

Bright Green Nature

Scottish Native Plant List



What is a native plant?

A plant that arrived naturally since the end of the last glaciation (i.e. without the assistance of humans) or one that was already present (i.e. it persisted during the last Ice Age)

[Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland \(BSBI.org\)](http://BSBI.org)

Recommended books about native plants, meadows and wildlife gardening

Title	Author(s)
Creating a Flower Meadow (<i>out of print, but used copies are available</i>)	Yvette Verner
How to make a Wildlife Garden	Chris Baines
RHS Companion to Wildlife Gardening	Chris Baines

NOTES: Many of the species listed need careful management in small spaces because they will self seed.

Always check plant labels for possible toxicity,
particularly if planting where children, pets or livestock are present.

SCOTTISH NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS

Type	Name	Height (cm)	Flowering Season	Flower colour	Notes
Floating	Frogbit (<i>Hydrocharis morsus ranae</i>)		Jul-Aug	White	Floats, self-roots. Leaves like mini-lily pads. Small white and yellow flower. Provides shelter for many invertebrates.
Floating	White water lily (<i>Nymphaea alba</i>)		Jul-Aug	White	Self-roots. Vigorous - good for large pond. Frogs shelter around lilies. Cover 50% of surface with plants.
Floating	Yellow water lily (<i>Nuphar lutea</i>)		Jun-Aug	Yellow	
Submerged	Common spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>)	75	May-Jul		
Submerged*	Curled pondweed (<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>)	150	May-Oct		
Submerged*	Rigid Hornwort (<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>)		Jul-Sep		Good for tadpoles. Full sun. Grows in bunches, excellent oxygenator.
Submerged*	Marestail (<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>)	100	Jun-Jul	Greenish	
Submerged*	Small Pondweed (<i>Potamogeton berchtoldii</i>)	60	Jun-Sep		
Submerged*	Spiked water-milfoil (<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>)	250	May-Jun	Purple white	Good for tadpoles, water beetles etc. Full sun.
Submerged*	Common Water crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>)		May-Sep	White	
Submerged*	Common Water-starwort (<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>)	30-60	May-Sep		
Submerged*	Willow moss (<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>)				Grows well in shade or part sun, provides good cover for pond wildlife, especially newts and dragon fly larvae.
Marginal/ Emergent**	Cotton Grass (<i>Eriophorum Angustifolia</i>)	30			Full sun. Good for container ponds.
Marginal/ Emergent**	Greater spearwort (<i>Ranunculus lingua</i>)	120	Jun-Sep	Yellow	Can be irritant to sensitive skin.
Marginal/ Emergent**	Lesser Water Plantain (<i>Baldellia Ranunculoides</i>)	10-15	May-Aug	White-yellow	Good for container ponds.
Marginal/ Emergent**	Marsh woundwort (<i>Stachys palustris</i>)	60-80	Jul-Sep	Pink-purple	
Marginal/ Emergent**	Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>)	60-90	Jun-Aug	Cream	Seeds are eaten by finches. Vigorous: will spread.
Marginal/ Emergent**	Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)	120-180	Jun-Sep	Pink	Purple flowers are loved by pollinators. Grow at edge of pond, in boggy soil. Insects will hibernate in uncut foliage. Provides seeds for birds.
Marginal/ Emergent**	Rushes (Juncus spp)				
Marginal/ Emergent**	Sedges (Carex spp)				
Marginal/ Emergent**	Water mint (<i>Mentha aquatica</i>)	40-60	Jul-Oct	lilac	Good for water edge. Pollinators love the flowers, especially butterflies: Tortoiseshell, Comma. Full sun to partial shade. Provides seeds for birds.
Marginal/ Emergent**	Water forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>)	10-20	May-Sep	Pale blue	Newts lay eggs on leaves. Finches eat seeds. Good for container ponds.
Marginal/ Emergent**	Yellow Flag iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)	150	May-Jun	Yellow	Good for dragonfly nymphs and froglets hiding amongst rhizome system. Needs a big pond!
Marshland	Cuckoo flower (<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>)	30-60	Apr-Jun	Pink-white	Good for container ponds.
Marshland	Brooklime (<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>)	5-10	May-Sep	Blue	dragonflies lay eggs on leaves.
Marshland	Globeflower (<i>Trollius europaeus</i>)	60	Jun-Aug	Yellow	large member of the buttercup family. Once widespread, it is now in decline because of grazing pressures on the damp meadows it likes.
Marshland	Marsh marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>)	60	Mar-Jul	Yellow	
Marshland	Marsh Valerian (<i>Valeriana dioica</i>)	120	Apr-Jun	Pink	Loved by insects (food source for pollinators and larvae). Good for container ponds.
Marshland	Ragged Robin (<i>Lycnhis flosculi</i>)	30-75	May-Jul	Pink	

