

# Farmland Plant Identification Key



**ACRES**

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Farmland plant identification key

Phoebe O'Brien and Fran Giaquinto

**Photographs:** supplied by Peter Foss, with additional photos from Bastiaan Brak, Gary Goggins, Rory Hodd, Vraja Leader, Hannah Mulcahy and Phoebe O'Brien.

**Illustrations:** ©Joshua Brown, Phoebe O'Brien

**Cover photo:** Phoebe O'Brien (*Bee orchid*)

*2nd Edition, September 2023*

## Published by:

Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine,  
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co.  
Wexford, Ireland Y35 PN52



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# How to use this guide

Plant species are divided into four sections:

1. Positive grassland indicators



2. Positive peatland indicators


3. Negative indicators

4. Invasive alien species

Plant species are organised into groups that have similar features.

Each section is arranged by flower colour:

  red and yellow flowers first,

  white and green flowers second

  purple and pink flowers last

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

Flowering months for each group are shaded in orange on the calendar.

## Tips

- Keep this guide in a clear plastic bag.
- Bring the guidebook to the plant rather than picking the whole plant to bring home.
- Compare flower shape and colour first, then confirm by matching the leaf shape.
- Read the description to check flowering time, habitat, and other features.
- Pick one flower or leaf to check their sizes.
- Always choose a leaf from as close to the ground as possible. Leaves on flowering stems may be different.
- Compare with other plants as indicated.





**Basal leaf** A leaf at the base of a plant closest to the ground.



**Bract** A small scale or leaf-like structure at the base of a simple flower or compact head. May be numerous as in thistle and daisy flowers, or thin as in Large Umbels. In sedges bracts are narrow and pointed.



**Cluster** Several flowers held in a group.



**Compact head** Many small flowers held together tightly, so it looks like one flower.



**Leaflet** The small leafy segment of a larger leaf.



**Legume** A member of the pea family.



**Lobed** A strongly wavy edge.



**Notched petal** Petals which are partially split into two lobes.



**Pea-like flower** Flowers in the Pea family have five petals: a large standard petal at the top, two wing petals at the sides and two lower petals fused into a boatlike keel.



**Petal** The inner circle of leaves which surround the flower. Often coloured.



**Pinnate** Leaves divided into segments arranged in a ladder-like pattern.



**Rosette** Leaves in a flattened circular arrangement on the surface of the ground.



**Sepals** The green parts behind the flower which cover the petals in the bud.










































**Stipules** Leaf-like structures where a leaf stalk joins a stem. They are often very small.




































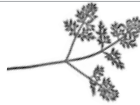












































**Toothed** A zig-zag edge.


















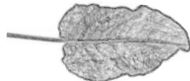






























































**Umbel** Many flowers at the top of spoke-like rays radiating from a central point.
























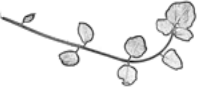



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# Positive Grassland Indicators

**Positive Indicator plants are used to rapidly assess if grassland is in 'good' condition; the plants themselves are not good or bad.**

Positive Indicators are a sign that grassland is semi-natural. It is not managed intensively and it has received only small amounts of fertilisers, herbicides, and other improvements.

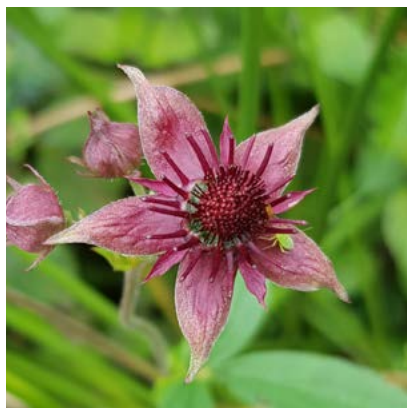


# Marsh cinquefoil

(*Comarum palustris*)

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

This species is found in damp habitats in or near ditches. **Marsh cinquefoil** has unusual dark red, star-shaped flowers, with small narrow petals and larger sepals. It has many fertile parts held in a central spiky button. The leaves have five tooth-edged leaflets. It tends to sprawl and root at leaf junctions.



Marsh cinquefoil flower



Marsh cinquefoil leaf



Marsh cinquefoil

# Sorrels

**Common sorrel** (*Rumex acetosa*.)

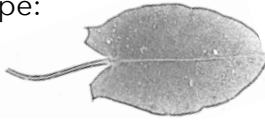
**Sheep's sorrel** (*Rumex acetosella*)

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

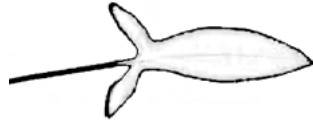
These two species look alike. They grow in grassland with tall reddish flowering spikes in late summer. The flowers are so small that you are more likely to notice them when their seeds have developed and they are so light and feathery they can appear like a reddish haze across a meadow.

They can be separated by their leaf shape:

**Common sorrel** has pointed bottom corners on its leaves near the stem.



**Sheep's sorrel** has points which turn out like sheep horns.



The leaves taste sour. These two species may be confused with docks (*Negative Indicators, p75*).



Common sorrel flower



Common sorrel leaf



Sheep's sorrel

# Kidney vetch

(*Anthyllis vulneraria*)

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

**Kidney vetch** is found in coastal and limestone habitats. It has tight clusters of hairy pea-like flowers which open from red and orange flower buds.

It's leaves are grey green with tiny lobes on the stalk that grow larger as the plant matures.



*Kidney vetch*



*Kidney vetch*



*Kidney vetch flower*



*Kidney vetch leaf*



# Bird's foot trefoils

Bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)

Greater bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*)

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

Bird's foot trefoils have yellow pea-like flowers and similar leaves. Their seed pods look like a bird claw. Their leaves have three leaflets at the tip and two held further back near the stalk.

**Bird's foot trefoil** likes quite dry habitats. It has solid stems and three to six flowers in a cluster.

**Greater Bird's foot trefoil** likes damper habitats. It has hollow stems and five to ten flowers in a cluster.

These two trefoil species may be confused with Meadow vetchling (p17).



*Bird's foot trefoil*



*Bird's foot trefoil flower*



*Bird's foot trefoil leaf*

# Vetches & vetchlings

Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*)

Bitter vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*)

Tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*)

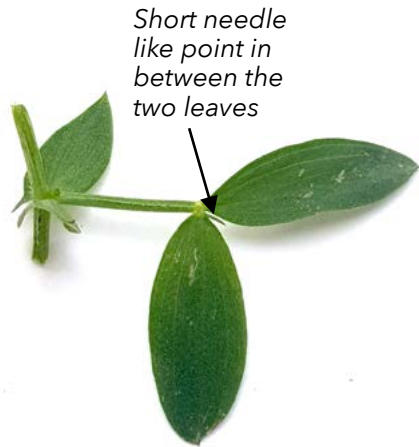
J F M A M J J A S O N D

These species are stragglers with tendrils or short points at the ends of their pinnate leaves. They have pea-like flowers in clusters.

**Meadow vetchling** flowers are bright yellow. It sprawls through grass and other taller plants. It is the only species in this group with just one pair of leaflets to each leaf. It has a short needle-like point in between these two leaves.



Meadow vetchling flower



Meadow vetchling leaf

**Bitter vetch** has pink flowers which fade to greenish blue. Its stems are winged and each leaf has two to four pairs of leaflets. It also has a point at the end of its leaves.



*Bitter vetch*



*Bitter vetch leaf*

**Tufted vetch** has bluish purple flowers. There are 10-40 flowers in each spike. It's leaves are made of many fine parallel-sided leaflets with a long tendril at the top which it uses to hold onto the stems of other plants.



