FLOWER GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This illustrated guide to 65 common flowers has been produced to help people complete the Common Plants Survey.

The 65 species are chosen to be easy to identify and to be indicator species representative of a wide range of habitats. These are the species which form the basis of the Common Plants Survey. The list includes such familiar plants as traveller’s-joy from woodland edges, red dead-nettle and common poppy from arable field margins; heather from moorland, buck’s horn plantain and thrift from the coast; and yellow flag and marsh-marigold from wetlands.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The flowers have been arranged by colour and strips on the edge of the page should help you to find groups of flowers of the same colour. Both the English and Latin names for each plant are given along with further information about when the plant flowers, its size, habitat, and key features which help you distinguish it from other plants. The bar on the picture of each plant shows a 1 cm scale. You may find it helpful to take with you a small ruler, marked with millimeters.

FURTHER READING

For more information about these and other British flowers we recommend The Wild Flower Key by Francis Rose and Clare O’Reilly and published by Warne. Alternatively we suggest The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe by Fitter, Fitter and Blamey, published by Collins (the fifth edition costs £14.99 and the ISBN is 0723251754).
ANEMONE, WOOD
Anemone nemorosa

FLOWERING TIME
March – April

SIZE
10 – 30cm

HABITAT
Woodlands, old hedge banks, upland meadows

COMMENTS
A distinctive plant with 5 – 8 white petals often pink on the back, making a flower about 3 – 4cm across when fully open. Beware of cultivated ones that have escaped from gardens with bigger flowers and/or more petals.

BOGBEAN
Menyanthes trifoliata

FLOWERING TIME
April – July

SIZE
10 – 30cm above water, more below

HABITAT
In shallow ponds or pools, marshes, fens or bogs

COMMENTS
Spikes of fringed white flowers (often tinged pinkish) and the leaves all crowd together just above the water surface. Unlike any other plant.
CHICKWEED, COMMON

Stellaria media

FLOWERING TIME
All year, but mainly in spring and summer

SIZE
10 – 50cm, usually sprawling

HABITAT
Ubiquitous on cultivated, open waste ground, hedge banks, gardens

COMMENTS
A notoriously variable plant, sometimes rather like others in its family. Flowers 0.8 – 1cm in diameter, with petals cleft to the base, green sepals equal in length to the petals. Leaves hairless, but a fine line of hairs down each rounded (not angled) stem. Each flower has 3 – 7 stamens with reddish-brown anthers (carrying pollen).

CLEAVERS

Galium aparine

FLOWERING TIME
All year, but mainly May – September

SIZE
5 – 300cm, sprawling, trailing or scrambling

HABITAT
Cultivated and arable land, waste-ground, woodland, beaches, scrub, open ground, gardens

COMMENTS
Readily distinguished by its very sticky hairs which stick on to soft clothing. Other members of the family are not sticky, though they may be rough.
DAISY, OXEYE
Leucanthemum vulgare

FLOWERING TIME
May – September

SIZE
10 – 80cm

HABITAT
Grassy areas, especially nutrient-rich soils

COMMENTS
The simple, undivided but toothed leaves distinguish it readily from the Mayweeds and relatives. The individual flowers are 3 – 5cm in diameter, which is larger than most of the Mayweeds. Beware the garden escape Shasta Daisy, which has flowers nearly 8cm across and forms clumps.

HAWTHORN
Crataegus monogyna

FLOWERING TIME
May – June

SIZE
Shrubs or trees to about 5m

HABITAT
Hedgebanks, woods and wood margins

COMMENTS
Spiny tree/shrub with bunches of flowers appearing after the bright green leaves, which are deeply divided. Deep red fruits (haws) appear from August.
MEADOWSWEET
Filipendula ulmaria

FLOWERING TIME
June – September

SIZE
To 120cms

HABITAT
Wet, damp places of all kinds

COMMENTS
Very distinctive with its fluffy rounded heads of small, creamy-white flowers. Has heavy scent. Each flower is only 0.2 – 0.5cm across (another scarcer species has bigger flowers about 1 – 2cm). Do not confuse with the species in the umbellifer family like Hogweed or Cow Parsley.

