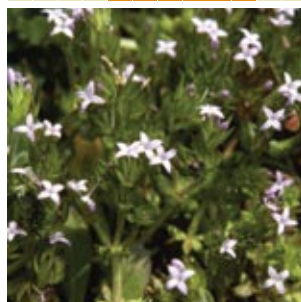
Pale purple-pink funnel-shaped flowers in dense clusters above a green ruff on a horizontally growing plant to 40cm long.

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.

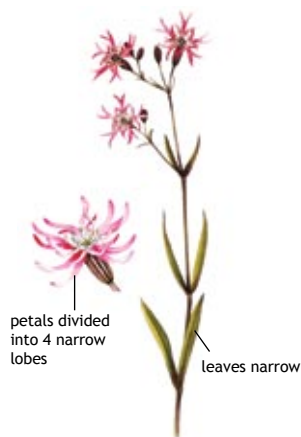
FLOWERING TIME

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



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.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Thymus pulegioides Large Thyme



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.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© 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

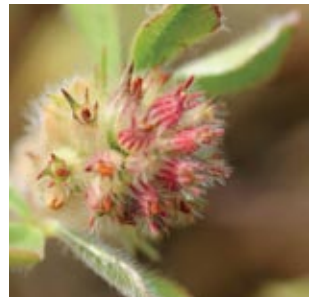


Downy herb with egg-shaped clusters 10-15mm across of reddish-pink pea flowers.

LEAVES AND STEMS
Downy, trifoliate leaves.

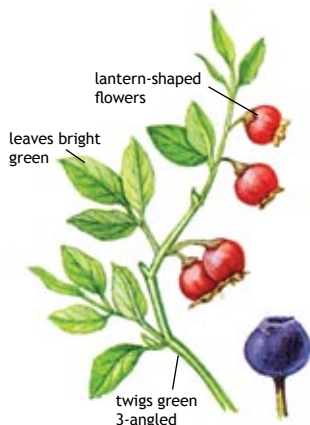
FLOWERING TIME

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

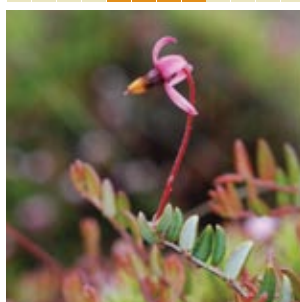


Tiny evergreen creeping shrub. Flowers rosy-pink with 4 bent back petals and red or brown fruits.

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.

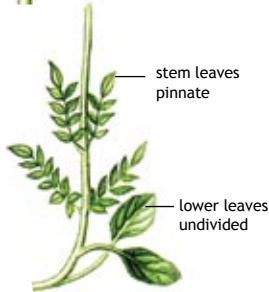
FLOWERING TIME

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



FLOWERING TIME



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.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



Calluna vulgaris
Heather



FLOWERING TIME



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.



© Deborah Long/Plantlife



Campanula glomerata
Clustered Bellflower



FLOWERING TIME



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.



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

Campanula latifolia Giant Bellflower



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.

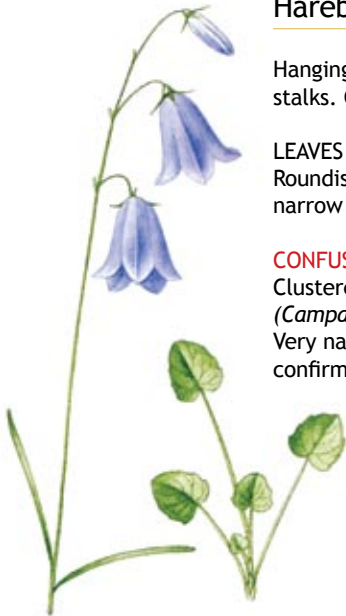
FLOWERING TIME

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



© Ian Keith (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Campanula rotundifolia Harebell



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

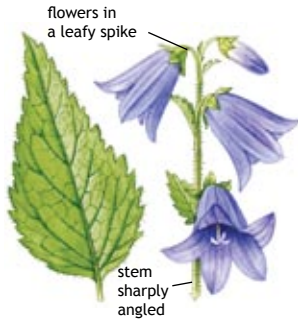
Clustered Bellflower (*Campanula glomerata*)
Very narrow linear leaves confirm Harebell.

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

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



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife

flowerheads usually without a stalk



leaves very spiny, all in a basal rosette

Cirsiium acaule Dwarf Thistle



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

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

FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

flowers pale pinkish-purple



stem mostly without spines

Cirsiium arvense Creeping Thistle



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

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



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

Cirsium dissectum
Meadow Thistle



FLOWERING TIME



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.



© Joe Costley/Plantlife



Cirsium heterophyllum
Melancholy Thistle



FLOWERING TIME



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.



