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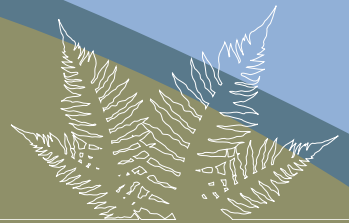
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Meadows & grassland

First Steps: get to know your wild flowers



Meadows & grassland

Grasslands are fields full of grasses and flowers, but the variety of wildflowers in any field depends very much on how the field is grazed by animals, or mown by man for hay or silage. The best grasslands for wildflowers tend to be old hay meadows where chemical fertilizers are not used, and that are traditionally cut after the flowers have set seed.

Farm fields are likely to be dominated by a few grass species rather than wildflowers due to fertilizer and continual grazing by sheep or cattle, but field edges and odd corners of farms may be surprisingly rich in flowers

Flowering time: Meadow flowers are best seen in summer, from June to September.



Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) – A tall, daisy-like flower with white petal-like rays and a yellow centre. It has a rosette of spoon-shaped leaves at the base but long, toothed leaves on the stalk.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Meadow Crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*) – A large bushy plant with large, rounded, deeply cut leaves on sticky, hairy stalks. Flowers form in pairs, and are purplish-blue, with five petals. The seed head looks like a long, thin beak.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) – A slightly hairy plant with a rosette of long, oval leaves, mainly at the base of the flower stalk. A long, thin stem supports a rounded head

of blue-purple flowers.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) – A rosette of crinkled leaves at the base gives way to deeply divided leaves up the stem. Ragwort has a flat-topped flowerhead of yellow and orange daisy-like flowers. Often seen in grazed fields where this plant is avoided by grazing animals.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) – Tends to form clumps, with hairy stems and lance-shaped leaves. It has a thistle-like head of reddish-purple tufts set in a

dark brown, rounded head. Also found in waste ground and roadsides.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) – A small slender plant with rounded leaves on stalks at the base, but with long narrow leaves on stems. It has a delicate, nodding, sky-

blue, bell-shaped flower. Most often found on dry grasslands and heaths.

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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