PARSLEY, COW
Anthriscus sylvestris

FLOWERING TIME
April – June

SIZE
60 – 100cm

HABITAT
Hedgerows, woodland edges, roadsides, except very poor soils

COMMENTS
Not very unlike lots of other medium-sized umbellifers. Look for open flower-heads with no green bracts on main stem, but several under each small flower bunch. Furrowed stems usually with purple blush (not spots) and hairy, large cut leaves that are matt green and later fruits that are oval and slightly ridged but smooth, about 0.6cm long when ripe.
**ROWAN**

*Sorbus aucuparia*

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – June (berries September)

**SIZE**
Up to about 15m, but usually 3 – 10m

**HABITAT**
Woods, moors, rocky places except heavy soils, and also common roadside tree or in parks (planted)

**COMMENTS**
The leaves are distinctive and combined with the umbel-like bunches of white flowers, each flower only about 0.8 – 1cm across, it is unlike anything else.

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**TRAVELLER’S-JOY**

*Clematis vitalba*

**FLOWERING TIME**
August – September

**SIZE**
Stems to 10m or more, climbing over other trees or shrubs

**HABITAT**
Scrambling climber in hedgerows, scrub, woodland, especially on limestone areas

**COMMENTS**
Leaves very similar to more familiar garden Clematis types, but small, fragrant, greenish-white flowers. The long, grey, hairy plumes with seeds attached are conspicuous in autumn and winter.
WATER-PLANTAIN, COMMON

Alisma plantago-aquatica

FLOWERING TIME
June – August

SIZE
20 – 100cm

HABITAT
In or beside ponds, ditches, canals, slow-moving rivers

COMMENTS
Distinguish from its close relatives by the large, broad leaves, rounded at base, and the small pale pinky-white flowers 0.8 – 1cm across with 3 petals.

YARROW

Achillea millefolium

FLOWERING TIME
June – August

SIZE
15 – 90cm

HABITAT
Grassland, banks and waysides, often a weed in lawns

COMMENTS
Like no other plants with its umbel-like heads of small white (rarely pink) flowers and very dissected feathery leaves.
**ASPHODEL, BOG**
Narthecium ossifragum

**FLOWERING TIME**
July – August

**SIZE**
To 45cm

**HABITAT**
Bogs, wet heaths, moors and mountains

**COMMENTS**
Very distinctive with its narrow flattened leaves (like Iris) and deep golden yellow or orange flowers with 6 petals.

**BIRD’S-FOOT-TREFOIL, COMMON**
Lotus corniculatus

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – September

**SIZE**
10 – 40cm

**HABITAT**
Well-drained grassland, roadsides except on very acid soils

**COMMENTS**
A familiar creeping, mat-forming plant with deep yellow pea-flowers often with reddish parts, held in small clusters on the thin stems. There are no tendrils, leaves with only 5 narrowly oval leaflets, the lower 2 bent back by stem. Each flower is 1 – 1.6cm long and give rise later to long straight pod of seeds, so the dead head looks rather like a bird’s foot.
**CELANDINE, LESSER**

Ranunculus ficaria

**FLOWERING TIME**
March – April

**SIZE**
2 – 20cm

**HABITAT**
Damp woods, meadows, stream-sides, hedge banks

**COMMENTS**
A familiar mat-forming plant with shiny leaves and shiny yellow starry flowers each with 5 to 12 petals, often different lengths in one flower.

**COLT’S-FOOT**

Tussilago farfara

**FLOWERING TIME**
April

**SIZE**
10 – 30cm

**HABITAT**
Open or disturbed habitats incl. arable land, maritime sand and shingle, landslips, roadsides and waste places

**COMMENTS**
Very distinctive early spring flower, the leaves only appearing as the flowers droop and go over. Later the head of seeds is like a small dandelion ‘clock’.
**COWSLIP**

Primula veris

**FLOWERING TIME**
April – May

**SIZE**
10 – 30cm

**HABITAT**
Open woods, grassy places, meadows, roadside banks

**COMMENTS**
Easily distinguished by the nodding head of cup-shaped deep yellow, scented flowers.

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**GOLDEN-SAXIFRAGE, OPPOSITE-LEAVED**

Chrysosplenium oppositifolium

**FLOWERING TIME**
April – May

**SIZE**
5 – 15cm, creeping, sometimes mat-forming

**HABITAT**
By streams, in boggy woods, on wet mountain ledges

**COMMENTS**
Look for its square stem, paired leaves up the stem and flowers only 0.3 – 0.4cm across. Distinguish it from the alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage which has a triangular stem, and larger flowers.
IRIS, YELLOW
Iris pseudacorus

FLOWERING TIME
June – August

SIZE
30 – 150cm

HABITAT
Wet meadows, fens, ditches, marshes, by lakes and rivers

COMMENTS
Quite unlike anything else, with its very conspicuous large yellow flowers.