© 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



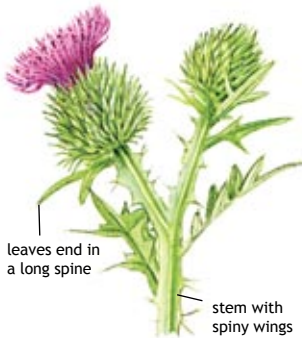
FLOWERING TIME

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



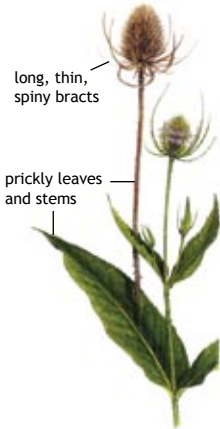
Flower spikes to 1.8m with many large purple tubular flowers.

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

FLOWERING TIME



© 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



© 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



© 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.

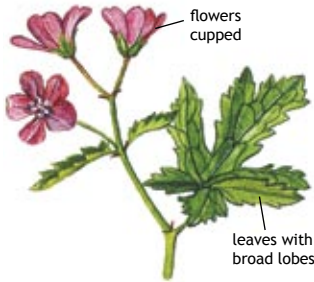
FLOWERING TIME

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

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



© 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.

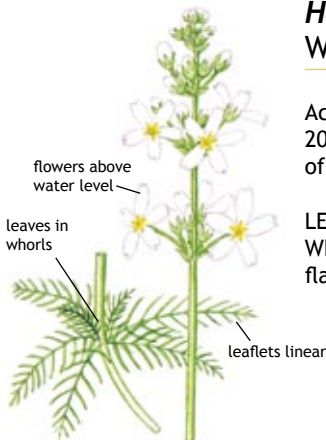
FLOWERING TIME

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



© 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

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



© 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



© 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.

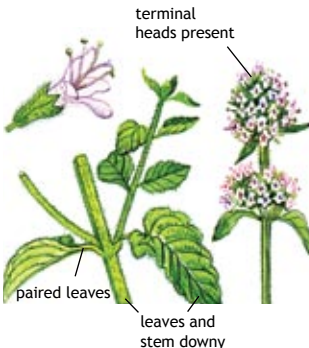
LEAVES AND STEMS
Pointed, untoothed leaves in opposite pairs or 3s. Stems have 4 or more raised lines.

FLOWERING TIME



© 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.

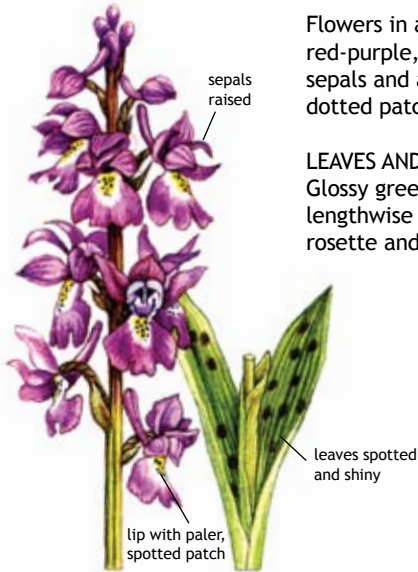
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves in opposite pairs. Stem squarish.

FLOWERING TIME



© Beth Halski/Plantlife

Orchis mascula Early-purple Orchid



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.

FLOWERING TIME

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

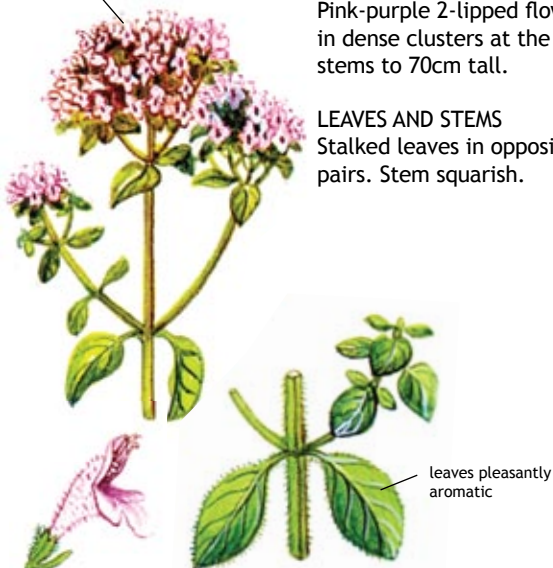


© Beth Halski/Plantlife

Origanum vulgare Wild Marjoram



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.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© 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