*Tufted vetch*



*Tufted vetch leaf*

# Yellow flag iris

(*Iris pseudacorus*)

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

**Yellow flag** is found growing in damp grassland and beside water. It has large yellow flowers with three wide downward-pointing petals and three narrow, smaller upward-pointing petals. It looks like a garden iris.

It has firm strap-like leaves which are folded into each other at the base. The leaves are up to 5 cm wide. Plants can grow to thigh height and they often spread by underground stems to form patches.



*Yellow flag iris*



*Yellow flag iris flower*



*Yellow flag iris leaf*



# Marsh marigold

(*Caltha palustris*)

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

**Marsh marigold** is found in slow moving streams and ditches. It has bright yellow flowers in spring and early summer. They look like oversized buttercups. They have five large yellow sepals that look like petals and many fertile parts in the middle. The leaves are large and heart to kidney shaped with small teeth along the edge.



Marsh marigold



Marsh marigold leaf



Marsh marigold grows in ditches



# Lesser spearwort

(*Ranunculus flammula*)

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

**Lesser spearwort** is a buttercup which grows in damp fields. Unlike other buttercups, it has long spear-like leaves from which it gets its name. It has five shiny yellow petals, like other buttercups, but the flowers are slightly smaller, about 1 cm wide.

The sepals are held upwards next to the petals. There are no ridges on the flower stalk. The plant is hairless and grows to knee height. The flowering stem is openly spreading with few flowers. The lower leaves are long and linear with just a few tiny teeth at their edges. Smaller leaves up the stem have no stalks and they are smooth edged.

*Lesser spearwort may be confused with other buttercups that have lobed basal leaves.*



Lesser spearwort



Lesser spearwort leaf



Lesser spearwort flower

# Cowslip & Primrose

**Cowslip** (*Primula veris*)

**Primrose** (*Primula vulgaris*)

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

These two species have five-petalled yellow flowers in spring with a basal rosette of crinkled leaves. The petals join at the base to form a tube.

**Cowslip** prefers dry grassland. It's dark yellow flowers are held in a loose umbel and they smell of apricots. Each wrinkled leaf has a constricted point near the bottom as if a cow's lips have pressed around it.



*Cowslip*



*Cowslip leaf*

**Primrose** prefers woodland habitats but it can be found in grassland. It has larger, paler yellow flowers, with one flower on each hairy stalk which emerge from the rosette of basal leaves. The leaves taper gently to their base.



*Primrose*



*Primrose leaf*

Cowslip and primrose can cross, producing some intermediate looking flowers known as **False oxlips**. If you find flowers with pinkish petals it may be a cross with a garden plant.

# Ox-eye daisy

(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

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

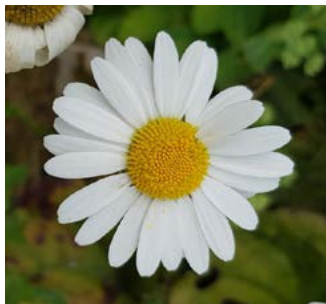
**Ox-eye daisies** (or Dog daisies) are found in dry grassland, flowering all through summer.

Each flower is made up of many smaller flowers. In the centre, there are yellow tube flowers whose tops have star-shaped tips. On the outside, there are larger white tube flowers that look like petals.

Unlike the Common daisy, which has basal leaves only, the Ox-eye daisy grows tall with leafy stems. Its lower leaves are spoon like and deeply toothed. It does not have a strong smell. Another distinguishing feature is the dark bracts at the back of the flower.



*Ox-eye daisies*



*Ox-eye daisy flower*



*Ox-eye daisy leaf*

# Tormentils

**Common tormentil** (*Potentilla erecta*)

**English tormentil** (*Potentilla anglica*)

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

These low growing, yellow-flowered species are in the Rose family.

**Common tormentil** straggles among grasses, spreading but not rooting, from the tips of its stems. The many flowers are held in finely divided sprays. Each has four slightly-notched petals which fall off easily. The leaves are attached to the stem without leaf stalks and they are split into three-toothed leaflets. There are two extra leafy stipules on the stem. The leaves close to the base of the plant have five leaflets.



*Common tormentil*



*Common tormentil leaves*

○ *Common tormentil flower size*

**English or Trailing tormentil** is similar but has larger flowers than Common tormentil. It can root from the tips of its stems. Its flowers have five petals, its sepals have ten points. The basal leaves are more likely to persist at flowering time.



*English / Trailing tormentil*



# Yellow composites

Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*)

Hawkweeds (*Hieracium spp.*)

Smooth Hawk's beard (*Crepis capillaris*)

Beaked Hawk's beard (*Crepis vesicaria*)

Goat's beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*)

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

This a complicated group of dandelion-like flowers. They have fluffy seed heads called clocks and white latex sap.

It is easy to tell these species apart from dandelions. Dandelions have hollow flowering stems with a white milky latex inside, whereas the species in this group have solid flowering stems.

**Cat's-ear** has a basal rosette of distinctive leaves. Leaves higher up the branching stem are reduced to tiny scales.



*Cat's-ear*



*Cat's ear leaf*



**Hawkweeds** are quite hairy, with almost untoothed leaves.

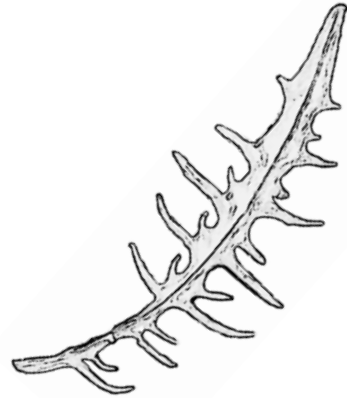
Their clocks are brownish.

*Mouse-ear hawkweed*

**Smooth and Beaked Hawk's beard** species are tall and slender, with small leaves up their stems. Bracts behind their flowering heads point upwards except for a row of small spreading bracts at the base. Their leaves are very similar to Dandelion.



*Beaked Hawk's beard*



*Smooth Hawk's beard leaf*

**Goat's beard** has long narrow leaves which are almost grass like. Eight long bracts surround the flowers.



*Goat's beard*



*Goat's beard*

# Yellow rattle

(*Rhinanthus minor*)

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

**Yellow rattle**, sometimes called Hay rattle, parasitises the roots of grasses and reduces their vigour. This is beneficial for biodiversity because more wildflowers can flourish when grasses have low vigour.

The flowers are yellow with an upper overhanging lip and a smaller lower lip. It's green bracts are large and form a pouch which becomes more noticeable as the seeds mature, eventually letting the seeds rattle around inside. The leaves are toothed and held in pairs directly on the stem.



*Yellow rattle*



*Yellow rattle flower*

# Meadowsweet

(*Filipendula ulmaria*)

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

**Meadowsweet** grows in damp soil. The leaves are distinctive with small leafy bits between each pair of leaflets. They have a medicinal smell when crushed. It grows tall quickly and makes cream-coloured sprays of tiny white flowers. The overall shape of these sprays is like a champagne flute.

Meadowsweet may be confused with species in the Carrot family whose flowers are whiter with a more rounded overall shape. (*Large Umbels*, p30-31; *Small Umbels*, p32-33).



*Meadowsweet flower*



*Meadowsweet flower*



*Meadowsweet leaf*



# Eyebrights

(*Euphrasia* sp.)

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

There are many species of **Eyebright** which can be abundant in grassland, each species favouring a slightly different habitat. They are all annual and can parasitize other plants. They are short (not more than 20 cm tall), branched plants with many small white flowers with purple and yellow markings inside. Stalkless toothed leaves are held in opposite pairs up the stem. The leaves can look purplish.

The flowers are two lipped but the lower petal is lobed into three parts, each of which is notched. This makes a very pretty flower but it can be confused with other species. Check that the stem is round, not obviously square, and the leaves are toothed.