LADY'S-MANTLE, ALPINE
Alchemilla alpina

FLOWERING TIME
June – August

SIZE
5 – 20 cm, sprawling

HABITAT
Grassy slopes on mountains

COMMENTS
Tell it from its many look alikes by the leaves, which are a deep green backed by silvery hairs which stick out at the leaf edge, giving a frosted look. The leaves are all cut right down to the base, making 5 – 7 narrow leaflets.
**MARSH-MARIGOLD**  
Caltha palustris

**FLOWERING TIME**  
March – May

**SIZE**  
20 – 80 cm, often forming large clumps

**HABITAT**  
Wet meadows, ditches, fens, wet woodland, by rivers

**COMMENTS**  
Like giant golden buttercups, conspicuous from a distance, and with large rounded leaves unlike any other plant.

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**PRIMROSE**  
Primula vulgaris

**FLOWERING TIME**  
March – June

**SIZE**  
10 – 30 cm

**HABITAT**  
Woods, hedgebanks, grasslands, sea cliffs, mountains

**COMMENTS**  
A single, pale yellow flower, opening flat, on each fragile, downy stem, makes this familiar plant distinctive. Beware cultivated garden escapes, usually with deeper coloured flowers.
**RATTLE, YELLOW**

*Rhinanthus minor*

**FLOWERING TIME**

June – September

**SIZE**

20 – 40cm

**HABITAT**

Parasitic on grasses, so found in any open grassy places

**COMMENTS**

The inflated pale green calyx surrounding each small bright yellow two-tipped flower makes this plant very distinctive.

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**SILVERWEED**

*Potentilla anserina*

**FLOWERING TIME**

May – August

**SIZE**

5 – 20 cm, sprawling and creeping

**HABITAT**

Wasteland, pastures, waysides, sand dunes, especially damper places

**COMMENTS**

The long, divided leaves are usually silvery-hairy underneath. The only plant with these leaves and yellow, five-petalled saucer-shaped flowers.
**BUR-REED, BRANCHED**
Sparganium erectum

**FLOWERING TIME**
June – August

**SIZE**
40 – 150cm

**HABITAT**
Waters edge, ponds, slow rivers, marshy ground, ditches

**COMMENTS**
Leaves all erect (none floating on the water) and flower stem branched with each flowerhead on the stem with no separate flowerstalk. Much more common than its smaller look–alikes.

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**LORDS-AND-LADIES**
Arum maculatum

**FLOWERING TIME**
April – May, fruits August onwards

**SIZE**
20 – 40cm

**HABITAT**
Hedgerows, woodland, brown earth soils

**COMMENTS**
The purple spike surrounded by the pale green 'petal' make this fairly distinctive. The leaves may be shiny dark green or with blackish spots, but never whitish markings.
NAVELWORT
Umbilicus rupestris

FLOWERING TIME
June – August

SIZE
10 – 50cm

HABITAT
Rocks, banks, walls, not on lime

COMMENTS
The leaves and flowers make this a very distinctive plant unlike anything else.

NETTLE, COMMON
Urtica dioica

FLOWERING TIME
June – August

SIZE
10 – 200cm

HABITAT
Wasteland, woods, fens, roadsides, hedge banks. Favours phosphate rich soils

COMMENTS
Very familiar, abundant, patch forming plant, with long dangling strands of tiny flowers which make it very distinctive. Stings too!
**PLANTAIN, BUCK’S-HORN**

*Plantago coronopus*

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – July

**SIZE**
1 – 20cm, often prostrate

**HABITAT**
Common near sea, on rocks, cliffs; dry sandy gravelly grasslands; inland commons, paths and roadsides

**COMMENTS**
The characteristic dissected leaves in a rosette make this a very distinctive plant.

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**PLANTAIN, GREATER**

*Plantago major*

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – August

**SIZE**
1 – 60cm, often flat in paths but tall in grassland

**HABITAT**
Waste ground, well-trodden ground, common lawn weed

**COMMENTS**
A long narrow spike of flowers on a tough stem and the broad oval or rounded leaves often flat on the ground distinguish this plant from others.
PLANTAIN, RIBWORT

Plantago lanceolata

FLOWERING TIME
April – October

SIZE
2 – 50cm

HABITAT
Grassy places, roadsides, hedge banks, common lawn weed

COMMENTS
A short head of greenish flowers soon turning brown to black on a long stem, and the long narrow, hairy, dark green leaves make this plant distinctive.