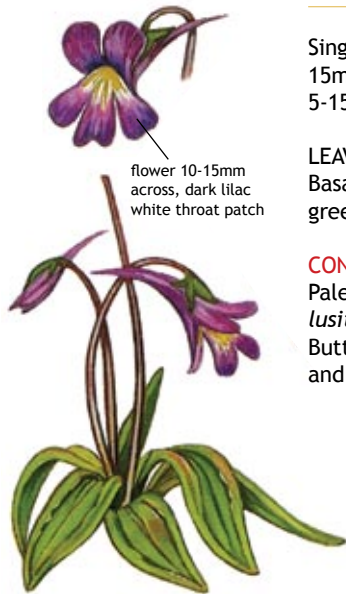
FLOWERING TIME

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



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



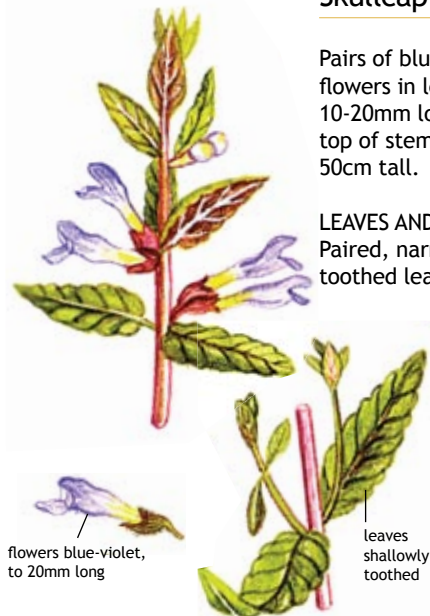
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Scutellaria galericulata Skullcap

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

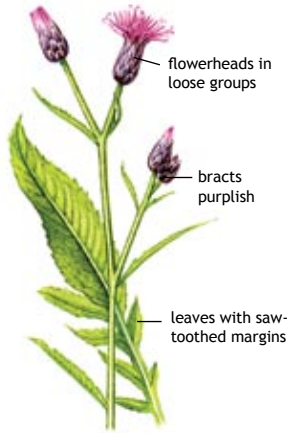
leaves
shallowly
toothed

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

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



© 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

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



© 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

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



© 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.

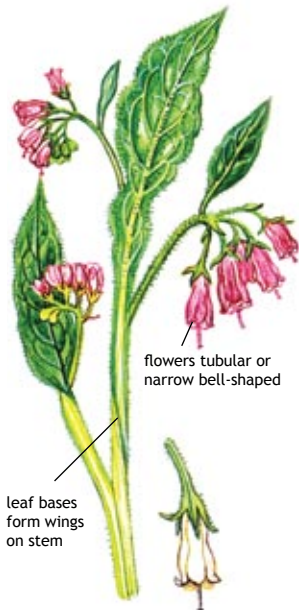
FLOWERING TIME

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**



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



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.

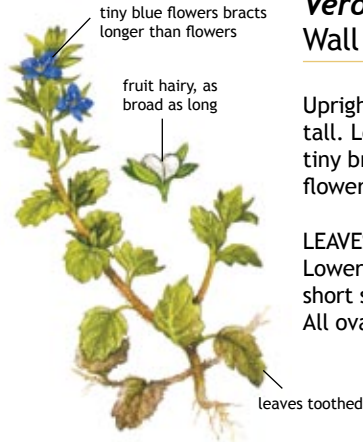


FLOWERING TIME

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.

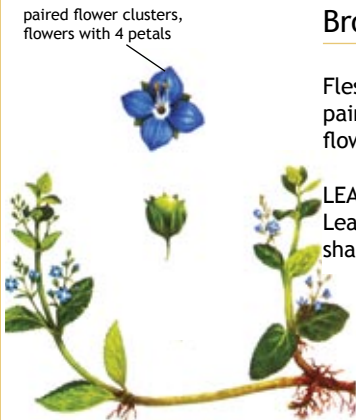


FLOWERING TIME

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

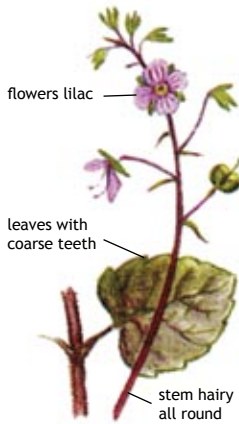
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg / Plantlife

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



© C Gibson

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

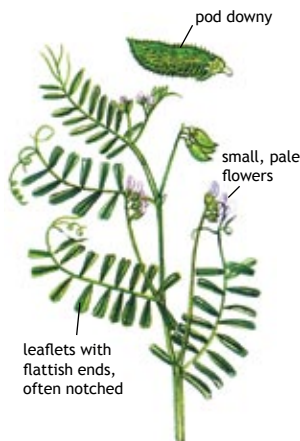
Leaves with 8-13 pairs of narrow leaflets and branched tendrils at tips.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



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



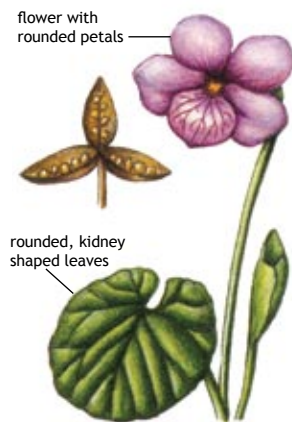
Low growing herb. Flowers with hairy stalks and pale blue-violet petals with darker veins.