Eyebright flower



Eyebright leaf



Eyebright plants

# Large umbels

**Angelica** (*Angelica sylvestris*),

**Hogweed** (*Heracleum sphondylium*)

**Valerian** (*Valeriana officinalis*)

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

Angelica and Hogweed are both tall plants (1-2 m) with tiny white flowers in branched umbels. Valerian is similar but slightly shorter. They can all be abundant in wet grassland.

**Angelica** has ball-shaped flower heads and smooth, hairless purple-brown stems with a whitish bloom. The flowering head has 20-30 rays. The large, divided leaves have toothed leaflets that are fully separated from each other.



*Angelica*



*Angelica leaf*

**Hogweed** flower heads are quite flat on top, and they have fewer rays than Angelica. The stems are green, ridged, and finely hairy. Their huge leaves have leaflets that are not separated from each other.



*Hogweed plant*



*Hogweed flower*



*Hogweed leaf*

**Valerian** does not have the same umbrella shape as members of the Carrot family. Its flower buds look pink and the leaves are distinctive.

Compare with *Giant hogweed*, p82, and *Small Umbels*, p32–33.



*Valerian flower*



*Valerian leaf*

# Small Umbels

**Pignut** (*Conopodium majus*)

**Wild carrot** (*Daucus carota*),

**Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*)

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

There are several medium height species with branching heads of tiny white flowers which are found in grassland.

**Pignut** grows at woodland edges. The feathery leaves show early in the spring. It has nodding young flower heads, which turn upwards as they mature. It flowers early from the beginning of May.



*Pignut flower*



*Pignut leaf*



**Wild carrot** has thin forked bracts surrounding its flower heads. The flowerheads can look pinkish when young and sometimes they have a single red flower in the middle. The leaves look and smell like carrot.



*Wild carrot seed*



*Wild carrot plant*



*Young flower heads look pink*



*Older flower heads can be spherical*

**Yarrow** is known to flower through to New Year. It has flowers in compact heads which look like small all-white daisies. These are held in tight bunches.

Yarrow is related to Daisies and has very feathery leaves.



*Yarrow flower*



*Yarrow plant*

# Bedstraws & Stitchworts

Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*)

Small bedstraws (*Galium spp.*)

Stitchwort (*Stellaria spp.*)

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

These species have small yellow or white flowers. They straggle through grass on thin stems. The flowers of Bedstraws have four tiny petals. The leaves are placed in whorls around the square stem.

**Lady's bedstraw** is found on alkaline soils. It is the easiest species to recognise in this group because it has tiny yellow flowers in clusters. Other **bedstraws** have tiny white flowers and may be found in more damp and neutral pH habitats.

**Stitchwort** flowers have five white notched petals which are slightly larger than bedstraw flowers. They have leaves in pairs with no stalks.



Lady's bedstraw



Marsh bedstraw



Stitchwort

# Marsh pennywort

(*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*)

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

**Marsh pennywort** is easily identified in very wet places. It has round leaves with long stalks in the centre like a shield.

Its stems are long and they can root several times. The flower clusters are less noticeable, being greenish white and very small. It is related to umbellifers (See *Large Umbels*, p30-31; *Small Umbels*, p32-33).



Marsh pennywort



Marsh pennywort flower



# Carline thistle

(*Carlina vulgaris*)

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

**Carline thistle** grows in dry alkaline grassland. It is a biennial and rosettes can be seen growing near the previous year's dead flowers.

It reaches 40 cm tall. Its flowers differ from other thistles. They are straw coloured with small purple tube-like flowers in the centre. It has spiky sharply toothed leaves.



*Carline thistle flower*



*Carline thistle buds*



*Carline thistle plant*



# Lady's mantles

(*Alchemilla* spp.)

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

There are three native and fairly common **Lady's mantle** species found in grassland, which are sometimes grouped together as part of a larger aggregate called *Alchemilla vulgaris* agg. The flowers are small and yellowish green, held in clusters. The lobed leaves are sometimes hairy and have toothed edges.

A species of Lady's mantle which has escaped from gardens may be found in grass verges, but those in fields are likely to be native.



*Lady's mantle*



*Lady's mantle leaves*

# Sedges

(*Carex* spp.)

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

**Sedges** are a large group of plants that resemble grasses superficially. Some of the more noticeable species in grassland have bluish-green leaves. The leaves can look as if they are coming out in three directions. The flowers are arranged in linear groups called spikelets and there can be several spikelets arranged up a three angled stem.

In *Carex* species, male and female flowers are on separate spikelets. Often, male flowers are at the top and will look fluffy with anthers at first, while the female spikelets are lower down on the stem and get broader as the seeds develop. The individual flowers have no petals or sepals. Seeds are often used to distinguish the different species.



*Carex nigra*



*Carex flacca*



*Carex echinata*



*Carex demissa*

# Woodrushes (*Luzula sp.*)

## Spike rushes (*Eleocharis sp.*)

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

These are grass-like plants with simple flowers. Only Woodrushes are strictly in the Rush family, but other species such as Spike rushes are confusingly called rushes, also.

True rushes have six simple, neutral coloured petal-like parts on their flowers.

**Woodrush** leaves are like the blades of grasses. They can be recognised by their soft white hairs. An early flowering woodrush is known as Good Friday grass.



Woodrush flower



Woodrush leaves

**Spike rushes**, which belong to the Sedge family, have leaves that are like tight sheaths around their stems. Their simple flowers are at the tips of their stalks.



Spike rush



Spike rush flower



# Lady's smock

(*Cardamine pratensis*)

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

**Lady's smock**, often called Cuckoo flower, has four-petalled pale lilac flowers in loose spikes. It likes slightly damp fields. The leaf rosettes may have a purple tint and can be found throughout the winter. The basal leaves are broad but the leaves higher up the flowering stem become narrower and more delicate.

Lady's smock may be confused with Hairy bitter cress or Wavy bitter cress, which are smaller plants and have much smaller white flowers.



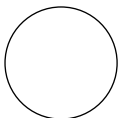
Lady's smock



Lady's smock  
basal leaf



Lady's smock flowers



Lady's smock  
flower size

# Wild thyme

(*Thymus polytrichus*)

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

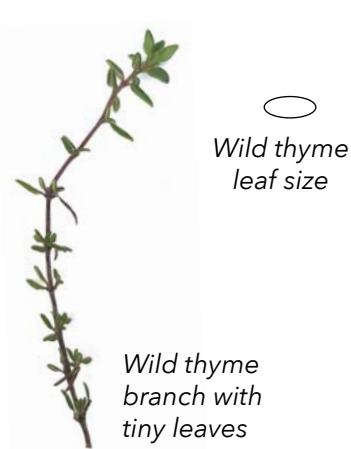
**Wild thyme** is scented, like other members of the Mint family. The square stems are wiry but very thin, and it grows low to the ground in dry grassland. Its tiny leaves are hairy. The two lipped, deep-pink flowers are held in clusters. Its scent is noticeable on warm days.



*Wild thyme plants*



*Wild thyme flowers*



Wild thyme  
leaf size

Wild thyme  
branch with  
tiny leaves



# Louseworts

**Lousewort** (*Pedicularis sylvatica*)

**Marsh lousewort** (*Pedicularis palustris*)

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

Louseworts are partially parasitic plants with bright pink flowers, 2-2.5 cm long, and delicately lobed leaves.

**Lousewort** is a small low growing plant found in damp and acidic habitats. It is a perennial. It has flowers held on very short flower stalks. They have two bright pink lips. The upper is like a hook and it is slightly longer than the bottom lip which has three lobes.



Lousewort flowers



Lousewort

—| |  
Lousewort  
leaf size

**Marsh lousewort** is an annual species. It is taller than Lousewort. It grows in slightly wetter grassland. It has very similar flowers but its upper lip is the same length as the lower lip.