REED, COMMON

Phragmites australis

FLOWERING TIME
June – August, but the silvery waving dead heads are conspicuous for most of the year

SIZE
100 – 350cm high, very tall

HABITAT
Mud, shallow water by lakes, rivers, marshes, canals, fens, bog-margins, edges of salt-marshes and estuaries

COMMENTS
Unmistakable and very common in any wet area, often in huge patches.
**BLUEBELL**

Hyacinthoides non-scripta

**FLOWERING TIME**
April – June

**SIZE**
10 – 50cm

**HABITAT**
Wide distribution except mountains and fens, but mainly woodlands

**COMMENTS**
Narrow tube-like dark blue scented flowers with up-rolled tips, and narrow leaves (1 – 2cm wide) distinguish this from the commonly escaped garden one, the Spanish bluebell. Hybrids are very common around urban areas.

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**BROOKLIME**

Veronica beccabunga

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – September

**SIZE**
30 – 60cm, usually sprawling

**HABITAT**
Wet meadows, marshes, ponds, streams, wet woods

**COMMENTS**
A fleshy plant with deep blue flowers and blunt oval leaves. Other water speedwells have longer, pointed leaves and smaller paler blue flowers.
### Bugle

**Ajuga reptans**

**Flowering Time**
April – June

**Size**
10 – 30cm

**Habitat**
Damp woods, hedge banks, meadows

**Comments**
Is sometimes confused with ground ivy, but the arrangement of flowers, the leaf shape and plant habit (stiff, erect stems) are very different.

### Crane’s-Bill, Meadow

**Geranium pratense**

**Flowering Time**
June – September

**Size**
20 – 80cm, patch forming and often sprawling

**Habitat**
Meadows, roadsides, grasslands, open woods, dunes

**Comments**
The large blue saucer-shaped flowers, 2.5 – 3cm across, are unlike any other native flower but beware of garden escapes (Johnson’s Blue) that do not set seeds.
**HAREBELL**
Campanula rotundifolia

**FLOWERING TIME**
July – October

**SIZE**
10 – 40cm

**HABITAT**
Dry grassland, heath, hedge banks, dunes

**COMMENTS**
The very narrow stem leaves and round basal leaves (withering early) combined with the lovely blue bells 1.2 – 2cm long, make this a distinctive plant.

**SCABIOUS, DEVIL’S-BIT**
Succisa pratensis

**FLOWERING TIME**
June – September

**SIZE**
10 – 100cm, but usually under 50cm

**HABITAT**
Grasslands, open or shade such as hedgerows, also mountain slopes

**COMMENTS**
Distinctive deep blue or almost violet (sometimes pink!) flowers in very close-packed heads and its pointed, oval, undivided leaves mark this out from other scabious family plants.
**BALSAM, INDIAN**

*Impatiens glandulifera*

**FLOWERING TIME**

July – October

**SIZE**

1 – 3m

**HABITAT**

Typically by streams or rivers, but also wet woodlands or damp bare places

**COMMENTS**

This large plant in large clumps, with very conspicuous large, pink/purple flowers make it quite unlike anything else.

**BUTTERFLY-BUSH**

*Buddleja davidii*

**FLOWERING TIME**

July – September

**SIZE**

1 – 5m, a sprawling shrub

**HABITAT**

Any waste or bare places, including old walls and around buildings

**COMMENTS**

Very familiar greyish oval leaves and the large spikes of purple or violet flowers make this very distinctive.
**BUTTERWORT, COMMON**

*Pinguicula vulgaris*

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – July

**SIZE**
2 – 15cm, flower stems only, leaves prostrate

**HABITAT**
Bogs, fens, wet heaths, moors, limestone flushes

**COMMENTS**
The flat yellowish green leaves make this plant stand out. The flower, about 1 – 1.5cm across, deep violet-blue with a white throat patch, distinguish it from the other butterworts.