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



FLOWERING TIME

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

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.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

tip of spathe erect



spadix purplish brown

leaves often wrinkled with dark spots

Arum maculatum Lords-and-Ladies / Cuckoo-pint



FLOWERING TIME

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

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.



Atriplex portulacoides Sea Purslane



FLOWERING TIME

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

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.



leaves with whitish-meal lower leaves in opposite pairs with stalks



© 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.

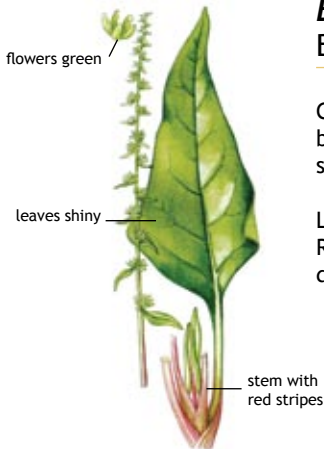
FLOWERING TIME

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.

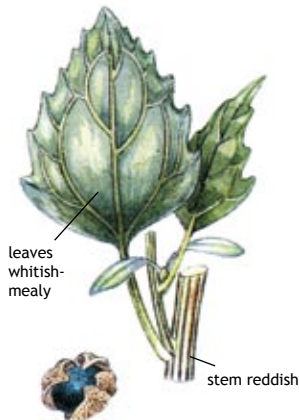
FLOWERING TIME

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.

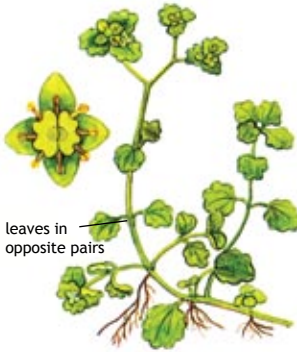
FLOWERING TIME

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.

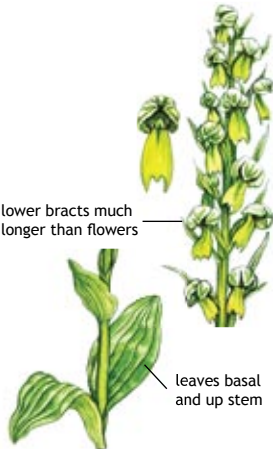
LEAVES AND STEMS
 Rounded, toothed, paired leaves. Creeping, rooting stems.

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

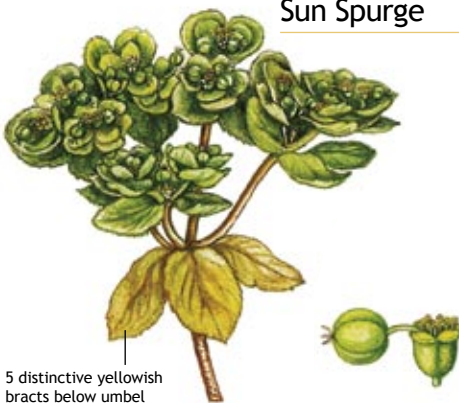
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Trevor Dines/Plantlife



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

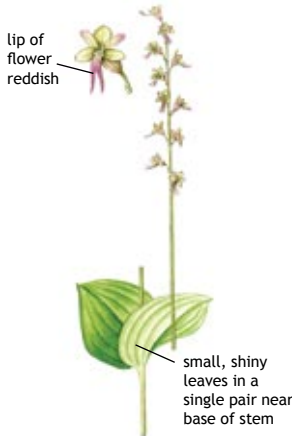
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife

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

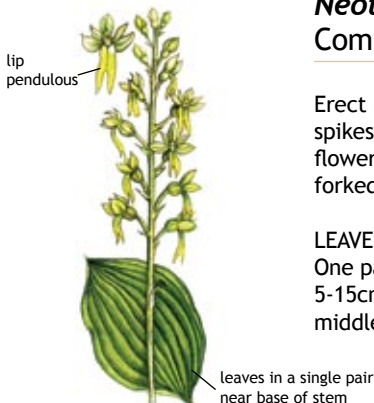
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Pete Stroh

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)

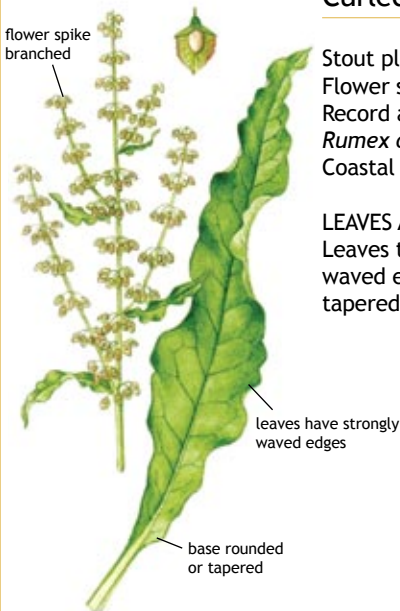
FLOWERING TIME

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

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 wavy 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.