Marsh lousewort flower



Marsh lousewort

—| |  
Marsh lousewort leaf size

# Ragged robin

(*Silene flos-cuculi*)

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

**Ragged robin** is an attractive medium tall plant of damp grassland. The stems have several flowers each held on a short flower stalk. The reddish-pink flowers have five petals which are split into thin forks, held in a sepal tube. Occasionally, the flowers are white. Lower leaves are simple and held in opposite pairs on the stalk, and they become narrower up the stem.



*Ragged robin flower*



*Ragged robin leaf*

# Meadow thistle

(*Cirsium dissectum*)

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

All thistles have sharp spines on their leaves and small flowers held in compact heads. They have hairy seeds which are dispersed by the wind.

**Meadow thistle** is a distinctive thistle growing in acidic wet grassland. It has purple flower heads which grow singly on the stems. The whole plant looks pale because it is covered in soft white hairs. It has purple spines on each undivided leaf but these are quite soft to touch. Meadow thistle is quite an elegant plant, it doesn't have winged or prickly stems.

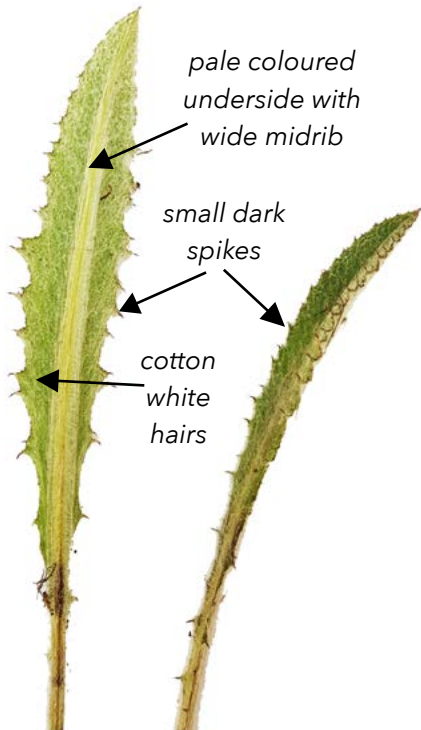
*Meadow thistle leaves may be confused with other thistles.*



Meadow thistle flower



Meadow thistle leaves



Meadow thistle leaves

# Marsh thistle

(*Cirsium palustre*)

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

**Marsh thistle** is a biennial which grows in soils that hold moisture. Generally, it is chest height but it can grow very tall. It has dark purple, sometimes white flower heads in clusters. Its leaves are dark and have purple marks at their edges. Its stems are winged with sharp points.

*Marsh thistle* may be confused with *Spear thistle* or *Creeping thistle* (Negative indicators, p74).



*Marsh thistle flower*



*Marsh thistle leaf*



# Common knapweed

(*Centaurea nigra*)

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

Knapweeds are medium tall plants with thistle-like flowers but no spines. Their individual flowers are held in compact heads.

**Common knapweed** is also known as Knapweed or Black knapweed. It can be abundant in neutral or acidic grassland. Its tube-like flowers are dark pinkish purple. The bases of the compact heads are covered in scaly bracts with bristly edges. Its leaves are simple and slightly hairy.

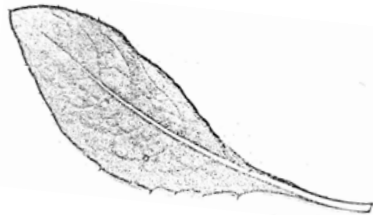
*Common knapweed can be confused with Greater knapweed (p47).*



*Common knapweed*



*Common knapweed flower*



*Common knapweed leaf*

# Greater knapweed

(*Centaurea scabiosa*)

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

**Greater knapweed** grows in alkaline grassland. It is larger and more showy than Common knapweed. It is a medium tall plant with thistle-like flowers but no spines. The individual bright pink 'flowers' are made of many tiny flowers called florets. The large ragged ones sit around the edge to attract insects. Only the small, densely packed little flowers in the centre are fertile. The leaves are greyish green and deeply pinnate. The stems are rough, hairy, and angular.

The leaves on the stem are very narrow and this feature is used to separate Greater knapweed from Common knapweed.



*Greater knapweed*



*Greater knapweed flower*



*Greater knapweed leaf*

# Scabious

**Devil's bit scabious** (*Succisa pratensis*)

**Field scabious** (*Knautia arvensis*)

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

Scabious are medium tall plants with attractive light purple flowers held in compact heads.

**Devil's bit scabious** is common and widespread in semi-natural grassland. It can become quite tall in long grass. Its purple flowers are held tightly in heads, 1.5–2.5 cm across. Most leaves are basal and simple.



Devil's bit scabious flower



basal leaf

stem leaf

Devil's bit scabious leaves

**Field scabious** is found in dry grassland. It has flatter and larger (3–4 cm) flower heads than Devil's bit scabious. They are a paler purple in colour, and the outer flowers in the flowerhead are larger than the ones in the centre. It has lobed leaves.



Field scabious flower



Field scabious leaf



Field scabious

Devil's bit scabious

Knapweed

Field scabious may be confused with Knapweeds (*Positive Indicators*, p46–47).

# Selfheal

(*Prunella vulgaris*)

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

**Selfheal** grows low to the ground and spreads through grassland. It is in the Mint family. It has simple unscented leaves and purple-blue flowers.

Selfheal is lightly hairy. It has small two-lipped flowers held in short spikes with two leaves at the base. Not all the flowers open at once and the flower spikes can be found for a long time after flowering. It sometimes flowers late in the year. Its leaves are simple with slight teeth. The stem is square.



*Selfheal*



*Selfheal leaves are simple & held in opposite pairs*



# Bugle

(*Ajuga reptans*)

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

**Bugle** grows low to the ground and spreads by runners through grassland. It is in the Mint family and has simple unscented leaves and purple-blue flowers.

Bugle has leafy flowering spikes with whorls of purplish-blue flowers which have lobed lower lips. It has square flower stems which are only hairy on two sides. The leaves are often quite purple or bronze. They have rounded teeth and taper to the leaf stalk.

**Pyramidal bugle** is a related but very rare species. It differs in having hairs on all four sides of its stem.



*Bugle*



*Bugle leaf*

# Orchids

**Bee orchids** (*Ophrys* spp.)

**Orchids** (*Orchis* spp.)

**Marsh orchids** (*Dactylorhiza* spp.)

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

In grassland, orchids are short to medium height plants with unusual flowers. They have strap-like leaves with parallel veins. They have a short summer flowering season but the leaf rosettes may be found throughout the winter.

**Bee orchids**, and the closely related Fly orchids, have complex individual flowers which look like insects. They grow in dry alkaline grassland. Bee orchids have a few flowers spread up a short flowering spike. They have small pink petals surrounding their dark lower petal. Their rosettes are small & each leaf has a pointed tip.

**Orchids**, such as Early purple orchid, have slightly less showy purple flowers more closely held on the flowering spike. Their lower petals do not look like insects and they can be lobed or frilled. Each flower has a small pocket at the back called a spur. These point upward in *Orchis* species and downward in the closely related **Spotted & Marsh orchid** group. Their leaves can have dark patches.



*Pyramidal orchid*



*Bee orchid*



*Early purple orchid*



*Heath spotted orchid*



*Common spotted orchid*



*Early purple rosette*

# Mints

Mint species (*Mentha spp.*)

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

**Mints** are softly hairy plants with mint-scented leaves held in opposite pairs on square stalks. There are several Mint species which grow in grassland. Some have stalked leaves, some have leaves with no stalks.