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**CLOVER, RED**

*Trifolium pratense*

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – September

**SIZE**
5 – 50cm, often sprawling

**HABITAT**
Waste ground, grassy places, roadsides

**COMMENTS**
The flower heads are usually oval rather than round, and the flowers are a mauve-purplish pink. The leaves usually have white ‘V’ marks on the oval leaflets.
**DEAD-NETTLE, RED**
Lamium purpureum

FLOWERING TIME
March – October

SIZE
10 – 30cm

HABITAT
Arable and waste ground, hedgerows, roadsides, garden weed

COMMENTS
The upper leaves near the flowers are usually tinged purple, a deeper colour than the flowers poking out between them. Leaves are heart-shaped.

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**FOXGLOVE**
Digitalis purpurea

FLOWERING TIME
June – August

SIZE
40 – 150cm

HABITAT
Open spaces, woodland clearings, heaths, mountainsides

COMMENTS
Very familiar plant, readily distinguished from anything else.
HEATH, CROSS-LEAVED

Erica tetralix

FLOWERING TIME
July – September

SIZE
20 – 50cm

HABITAT
Wet heaths, moors, bogs, acid soils

COMMENTS
The cross leaves and quite large, paler pink or purple rounded flowers distinguish this from other heathers, together with the thin leaves in whorls of four.

HEATHER

Calluna vulgaris

FLOWERING TIME
July – September

SIZE
Usually 50 – 100cm, often forming extensive patches

HABITAT
Heaths, moors, rocky places, bogs, open woodland, mainly on sandy/peaty soils

COMMENTS
Distinguished by its rather small cup-shaped flowers in a variety of pale purple or pink shades, sometimes white. The leaves are thin, tiny and in opposite rows.
HEATHER, BELL

Erica cinerea

FLOWERING TIME
July – September

SIZE
20 – 50 cm

HABITAT
Dry acid heaths and moors, open woods

COMMENTS
The bell-like flowers are a conspicuous deep purple, with tiny thin leaves in whorls (any number) on the tough stem.

HERB-ROBERT

Geranium robertianum

FLOWERING TIME
April – November

SIZE
10 – 50 cm

HABITAT
Woods, hedgerows, shady places, scree, shingle, trails, garden weed especially by shady walls

COMMENTS
Distinguished from other members of its family by the pretty purple-veined flowers and characteristic cut-in leaf shape, usually with red or purple stems.
**LOUSEWORT, MARSH**

*Pedicularis palustris*

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – September

**SIZE**
10 – 50cm

**HABITAT**
Fens, moors, damp heaths, bogs, meadows

**COMMENTS**
The very dissected leaves are characteristic. Note also the flowers go to the top of the unbranched stems, and the inflated pale green calyx is hairy.

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**PURPLE-LOOSESTRIFE**

*Lythrum salicaria*

**FLOWERING TIME**
June – August

**SIZE**
1 – 2m

**HABITAT**
River edges, marshes, fens, many wet places, including wet woods

**COMMENTS**
A stately plant bigger than anything else that looks remotely like it, usually in clumps by water.
SELFHEAL
Prunella vulgaris

FLOWERING TIME
June – October

SIZE
3 – 20cm

HABITAT
Grassland, wood clearings, rough ground, wasteland, common lawn weed, often mat-forming

COMMENTS
The hairy leaves are often purple tinged, and the flowers are in a short ‘head’ at the top of the stem only.

TEASEL
Dipsacus fullonum

FLOWERING TIME
July – August

SIZE
1 – 3m

HABITAT
Open woods, stream banks, roadsides, rough ground, grassland, marginal habitats, railway banks

COMMENTS
Very distinctive plant, more than twice the size of the much scarcer lesser teasel, and with leaves making a cup that catches rainwater.
**VETCH, TUFTED**

*Vicia cracca*

**FLOWERING TIME**
June – August

**SIZE**
30 – 200cm, often sprawling

**HABITAT**
Grassy places, bushes, hedgerows. Scrambling/climbing habit

**COMMENTS**
Deep violet-blue flowers are characteristic, with no white or yellow on them. Some non-native weeds look rather similar, but have larger flowers with some parts usually white or yellow.

