



Blackthorn

Prunus spinosa

Often mistaken for Hawthorn, its white flowers actually bloom on its black stems before the leaves appear.

Where to find it: Woodland & hedgerows



Dog Violet

Viola riviniana

The most common wild violet in the UK, it has distinctive bluish-purple petals and heart-shaped leaves.

Where to find it: Woods & hedges



Gorse

Ulex europaeus

The flowers are said to smell like coconut. Before the Industrial Revolution, it was used as fuel for fires and kilns.

Where to find it: Banks & heathland



Ground Ivy

Glechoma hederacea

Once known as Alehoof, this flower was used to make beer before the cultivation of hops. Its part of the mint family.

Where to find it: Anywhere there's shade



Lesser Celandine

Ranunculus ficaria

"Celandine" comes from chelidon - the Greek word for swallow. Like the bird, it's a sign that spring has arrived.

Where to find it: Shady, damp ground



Polypody Fern

Polypodium vulgare

The bright yellow dots are known as sori and hold spores which the fern can fire at a speed of 10m per second.

Where to find it: Woods, banks & walls



Primrose

Primula vulgaris

The name "primrose" derives from the Latin words prima rosa which means "first rose" since it blooms so early.

Where to find it: Banks & woods



Snowdrops

Galanthus nivalis

Although formally considered "native", snowdrops are recent arrivals, first recorded in the wild in 1778.

Where to find it: Woods & riverbanks



Stinking Hellebore

Helleborus foetidus

Crushing the leaves produces a beefy smell, that gives the plant its name. Poisonous, so do not ingest.

Where to find it: Woods & verges