They have tiny, pale purple flowers arranged in clusters either at the top of the flowering spike or in whorls around the stem. Each flower is a very short tube with four lobes. One of the lobes may be larger and notched. They have simple leaves with gently toothed edges. Water mint leaves can look purplish.



Mint flower



Mint plant



Mint leaves



Mint leaves may be rounded **OR** pointed at the top

# Violets

**Dog violets** (*Viola riviniana*, *Viola reichenbachiana*)

**Marsh violet** (*Viola palustris*)

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

Violets are small plants with pale bluish-purple flowers. The lowest petal has a long pocket or spur. The leaves are heart-shaped or round with rounded teeth. The lower leaves have rounded bases. Most violets in Ireland are unscented.

**Dog violets** have a white or purple spur. They prefer slight shade. They are spring flowering.

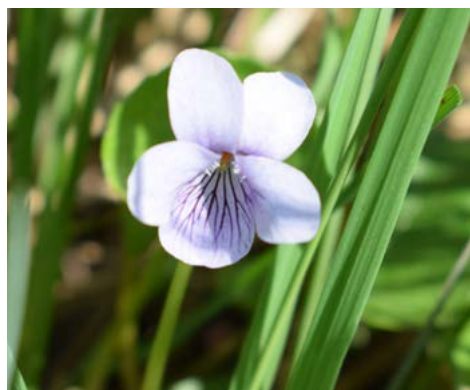


*Dog violet flower*



*Dog violet leaf*

**Marsh violets** are found in damp grass and at the edges of ditches and streams. They have bluer purple flowers with no spur and more rounded leaves.



*Marsh violet flower*



*Marsh violet leaf*



# Harebell

(*Campanula rotundifolia.*)

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

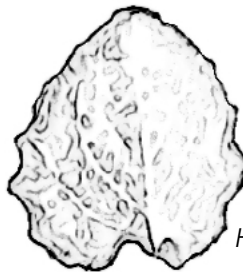
**Harebells** are small plants with bluishpurple flowers and lower leaves with rounded bases. Harebells are found in dry grasslands and flower late in summer. They have pale purplish-blue petals forming a bell. Several bells are loosely held on each stem. Their basal leaves are rounded and toothed like Violet leaves, and they can be very small. Leaves up the flowering stem are thin and pointed.



Harebell plant



Harebell flower



Harebell leaf



Harebell basal leaves can be as small as the inner circle, but they are never larger than the outer circle.

They fit somewhere in the green area.

# Forget-me-nots

Forget-me-not species (*Myosotis spp.*)

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

There are seven species of **Forget-me-not** in Ireland. They are all small hairy plants found in damp or dry habitats. They have many tiny blue flowers on slender stalks, which sometimes curl. Flower buds can be yellow or pink. Each flower has a short tube with five spreading lobes. Their leaves are simple and have no stalk and they are arranged one-by-one on either side of the stem.

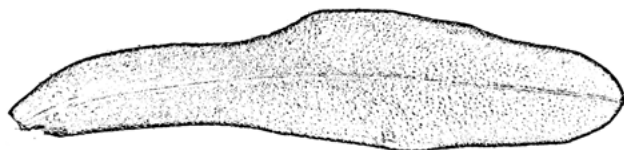
*Forget-me-nots may be confused with Speedwells, so check that the leaves are not toothed.*



*Forget-me-not plant*



*Forget-me-not leaf stem*



*Forget-me-not leaf*



*Forget-me-not flower sizes are from 2-6 mm across*

# Positive Peatland Indicators

Peatlands are habitats that have peaty soil of a low pH.

The key peat-forming species are Sphagnum mosses and sedges like cotton grass.

These species can be lost through drying of the peat surface as a result of natural and man-induced modifications to drainage, burning and grazing regimes.

Carnivorous plants, which 'eat' insects, can be found in peatlands.

# Bog myrtle

(*Myrica gale*)

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

**Bog myrtle** is a short shrub growing up to 2 m tall in the wetter parts of peatlands. It has red-gold flowers in spring. The flowers have pointed scales and yellow anthers, which are held in short dense spikes up the stem.

Bog myrtle has oval toothed leaves which are dark on the upper surface and paler beneath. They are held alternately on purple-brown stems. The leaves are pleasantly aromatic if crushed.

Bog myrtle may be confused with young willow saplings, but most similar sized willows are not scented.



*Bog myrtle plant*



*Bog myrtle flower*



*Bog myrtle sprig*



# Bilberry

(*Vaccinium myrtillus*)

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

**Bilberry** is a small shrub which grows in acidic soils. It has bell-shaped flowers which become red as they grow. These will produce edible black berries in late summer.

Bright green leaves are held closely on the green zig zag stem. Leaves are finely toothed and may look red in autumn.



*Bilberry early berries*



*Bilberry ripe berries*



*Bilberry has green zig-zag stems*



*Bilberry single leaf*

# Western gorse

(*Ulex gallii*)

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

**Western gorse** is also known as Autumn gorse because it flowers in late summer and autumn. Seeds can be found in spring which can help distinguish it from European gorse (*Negative Indicators, p70*) whose seeds are found in autumn. It grows mainly in the west of Ireland on acid soils.

It is a short shrub up to thigh height, but often found lying flat to the ground. It is easily confused with European gorse when it is grazed by animals, so look for it in fields and hedgerows that are not grazed.



Western gorse shrub

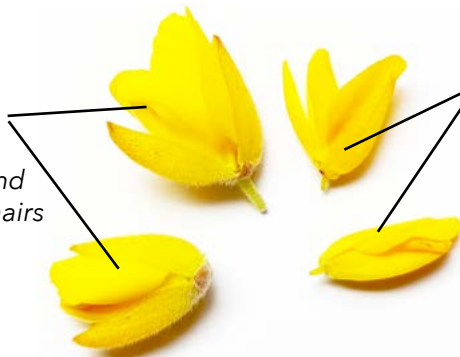


Western gorse flower

The yellow pea-like flowers are almost identical to European gorse, but they are slightly smaller and deeper yellow. The spiny leaves are slightly shorter, less grooved, and a brighter green than European gorse.

## European Gorse:

with purple bracteole and spreading hairs on sepals.



## Western Gorse:

smaller with more golden flowers. Bracteole very small. Flat hairs on sepals.

# Bog asphodel

(*Narthecium ossifragum*)

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

**Bog asphodel** can be found in large numbers on peatlands. They are short plants with bright yellow flowers arranged in short spikes. Each flower has six petals and furry stamens with red anthers. The fruits are orange-red capsules.

Bog asphodel leaves are slightly curved narrow blades held in very flattened bunches. They turn orange in late summer and autumn, and then fall off. They grow again in March.



*Bog asphodel flower*



*Bog asphodel fruit*



*Bog asphodel sprig*

# Sundews

Sundew species (*Drosera* spp.)

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

**Sundews** are small carnivorous plants which grow flat to the ground on bare peat. The leaves are green, but they look red because they are covered in pin-like red hairs. There are glands at the tips which make the hairs sticky.

They flower in mid-summer with several white flowers on a thin short stem. Each flower has five petals. Sundew leaves may be rounded or spoon-shaped on long leaf stalks. The leaves are arranged in a rosette.



Sundew



Sundew



Sundew



Sundew



# Bog bean

(*Menyanthes trifoliata*)

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

**Bogbean** is a plant of wet ground and lakes. It can be a sign that the ground where it is growing is too wet to walk on safely.

It has many white flowers held in spikes, which can look slightly pink. They have lots of white hairs on each petal.

Bogbean leaves have long thick stalks. Each leaf has three rounded parts joined to a central stalk. The leaves feel fleshy.



Bog bean



Bog bean



Bog bean



Bog bean leaf

# Bog cotton

Bog cotton species (*Eriophorum* spp.)