**VIOLET, MARSH**

*Viola palustris*

**FLOWERING TIME**
April – July

**SIZE**
5 – 20cm

**HABITAT**
Bogs, fens, marshes, wet heaths, wet woods

**COMMENTS**
Distinguish from its many look-alikes by kidney-shaped leaves, 2 tiny green bracts about half-way up the flower stems, and the smallish (1 – 1.5cm) pale lilac flowers with deep purple veins, spurs behind very short.
**CAMPION, RED**
Silene dioica

**FLOWERING TIME**
Nearly all year but mainly April – November

**SIZE**
30 – 100cm

**HABITAT**
Lowland, shady sites, woods, hedge banks; also on mountain scree, slopes, open cliffs

**COMMENTS**
Like nothing else with its deep pink flowers and softly hairy leaves. Ignore pale pink ones (hybrids) and white ones (white campion).

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**CINQUEFOIL, MARSH**
Potentilla palustris

**FLOWERING TIME**
June – July

**SIZE**
20 – 50cm

**HABITAT**
Fens, marshes, bogs, wet pools, not very limy water

**COMMENTS**
The star-shaped deep purple or brownish flowers distinguish this plant. No look-alike has pointed petals this colour.
**PIMPERNEL, SCARLET**

*Anagallis arvensis*

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – September

**SIZE**
5 – 20cm, usually sprawling or prostrate

**HABITAT**
Waste ground, open and arable land, sand dunes, garden weed

**COMMENTS**
Its characteristic red five-petalled starry flowers are unmistakable, but they close up in dull weather.

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**POPPY, COMMON**

*Papaver rhoeas*

**FLOWERING TIME**
June – August

**SIZE**
40 – 80cm

**HABITAT**
Arable, waste ground, field edges, roadsides

**COMMENTS**
The striking, bright red flowers, about 7 – 10cm across, stand out from a distance. The seed head (fruit) is about as high as it is broad, and hairless.
POPPY, LONG-HEADED
Papaver dubium

FLOWERING TIME
June – August

SIZE
40 – 80cm

HABITAT
Arable and waste ground, field edges, roadsides

COMMENTS
Much less brilliant red than the common poppy, and normally smaller flowers (3 – 7cm across). The seed head (fruit) is about twice as high as it is wide, and hairless.

BUTTERBUR
Petasites hybridus

FLOWERING TIME
March – May

SIZE
10 – 40cm

HABITAT
Wet meadows, streamsides, copses

COMMENTS
The pale pinkish flowers are tiny in small groups on the stems, appearing before the leaves. The huge leaves (often 1m across) are downy grey beneath.
CROWBERRY
Empetrum nigrum

FLOWERING TIME
April – June

SIZE
5 – 30cm, mat-forming, sprawling low shrub

HABITAT
Moors, bogs, wet mountain slopes

COMMENTS
Somewhat heather-like, but the tiny pink or mauve 6-petalled flowers are starry and almost stalk-less, partly buried among the tiny leaves. The small berries start green, go pink, purple and finally black.

HEMP-AGRIMONY
Eupatorium cannabinum

FLOWERING TIME
July – September

SIZE
1 – 2m, often in large clumps

HABITAT
Open or shady, damp or dry areas; waste ground and near water

COMMENTS
Check the leaf shape to avoid confusion with wild valerian or other look-alikes with big heads of tiny pink flowers.
**THRIFT**

*Armeria maritima*

**FLOWERING TIME**
April – October

**SIZE**
Low cushion, flowers to 20cm

**HABITAT**
Common around coasts, on cliffs and salt marshes, inland on mountain ledges

**COMMENTS**
A very distinctive and familiar plant with its head of pink flowers.

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**WILLOWHERB, GREAT**

*Epilobium hirsutum*

**FLOWERING TIME**
May – September

**SIZE**
1 – 2m

**HABITAT**
Damp grassland or damp woodland or pond margins and ditches

**COMMENTS**
This is so much larger and leafier than all the other willowherbs, except for the very different rosebay willowherb, that it is easy to distinguish.
BULRUSH
Typha latifolia

FLOWERING TIME
June – July

SIZE
1 – 2m

HABITAT
Ponds, streams, many wet places in shallow water

COMMENTS
Distinguish this from the Lesser Bulrush by its broad leaves (1 – 2cm wide) and robust habit, forming large clumps. Although the flowers are actually green, the brown seed heads are very conspicuous.