



Andrew Gaggy/Plantlife



Don Greves



Lorne Gill/SNH



Phil Champion

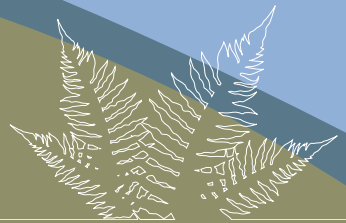


Roger Griffith



S van der Molen

Coasts



Coasts

Scotland's coastline is very variable, with rocky cliffs, muddy shores or sandy dunes being either eroded away or built up with sediment, due to the winds and the tides. These different types of coastline support a range of wild plants, growing anywhere from the harsh exposure of a cliff ledge to the shelter of a shingle beach.

They may not look like they have much in common, but one feature of all coastal plants is that they can thrive in a salty environment as sea spray splashes inland during rough weather.

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



Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) – Forms dense cushions of long, narrow, grass-like, fleshy leaves. Thrift has a small rounded flowerhead comprising many small pink,

five-petaled flowers, on a long, thin stalk. Thrift can also be found high on mountainsides.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*) – A rounded flowerhead with many small yellow flowers sitting in a white, woolly ball. Leaves are long and thin, in pairs on a

stem, green with silky white hairs underneath. Found on coastal cliffs and banks.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) – Tall, rigid, grey-green leaves growing in dense tufts. The flowerhead is long and silky at the top of a long, firm spike. Marram traps sand

and builds up dunes.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*) – A tall plant of muddy shores, Sea Aster has long, fleshy, green leaves. The flower is a distinctive daisy-like shape, with a yellow centre surrounded

by lilac petal-like rays.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Whin, or Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) – A large evergreen shrub with many sharp green spines. Its golden yellow flowers, with a distinctive coconut scent, bloom from

spring through to autumn. Not to be confused with Broom which has no spines.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) – A dense, thorny shrub with long, thin silvery-green leaves. Instantly recognised by thick clusters of bright orange berries. Sea-

buckthorn grows in dense clumps on sand dunes.

Location: _____
Date: _____

Plantlife

Plantlife Scotland
Balallan House
Allan Park
Stirling
FK8 2QG

Tel: 01786 469778/478509

Email: scotland@plantlife.org.uk

www.plantlife.org.uk

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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