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

There are a few species known as Bog cotton in Ireland. They are sometimes called Cottongrass. They have thin leaves and flowers without coloured petals, but they have fluffy hairs which blow in the wind.

**Hare's-tail cottongrass** has one fluffy head, which looks like a hare's tail. They have very thin wiry leaves.



*Hare's-tail cottongrass leaf*

Another species, **Common bog cotton**, has two or more fluffy heads per stem. It flowers later. Its leaves are broader and thicker than Hare's tail cottongrass, and they have pink bases.



*Common bog cotton*



*Common bog cotton*



*Common bog cotton leaf*

# White beak-sedge

(*Rhynchospora alba*)

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

**White beak-sedge** are small plants that grow in groups on peatlands and in wet areas with Sphagnum.

In the summer, the flowerheads look pale across the bog. There are one or more flowerheads on each hollow stem. At the base of each flowerhead is a short-pointed structure called a bract. This bract can be the same length or slightly longer than the flowers. Each flower has white scales.

They have upright green stems and narrow leaves. The leaves have solid triangular tips and brown pointed sheaths at their bases. Leaves are arranged on three sides of the stem.



*White beak-sedge*



*White beak-sedge*





# Bushy lichens

(*Cladonia* spp.)

**Bushy lichens** may grow on a variety of surfaces. On peatlands, they grow mainly on the ground, either amongst heather and other plants, or on bare peat. A variety of forms of bushy lichens occur. Some forms are upright, with thick branches, dividing regularly a couple of times, or they may have many slender branches, forming a neat 3-D structure. They are grey-green or whitish in colour and have a tough, dry texture. They may develop red patches which are part of their reproductive cycle.



*Bushy lichen*



*Bushy lichen*



*Bushy lichen*



# Branched mosses

**Branched (or pleurocarpous) mosses** are small plants with tiny leaves and no proper roots. They can form large cushions or mats, as well as grow as individual shoots through other plants. They have no flowers, but sometimes they have small stalked capsules which contain tiny spores.

The branched mosses are the largest and most noticeable mosses, and a wide variety of species occur. Typically, mosses in this group are frequently branched and spreading, with some species branched multiple times, giving them a feathery look. Others are irregularly branched and untidy.



*Branched moss*



*Branched moss*



*Branched moss*

# Sphagnum mosses

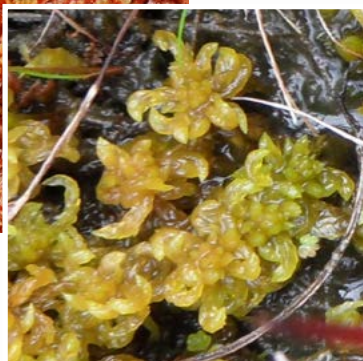
(*Sphagnum* spp.)

**Sphagnum mosses** only grow in wet places, and they are abundant in bogs where they are important peat formers. They typically form dense hummocks and wet lawns, with many tightly packed shoots. Each shoot has a cluster of branches at the tip and groups of branches at regular intervals along a straight stem. The tiny leaves can only be seen with a magnifying lens. They can be a wide range of colours including green, pink, dark red, brown, orange, and copper.

*Sphagnum* mosses may be confused with Branched mosses (page 66).



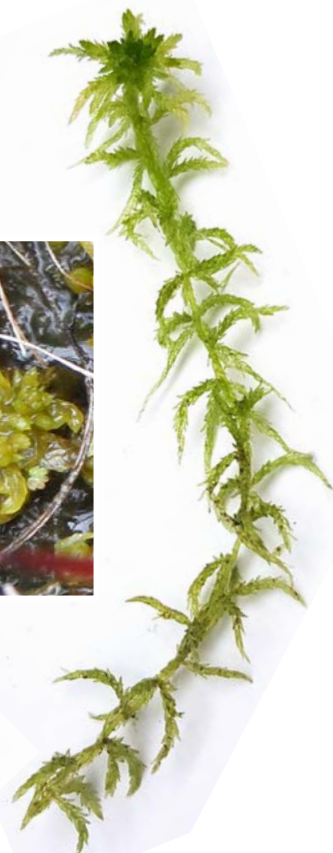
*Sphagnum* moss



*Sphagnum* moss



*Sphagnum* moss



*Sphagnum* moss

# Heathers

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

**Bell heather** (*Erica cinerea*.)

**Ling heather** (*Calluna vulgaris*)

**Cross-leaved heath** (*Erica tetralix*)



*Bell heather flower*

All heathers are small shrubs with very small leaves and strong flexible woody stems. They grow abundantly on acidic soils.

**Bell heather** has bright purple-pink, bell shaped flowers in spikes. It has leaves in bunches on its fine flexible stems.



*Bell heather*



*Bell heather sprig*

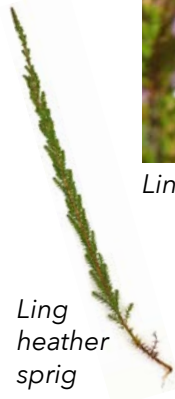
**Ling heather**, often called Heather, is a small shrub growing up to 1 m tall. It differs from other heathers in having tiny leaves arranged in opposite rows, which are so close together they cover the leaf stalk. It has many tiny pale-purple flowers on flowering spikes.



*Ling heather flower*



*Ling heather bush*



*Ling heather sprig*



**Cross-leaved heath** has pale-pink, bell-shaped flowers in short bunches at the top of its stems. They have many hairs at the base. It has tiny needle-shaped leaves held in groups of four, which make crosses up the stems.



*Cross-leaved heath flower*



*Leaves in crosses up stem*



*Cross-leaved heath sprig*



*Bell heather*

*Ling heather*

*Cross-leaved heath*



# Black bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*)

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

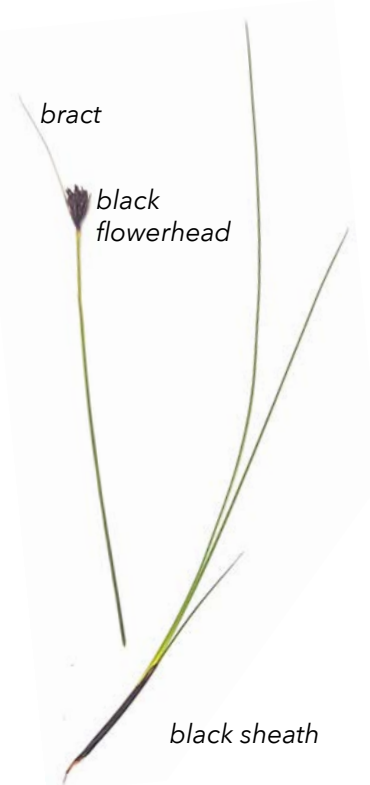
**Black bog-rush** is a medium-height sedge which grows in stiff tufts in wet parts of peatlands, often where the water is slightly alkaline. From a distance, the plants look grey, with fine stems tipped with black flowerheads.

Each bare stem has one flattened black flowerhead. There is a short, pointed structure called a bract at the base of each flower. Each flower has black scales which can be seen long after the plant has finished flowering. In early summer, the flowers produce tiny red ribbon-like stamens and white fluffy stigmas.

Black bog-rush has only a few leaves which are very thin but shaped like a capital D in cross section. There are black sheaths at the extreme base of the leaves.



*Black bog-rush*



# Negative Indicators

Negative Indicator plants are used to rapidly assess if land is in 'poor' condition; the plants themselves are not good or bad.

Negative Indicators, such as Perennial rye grass and Nettles, indicate that grassland is managed intensively or it has been improved.

This section also includes agricultural weeds which are listed in the Noxious Weeds Act (1936), such as Creeping and Spear thistle, and Broad-leaved and Curled dock.