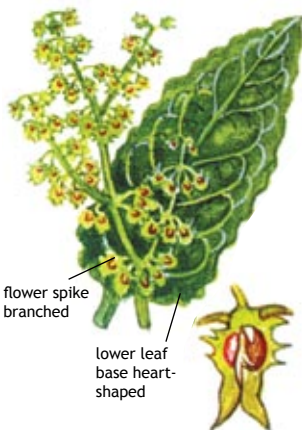
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves to 100cm long, pointed
and tapering at the base.

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.

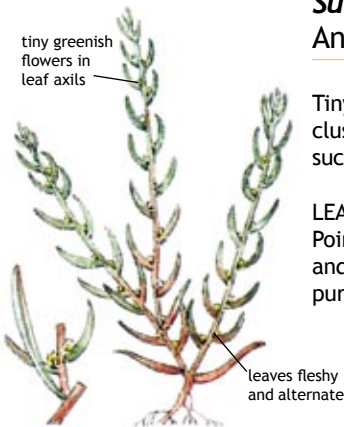
FLOWERING TIME

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.

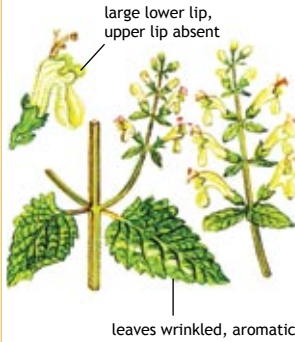
FLOWERING TIME

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

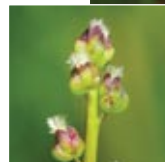
Triglochin palustre
Marsh Arrowgrass



Small greenish flowers widely spaced in long spikes.

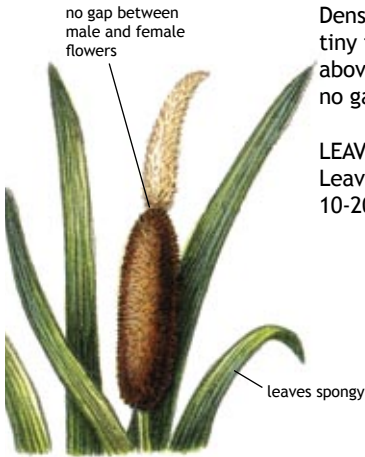
LEAVES AND STEMS
Linear leaves, rounded underneath, deeply grooved on top.

FLOWERING TIME



© Liam Rooney

Typha latifolia Bulrush / Common Reedmace



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.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© Ellen Pisolkar/Plantlife

Urtica dioica Common Nettle



Patch-forming plant with stinging hairs and tassels of tiny flowers.

LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves pointed and toothed in opposite pairs. Square stems.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© 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

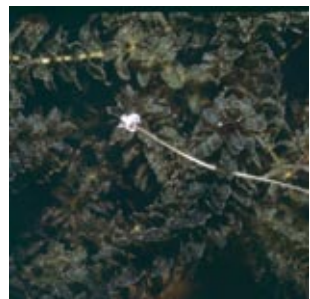
Elodea canadensis
Canadian Waterweed



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



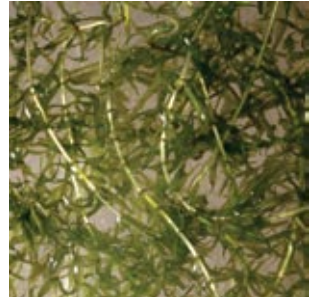
Elodea nuttallii Nuttall's Waterweed



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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

Hippuris vulgaris Mare's-tail



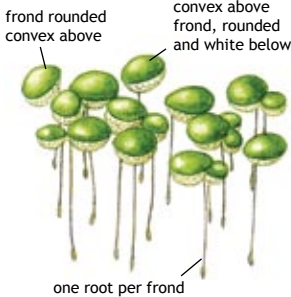
Aquatic plant. Tiny greenish flowers at base of leaves have no petals.

LEAVES AND STEMS
Whorls of 6-8 strap-shaped leaves up to 7cm long on stout, spongy stems.

FLOWERING TIME



© Liam Rooney/Plantlife



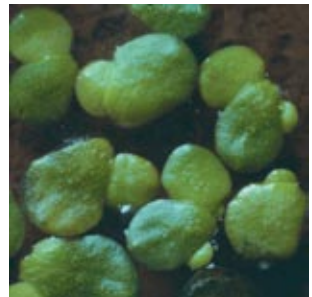
Lemna gibba Fat Duckweed



Tiny plants, each consisting of one frond and one root, which float on the surface of water and often form carpets.

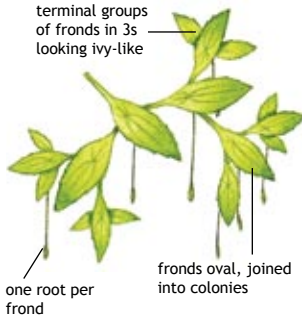
LEAVES AND STEMS
Frond 3-5mm, rounded, opaque, upper surface convex, sometimes swollen and white spongy underneath.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

CONFUSED WITH
Common Duckweed
(*Lemna minor*)
Common Duckweed is flat both sides.



