

Let's Go! Habitats!

Plant Identification Sheets



Cow Parsley (common name)
Arthriscus Sylvestris (latin name)



Description

This tall upright plant grows up to 150 cm high. Its hollow stems bear green leaves which are 20-30 cm long. The tiny white flowers each have five petals and are arranged in 6-12 clusters (umbels) at the top of each stem.

Habitat

Abundant throughout the British Isles on roadside verges, hedgerows and grassland.

When to see them

Flowers April to June.

Endangered? No.

Common Nettle (common name)
Urtica Dioica (latin name)



Description

This evergreen plant varies in height from 30-140 cm. Its oval shaped serrated leaves are pointed at one end. Its stem and leaves are covered with stinging hairs containing histamine which causes anyone brushing past to develop an itchy skin rash. It bears yellowish green feather-like flowers.

Habitat

Nettles grow almost anywhere. In urban areas they are often found growing on waste ground.

When to see them

All year. Flowers from June to September.

Endangered? No.

Ivy (common name)
Hedera Helix (latin name)



Description

This evergreen climbing plant attaches itself to a surface using small aerial roots. Its lower non-flowering branches bear dark green leaves with 3-5 lobes. Higher leaves are paler green, non-lobed and shiny. Greenish yellow flowers form on the upper stems. The flowers have five petals and are arranged in clusters (umbels). Ivy bears black berries in the autumn.

Habitat

Ivy can be found climbing on walls, rocks and trees and it sometimes carpets the ground.

When to see them

All year. Flowers from June to September.

Endangered? No.

Ivy-leaved Toadflax (common name)
Cymbalaria Muralis (latin name)



Description

This trailing plant can grow up to 60 cm long. Its ivy-shaped leaves have 5-9 lobes. Each tiny flower is two-lipped and looks like a miniature snapdragon. The lilac petals have a curved yellow honey-guide in the centre which attracts bees to pollinate the flowers.

Habitat

Found growing on walls and pavements in urban areas.

When to see them

Flowers from April to October.

Endangered? No.

Oxford Ragwort (common name)
Senecio Squalidus (latin name)



Description
This plant has branching upright stems and grows up to 60 cm. Its hairless lobed leaves are sharply pointed at one end. Oxford Ragwort has bright yellow flowers.

Habitat
Commonly seen growing on railway embankments, roadside verges and walls.

When to see them

Flowers from April to November.

Endangered? No.

Rose Bay Willowherb (common name)
Chamerion angustifolium (latin name)



Description

This tall perennial herb can reach heights of over a metre. Its smooth unbranched stems bear alternate slender leaves. It has long flowering spikes with numerous pink flowers that each has four petals.

Habitat

Often colonises waste ground in urban areas. Also grows in woodland clearings and on mountain sides.

When to see them

Flowers from June to September.

Endangered? No.