# European gorse

(*Ulex europaeus*)

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

**European gorse** is also known as Whin or Furze. Its main flowering season is late spring but it can also flower through the winter.

European gorse bushes can grow to 2 m high. They have strong woody stems which are highly branched. The plants look grey green. Western gorse is much shorter and looks brighter green.

The flowers are yellow and pea-like. They smell of coconut. The leaves may be simple and pointed, or have two shorter spines spreading near the base. Spines are very ridged and hairy. There is a short yellow point at the tip of the spine, which is about 2 mm long.

*May be confused with Western gorse (page 59) which has spines that are shorter, less ridged and have a shorter yellow point at the tips.*



European gorse bush



European gorse flower



# Ragwort

(*Senecio jacobaea*)

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

**Ragwort** is a well-known weed of dry habitats. It is poisonous to animals but good for insects. It has many small yellow daisy-like flowers, with distinctive lobed leaves with some purple colouring at the base of the stalk and leaves. The rosettes are flat to the ground when the plant is not in flower.

Marsh ragwort looks similar, but it grows in wet areas. It has larger flowers and looks more delicate than Ragwort.



*Ragwort flowers*



*Ragwort leaf*



# Thistles

**Creeping thistle** (*Cirsium arvense*)

**Spear thistle** (*Cirsium vulgare*)

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

**Creeping thistle** has roots that spread through grassland, so if you see one plant there are likely to be more nearby. Its small, pale purplish-pink flowers smell sweet, like honey. The leaves are pale green and spiky but the spikes are soft.



Creeping thistle leaf



Creeping thistle

**Spear thistle** has large dark green rosettes. Its flowers are large and dark pinkish purple. The bottom of the flower head is very rounded.



Spear thistle



Each leaf has upturned points like spears

Spear thistle leaf

Both species can be confused with Marsh thistle & Meadow thistle (*Positive Grassland Indicators*, p44-45).

# Docks

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

**Broad leaved dock** (*Rumex obtusifolius*)

**Curled dock** (*Rumex crispus*)

There are several species of dock in Ireland. They have small green flowers in whorls on tall flowering spikes. They are closely related to Sorrels (*Positive Grassland Indicators*, p12). Their reddish seeds are more noticeable than the flowers and their features can help to separate different species.

**Broad leaved dock** can be abundant in fertile grassland. The leaves are large and rounded at their base. They are probably the most likely to be picked by children to soothe a Nettle sting. Its seeds have a toothed green part.

**Curled dock** is similar, but its leaves have a wavy edge.



Dock flowers



Dock flower



Dock seeds



Broad leaved  
dock leaf



Curled  
dock leaf

# Nettles

(*Urtica dioica*)

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

**Nettles** spread rapidly by their roots to form large patches, especially when the soil has plenty of nutrients.

Their flowers are green and tiny, on separate male and female plants. Females can be identified easily when they have seed. The dark green leaves are arranged in opposite pairs. Their edges are deeply toothed. The whole plant is covered in tiny stinging hairs.



Nettles



Nettle flowers



Nettle leaves

# Perennial rye grass

(*Lolium perenne*)

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

**Perennial rye grass**, also known as PRG, is the most commonly sown grass in Ireland and may remain in fields long after they were last reseeded. Fields containing a large amount of Perennial rye grass will look very green and almost shiny from a distance.

It has tall flowering spikes with flattened groups of small green flowers which are spread widely apart on both sides of the flower stem.

It can be recognised easily by its glossy green leaf blades. They are strong and make a twanging sound if you pull them apart between your fingers. The leaf bases are a bright cherry red colour. It does not have runners but grows in tufts of individual plants.



*Perennial rye grass flowers*



*Perennial rye grass*



# Bracken

(*Pteridium aquilinum*)

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

**Bracken** is a fern that has huge leaflike fronds growing singly from an underground stem. It can cover large areas although it does not clump. In early summer, soft scale-covered fronds can appear in grassland. The fronds unfurl in several directions at once. They can reach 2 m high by late summer. Brown dead leaves are still evident in autumn and winter.

Bracken produces spores, not flowers, which form along the underside edges of the leaf tips and look pale.



Bracken



Mature bracken fronds



Furled, early summer fronds

# Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

The following five species are controlled under the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) regulations S.I.477 (2011) which makes it an offence to knowingly disperse them or allow them to escape.

# Himalayan balsam

(*Impatiens glandulifera*)

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

**Himalayan balsam**, also known as Indian balsam, is an annual which spreads by producing a huge number of seeds. It likes growing in damp places, particularly river banks.

It grows up to 3 m tall, with large pale pink-purple flowers that look like trumpets. The seeds explode out of the flowers when ripe. The hollow stems are reddish in colour. The leaves are dark green, long and quite narrow with toothed edges and pointed tips.



*Himalayan balsam*



*Himalayan balsam flower*

# Japanese knotweed

(*Fallopia japonica*)

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

**Japanese knotweed** is a tall perennial which is tolerant of a wide range of conditions and can be found almost anywhere. It produces bamboo-like canes and its leaves are bright green with a distinctive flat base, like a shield.

It produces plumes of little white flowers in early autumn.

It produces underground stems called rhizomes, which crack open like a carrot. They are bright orange inside. Dispersal occurs because the rhizomes easily break into pieces when disturbed and each broken piece can form a new plant.



*Japanese knotweed*



*Japanese knotweed leaf*



# Giant hogweed

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

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

**Giant hogweed's** main flowering time is during the summer but flower heads can be found year-round.

Giant hogweed is much bigger than our native Hogweed and its sap can cause a serious burn. The two species can be distinguished by these four characteristics:

## Giant hogweed

Huge leaves, 1 m across  
The leaflets look jagged as if they have been cut with a pair of scissors.

Grows in huge clumps, often along roads & rivers.

Stems have purple splotches & stiff bristles.

Flower head is very large & umbrella shaped,

## Hogweed

*Smaller leaves with more rounded edges to the leaflets.*

*Grows singly.*

*Stems are green with fine hairs.*

*Flower head is flat topped & much smaller with less than 15 rays.*



*Giant hogweed*

# Giant rhubarb

(*Gunnera tinctoria*)

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

**Giant rhubarb** is a perennial which spreads by underground rhizomes, like Japanese knotweed.

It grows 2 m tall with huge rough leaves.

The leaf stalks grow up to 1.5 m long, with stiff bristles and spines along them.

The flower is a large cone-like structure which produces a huge number of seeds.



*Giant rhubarb*



*Giant rhubarb flower*

# Rhododendron

(*Rhododendron ponticum*)

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

There are many **Rhododendron** varieties and they used to be popular garden plants. Some are invasive. The most serious is *Rhododendron ponticum* which spreads rapidly and is difficult to control.

It is an evergreen shrub with dark spreading branches. It can be easily identified in May and June because it produces large and showy purple flowers. These flowers are held in clusters. Each flower is tubular with five rounded lobes. There are dots inside the tube, and long dangling stamens.

The dark green leaves are leathery, long, and oval. They are lighter green underneath, and the leaf edges are smooth.



