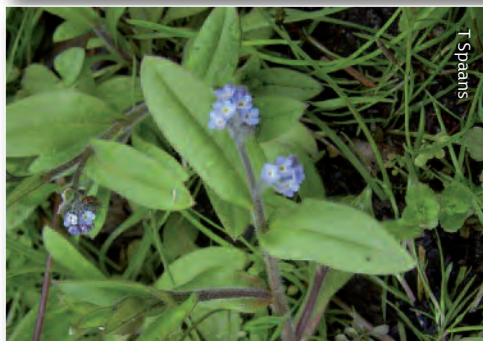




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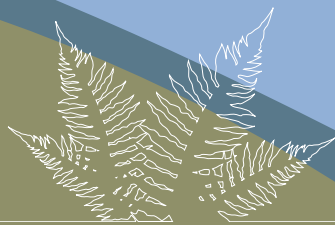


Andrew Gagg/Plantlife



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Arable land



Arable land

Arable land forms part of the patchwork mosaic of farmland. It is regularly ploughed and sown with a variety of different crops. Such regular cultivation produces a type of land that is unsuitable for a great many wildflowers.

Arable fields can only support a limited range of wild plants, mainly on land that has been left to lie fallow, and at the field margins where the crop has not been sprayed with herbicides. Wild arable plants provide food and shelter for a range of small invertebrates like beetles and spiders, which in turn provide food for birds such as Yellowhammers.

Flowering time: Arable plants are best seen in summer, from June to September.



Field Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*)

– A slender, upright, bristly plant with deeply cut leaves. The flower is conspicuous with large, crinkly, red petals, often with dark blotches at the base.

The seed head is a rounded capsule.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Field Forget-me-not

(*Myosotis arvensis*) – A plant with longish downy leaves and a curved flowering stem. This uncurls to display very small, cup-shaped flowers with five

pale blue petals around a pale centre. Commonly found on dry soils.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Pineappleweed (*Matricaria discoidea*) – A low-growing plant with distinctive greenish-yellow flowerheads, like the centre of a daisy without the white petals. It has finely-

divided leaves and smells like pineapple.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Common Chickweed

(*Stellaria media*) – A sprawling plant with a single line of hairs along its stems. Leaves are egg-shaped and hairless, and flowers are tiny with five

deeply notched white petals. Very common also in urban locations.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Prickly Sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*)

– A tall, robust plant with hairless stems and crispy, spiny, thistle-like leaves. The flowerhead is like a dandelion, with golden yellow flowers.

A milky fluid oozes from cut stems.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Common Mouse-ear

(*Cerastium fontanum*) – A low-growing plant with densely hairy, oval leaves. Flowers are in loose clusters, very small, white, with five deeply notched

petals. Found in many different habitats.

Location: _____
Date: _____

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If you enjoyed this and are interested in learning more about our wild plants then join in with **Wildflowers Count** – contact us at the Plantlife Scotland office or through our website for more details.

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