Lemna trisulca Ivy-leaved Duckweed

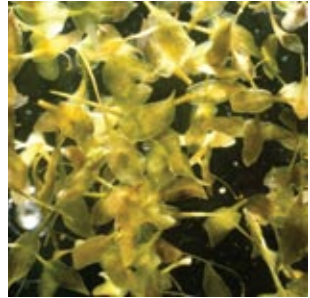


Tiny plants, each consisting of one frond and one root, which float just beneath the surface of water often forming carpets.

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

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



© 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

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



© 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

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



© GBNNS

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

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



© 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

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



© 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

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



© 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



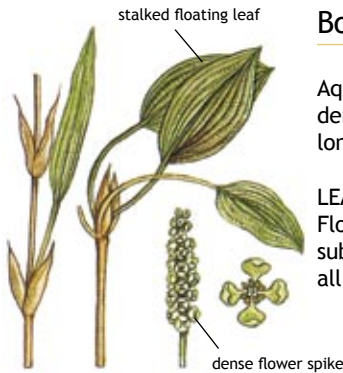
Aquatic herb with flowers in dense spikes to 40mm long on long stalks.

LEAVES AND STEMS
 Floating leaves leathery, submerged leaves translucent, all stalked.

FLOWERING TIME



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



Spirodela polyrhiza
Greater Duckweed



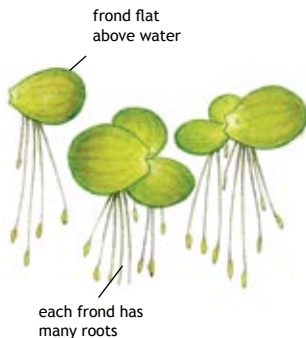
Tiny plants, each consisting of one frond with several roots, which float on the surface of water often forming carpets.

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.

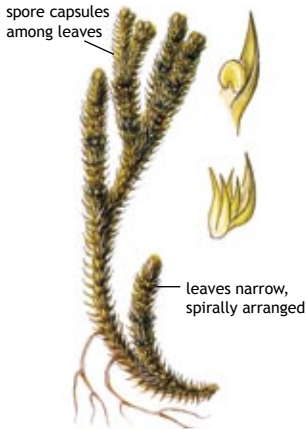
FLOWERING TIME

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

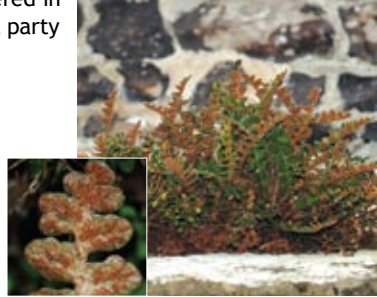
***Asplenium ceterach* (*Ceterach officinarum*)**
Rustyback



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.

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



© Ray Woods/Plantlife

blackish stalks,
midribs



dark
central
stripe

Asplenium trichomanes Maidenhair Spleenwort



FLOWERING TIME

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

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.



© Ray Woods / PlantLife

narrow, oval,
pointed leaves



Blechnum spicant Hard-fern



FLOWERING TIME

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

Overwintering tufts. Spores only on inner leaves.

LEAVES AND STEMS
Tough, mid-green to dark green, lanceolate leaves.



© Andrew Gagg / PlantLife



Cryptogramma crispata Parsley Fern



FLOWERING TIME

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

Short (15-30cm), distinctive tufts of leaves. Spores only on inner leaves.

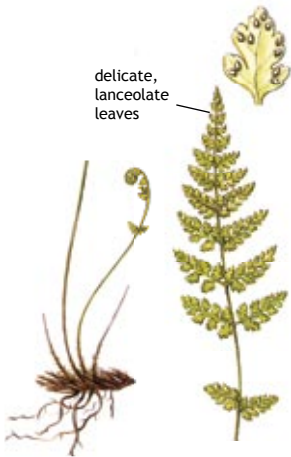
LEAVES AND STEMS
Leaves are bright yellow-green, well crisped. Present May-Nov.



© Andrew Gagg / PlantLife



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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



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



© G Toone/IWNHAS



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



© 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



© 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



© 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



© 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



FLOWERING TIME

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

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



© P Shannon



Briza media

Quaking-grass



FLOWERING TIME

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

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.



© David Evans



Bromopsis erecta

Upright Brome



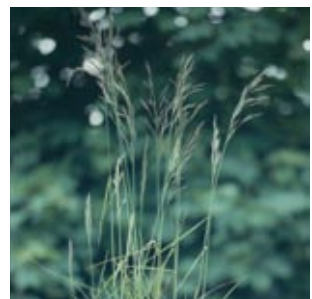
FLOWERING TIME

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

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.