*Rhododendron* flower



Young *Rhododendron* plant



*Rhododendron* bushes

<i>Airgead luachra</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Aiteann gaelach</i>	Western gorse
<i>Aiteann gallda</i>	Gorse
<i>Athair thalún</i>	Yarrow
<i>Báchrán</i>	Bogbean
<i>Bainne bó bleachtáin</i>	Cowslip
<i>Biolar gréagáin</i>	Lady's smock
<i>Boladh cnis</i>	Lady's bedstraw
<i>Buachalán buí</i>	Ragwort
<i>Cab an ghasáin</i>	Field scabious
<i>Caonaigh Chraobhacha</i>	Branched mosses
<i>Caorthann corraigh</i>	Valerian
<i>Ceannbhán gaelach</i>	Bog cotton
<i>Cíb dhéise</i>	Spike rush
<i>Cíb liathghorm</i>	Glaucous sedge
<i>Cluas chait</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Cnó léana</i>	Marsh cinquefoil
<i>Copóg chatach</i>	Curled dock
<i>Copóg shráide</i>	Broad leaved dock
<i>Corra meille</i>	Bitter vetch
<i>Crobh éin</i>	Common Bird's foot trefoil
<i>Crobh éin corraigh</i>	Greater Bird's foot trefoil
<i>Cúlarán</i>	Pignut
<i>Dearna Mhuire bhuí</i>	Lady's mantle
<i>Drúchtíní</i>	Sundews
<i>Duán ceannchosach</i>	Selfheal
<i>Fanaigse</i>	Violet
<i>Feabhrán</i>	Hogweed
<i>Feileastram</i>	Yellow flag
<i>Feochadán colgach</i>	Spear thistle
<i>Feochadán corraigh</i>	Marsh thistle
<i>Feochadán mín</i>	Carlina thistle
<i>Feochadán móna</i>	Meadow thistle
<i>Feochadán reatha</i>	Creeping thistle
<i>Finidí na muc</i>	Goat's beard
<i>Fraoch cloigíneach</i>	Bell heather
<i>Fraoch mór</i>	Heather
<i>Fraoch cloigíneach</i>	Bell heather
<i>Fraoch naoscaí</i>	Cross-leaved heath
<i>Fraochán</i>	Bilberry
<i>Gallfheabhrán</i>	Angelica



<i>Giúnach léana</i>	Woodrush
<i>Glanrosc</i>	Eyebright
<i>Glasair choille</i>	Bugle
<i>Glasair léane bheag</i>	Lesser spearwort
<i>Gliográn</i>	Yellow rattle
<i>Gobsheisc</i>	White Beak-sedge
<i>Léicin Dhosacha</i>	Bushy lichen
<i>Luachair chaoráin</i>	Heath rush
<i>Lus an ghiolla</i>	Lousewort
<i>Lus buí Bealtaine</i>	Marsh marigold
<i>Lus cúráin mín</i>	Smooth hawk's beard
<i>Lus míonla buí</i>	Forget-me-not
<i>Lus na pingine</i>	Marsh pennywort
<i>Lus síoda</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Magairlín meidhreach</i>	Early purple orchid
<i>Magairlín na mbeach</i>	Bee orchid
<i>Mealbhacán</i>	Wild carrot
<i>Méara Muire</i>	Kidney vetch
<i>Méaracán gorm</i>	Harebell
<i>Milseán móna</i>	Marsh lousewort
<i>Mínscoth</i>	Common knapweed
<i>Mínscoth mhór</i>	Greater knapweed
<i>Mismín mionsach</i>	Mint
<i>Néalfartach</i>	Tormentil
<i>Neantóg</i>	Nettle
<i>Noínín mór</i>	Ox-eye daisy
<i>Odhrach bhallach</i>	Devil's bit scabious
<i>Peasair na luch</i>	Tufted vetch
<i>Peasairín buí</i>	Meadow vetchling
<i>Raideog</i>	Bog myrtle
<i>Raithneach mhór</i>	Bracken
<i>Róslabhras</i>	Rhododendron
<i>Sabhaircín</i>	Primrose
<i>Samhadh bó</i>	Common sorrel
<i>Samhadh caorach</i>	Sheep's sorrel
<i>Sciollam na móna</i>	Bog asphodel
<i>Seagalach buan</i>	Perennial rye grass
<i>Searbh na muc</i>	Mouse ear hawkweed
<i>Sfagnam</i>	Sphagnum
<i>Sifín</i>	Black Bog-rush
<i>Slánlus</i>	Ribwort plantain
<i>Tím chreige</i>	Wild thyme

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	32, 33	Cross-leaved heath	68, 69
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	50	<i>Dactylorhiza</i> spp	51
<i>Alchemilla</i> spp.	37	Daisy, Ox-eye	23
Angelica	30	<i>Daucus carota</i>	32, 33
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	30	Devil's-bit scabious	48
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	17	Dock, Broad leaved	75
Asteraceae	25, 26	Dock, Curled	75
Bedstraw, Lady's	34	<i>Drosera</i> spp.	61
Bedstraws	34	<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	39
Bell heather	68, 69	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	68, 69
Bilberry	57	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	68, 69
Bird's-foot trefoil	15	<i>Eriophorum</i> spp.	63
Bird's-foot trefoil, greater	15	<i>Euphrasia</i> sp.	29
Bitter vetch	16	Eyebright	29
Black Bog-rush	70	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	28
Bog asphodel	60	Forget-me-not	55
Bog cottons	63	<i>Galium</i> spp.	34
Bogbean	62	<i>Galium verum</i>	34
Bog-myrtle	57	Goat's beard	25, 26
Bracken	78	Gorse, European	72
Bugle	50	Gorse, Western	59
Bushy lichens	65	Hawk's beard, Beaked	25, 26
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	68, 69	Hawk's beard, Smooth	25, 26
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	20	Hawkweeds	25
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	40	Heathers	68, 69
<i>Carex</i> spp.	38	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	30, 31
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	36	<i>Hieracium</i> spp.	25
Carline thistle	36	Hogweed	30, 31
Carrot, Wild	32, 33	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	35
Cat's-ear	25	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	25
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	46	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	19
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	47	Kidney vetch	15
Cinquefoil, marsh	13	Knapweed, Common	47
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	74	Knapweed, Greater	47
<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>	44	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	48
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	45	Lady's Mantles	37
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	74	Lady's Smock	40
<i>Cladonia</i> spp.	65	<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	17
<i>Comarum palustris</i>	13	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	17
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	32	Spearwort, lesser	21
Cowslip	22	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	23
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	25, 26	Lichens, bushy	65
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	25, 26	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	77

<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	16	Rye Grass, Perennial	77
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	16	Scabious, Devil's-bit	48
Lousewort	42	Scabious, Field	48
Lousewort, Marsh	42	<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	70
<i>Luzula sp.</i>	39	Sedges	38
Marigold, marsh	20	Self-heal	49
Marsh orchid	51	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	73
Meadow vetchling	17	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	43
Meadowsweet	28	Sorrel, common	17
<i>Mentha spp.</i>	52	Spear thistle	74
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	62	Sphagnum	67
Mint	52	Spike rushes	39
Mosses, branched	66	<i>Stellaria spp.</i>	34
<i>Myosotis spp.</i>	55	Stitchworts	34
<i>Myrica gale</i>	57	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	48
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	60	Sundews	61
Nettle	76	Thistle, Creeping	74
<i>Ophrys spp.</i>	51	Thistle, Marsh	45
Orchid, Bee	51	Thistle, Meadow	44
Orchids	51	Thyme, Wild	41
<i>Orchis spp.</i>	51	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	41
<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	42	Tormentil, Common	24
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	42	Tormentil, English	24
Pennywort, Marsh	35	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	25, 26
Pignut	32	Tufted vetch	17, 18
<i>Potentilla anglica</i>	24	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	72
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	24	<i>Ulex gallii</i>	59
Primrose	22	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	76
<i>Primula veris</i>	22	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	58
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	22	Valerian	30, 31
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	49	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	30, 31
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	78	Vetch, bitter	17, 18
Ragged Robin	43	Vetch, tufted	17, 18
Ragwort	73	Vetchling, meadow	17
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	21	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	17, 18
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	27	Violet	53
Rhododendron	84	White Beak-sedge	64
Rhododendron ponticum	84	Woodrushes	39
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	64	Yarrow	32, 33
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	14	Yellow flag	19
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	14	Yellow-rattle	27
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	75		
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	75		





**ACRES**

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