© 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



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



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



FLOWERING TIME

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

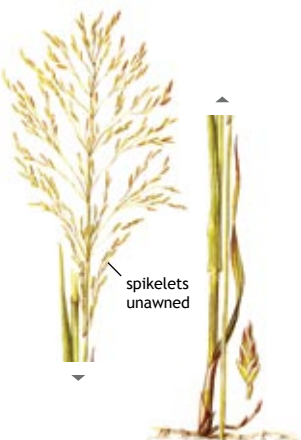
Tall to 2m, patch forming. Open, well branched panicle with unawned green spikelets.

LEAVES AND STEMS

Leaves bright green, narrow to 18mm. Ligules sharply pointed. Brown mark at stem junction.



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



Holcus lanatus Yorkshire-fog

G



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

A



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

G



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

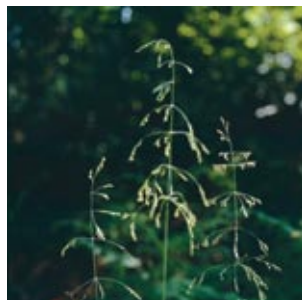
A

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

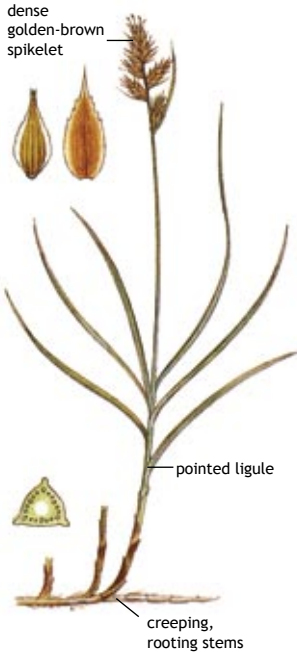
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© 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



© P Shannon



Carex bigelowii Bigelow's Sedge, Stiff Sedge

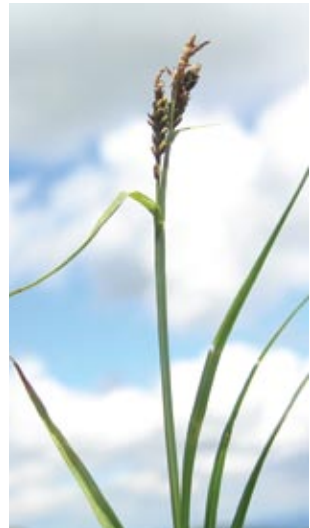


Small-medium sedge with shiny red-brown basal sheaths. Cluster of unstalked purple-black female spikes below one male spike.

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



© 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.

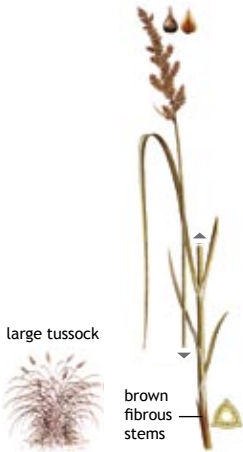
LEAVES AND STEMS
Glaucous leaves, 2-4mm wide, flat. Stems to 50cm, bluntly 3-sided.

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

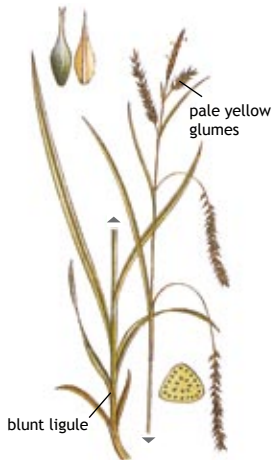
J F M A M **M** J J A S O N D



© 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

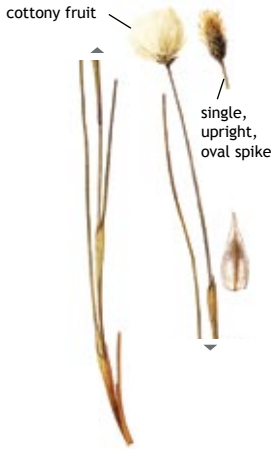
Leaves 5-10cm long, with a tapered tip and short ligule. Stems to 60cm.

FLOWERING TIME

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



© Beth Halski/Plantlife



Eriophorum vaginatum
Hare's-tail Cottongrass



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



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



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

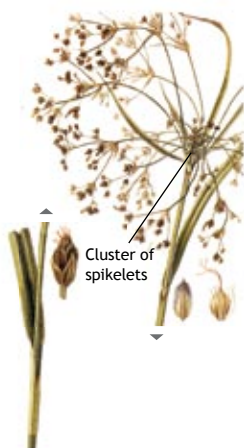
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© 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

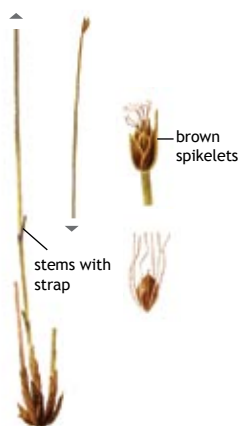
J F M A M J J A S O N D



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



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



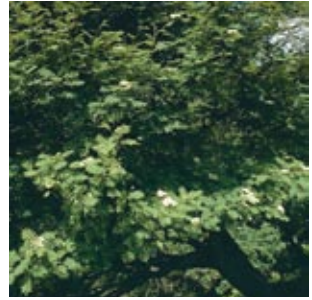
Deciduous tree to 15m. Dense clusters of creamy-white, 5-petalled flowers are followed by scarlet berries.

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



© Andrew Gagg/Plantlife

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

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



© 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

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



© Pete Stroh

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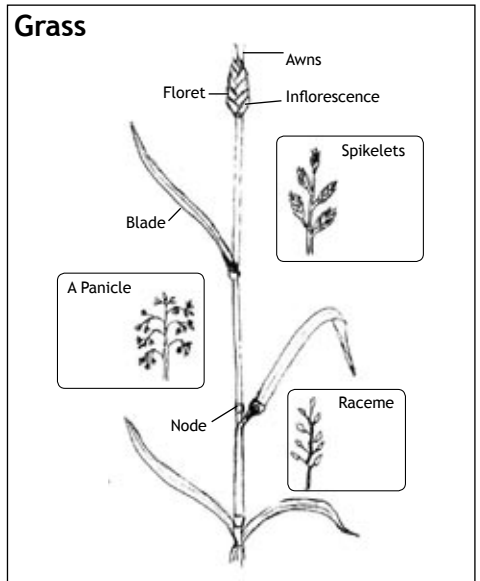
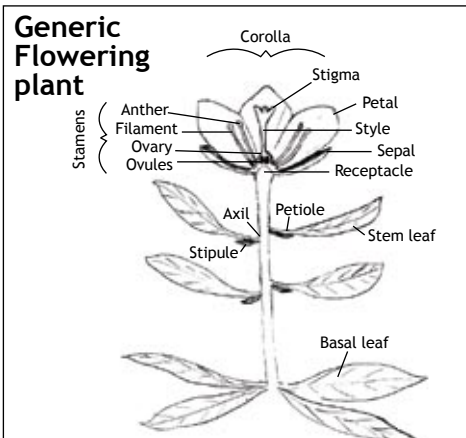
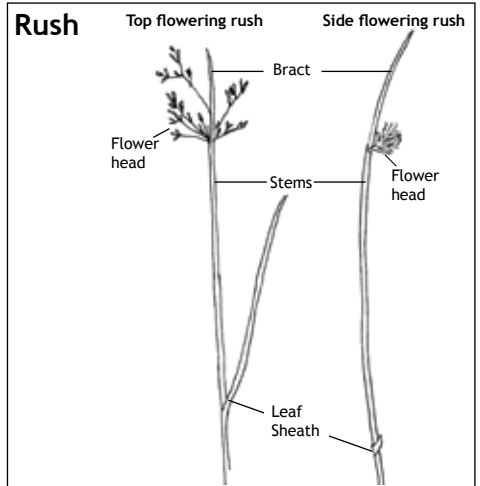
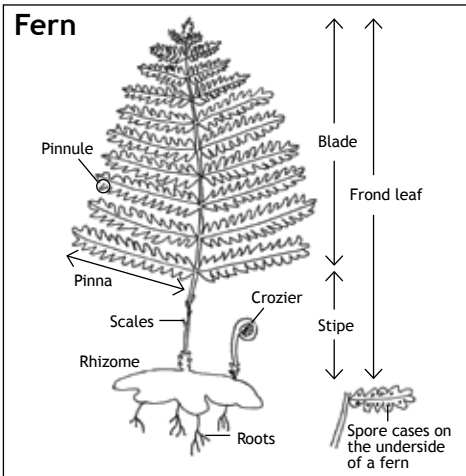
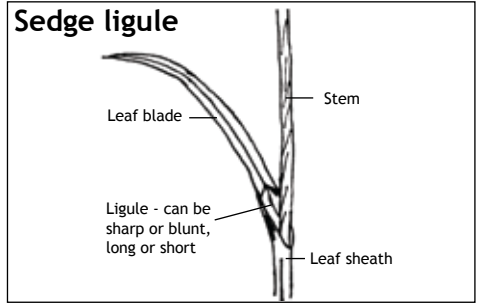
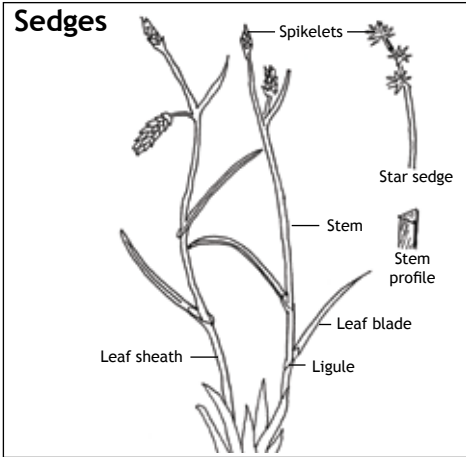
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