* Oxygenators

** Marginals/Emergent = plant in pond baskets (use aquatic compost) or directly into the base of the pond

SCOTTISH NATIVE WILD FLOWERS

		Height (cm)	Flowering Season	Sun/shade	Flower colour	Soil conditions/ Habitat	Notes
Perennial	Birdsfoot Trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>)	15-25	May-Oct	Full sun	Yellow	well drained	Supports Common Blue, Dingy Skipper, Clouded Yellow butterflies
Perennial	Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)	15-60	Mar-Jun	Partial shade	blue	well drained	Ensure non-native bluebells are not present
Perennial	Common Bent grass (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>)	10-70	May-July	Sun	n/a	Poorly drained	
Perennial	Common Mouse-ear (<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>)	30-50	Apr-Nov	Sun	white	Grassland	
Perennial	Common Toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)	30-60	Jul-Oct	Sun/light shade	yellow	well drained	Supports Toadflax Brocade Moth
Perennial	Common Valerian (<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>)	Up to 150	Jun-Aug	Sun	pale pink	Damp	
Annual	Corn Marigold (<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>)	15-45	Jun-Oct	Sun	Yellow	light	
Perennial	Corncockle (<i>Agrostemma githago</i>)	60-120	Jun-Aug	Sun	purple	well drained	
Annual	Cornflower (<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>)	30-60	Jun-Aug	Sun	blue	Any	
Perennial	Cow Parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>)	60-90	Apr-Jun	Sun	white	Any	
Perennial	Cowslip (<i>Primula veris</i>)	10-30	Apr-May	Partial shade	Yellow	moist	Supports Duke of Burgundy Fritillary
Perennial	Crested dog's tail grass (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>)	5-70	May-July	Sun	n/a	well drained grassland	
Perennial	Devil's Bit Scabious (<i>Succisa pratensis</i>)	30-90	Jun-Sep	Full sun	purple	moist	
Perennial	Field Scabious (<i>Knautia arvensis</i>)	30-100	Jul-Aug	Full sun	purple	moist	
Annual	Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>)	7-25	Apr-Jun	Sun	Blue	well drained	
Biennial	Foxglove (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>)	50-150	Jun-Sep	Partial shade/sun	purple	moist, well drained	Beautiful seed heads
Perennial	Goat's Beard (<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>)	30-90	Jun-Sep	Sun	yellow	most soils	
Biennial	Great Mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>)	200	Jun-Aug	Sun	yellow	most soils	Provides seeds for birds
Perennial	Greater birdsfoot trefoil (<i>Lotus pendunculatus</i>)	30	Jun-Aug	Sun	Yellow	moist	
Perennial	Knapweed (Common - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> ; Greater-	30-60	Jun-Sep	Sun/partial shade	purple	well drained	Provides seeds for birds
Perennial	Lady's Bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>)	10-50	Jun-Aug	Sun/partial shade	Yellow	well drained	
Perennial	Meadow Cranesbill (<i>Geranium pratense</i>)	60-100	Jun-Sep	Sun/partial shade	blue	well drained	Provides seeds for birds
Perennial	Meadow Foxtail grass (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>)	Up to 100	Apr-Jun	Sun	n/a	meadow	
Perennial	Meadow Saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>)	10-50	Apr-Jun	Sun	White	well drained	Rare in the wild
Perennial	Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>)	60-150	Jun-Aug	Sun/partial shade	White	damp	Provides seeds for birds
Perennial	Ox Eye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)	20-70	Jun-Aug	Sun	White	Any	
Perennial	Red Campion (<i>Silene dioica</i>)	30-90	May-Jun	Sun/partial shade	Pink	Rich	
Perennial	Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>)	15-30	May-Oct	Sun	Pink	Grassland	
Perennial	Red Valerian (<i>Centranthus ruber</i>)	60-90	May onwards	Sun	Red	Dry	
Perennial	Sneezewort (<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>)	25-50	Jul-Sep	Partial shade	White	damp, waterlogged	
Perennial	Spiked Speedwell (<i>Veronica spicata</i>)	30-60	July onwards	Sun	blue	well drained	
Perennial	Sweet cicely (<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>)	up to 200	May-Jun	Partial shade	White	moist, well drained	Flowers, leaves, roots, stems are edible
Perennial	Sweet vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>)	30-60	Apr-Jul	Sun	n/a	Grassland	Foodplant for brown and skipper butterfly larvae
Perennial	Tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)	30-90	July onwards	Sun	yellow	most soils	
Biennial	Teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>)	80-200	Jul-Aug	Sun/partial shade	pink	rough grassland	Attractive to seed-eating birds
Biennial	White Campion (<i>Silene latifolia</i>)	up to 100	May-Oct	Sun/partial shade	White	well drained	
Perennial	Wild Carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>)	50-150	Jun-Sep	Sun	White	dry free-draining	
Perennial	Wild Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)	10-30	Mar-May	partial sun/shade	pale yellow	damp	early nectar source for emerging bumblebees
Perennial	Wild thyme (<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>)	7	May-Aug	Sun	pale purple	dry	culinary uses
Perennial	Wood Sorrel (<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>)	10	Apr-May	Shade	White	Hedgerows	
Perennial	Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)	45-60	Jun-Aug	Sun/partial shade	white	most	Provides seeds for birds
Perennial	Yellow Rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>)	20-50	Jun-Sep	Full sun	Yellow	moist or well drained	Parasitises grass: good for converting to meadow

SCOTTISH NATIVE SHRUBS & TREES **

Type	Name	Height	Flowering Season	Sun/shade	Flower colour	Soil conditions	Notes
Shrub	Bilberry/Blaeberry (<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>)	45cm	May	Light shade	White	Acidic	Berries ripen July to September
Shrub	Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)	6-7m	Early Spring	Full Sun	White	Moist well drained	Early nectar source for pollinators. Leaves provide food for many moth caterpillars. Late summer fruits for birds.
Shrub	Common Rock Rose (<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>)	up to 30cm	Jun-Sept		Yellow	Dry, rocky	Nectar source for bees. Food plant for the butterflies: green hairstreak, brown argus and northern brown argus, which feed almost exclusively on it.
Tree	Crabapple (<i>Malus sylvestris</i>)	7-9m*	Early Spring	Sun, partial shade	Pink-white	Most	Early nectar source for pollinators. Autumn fruits for birds & small mammals
Shrub	Dog Rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>)	1.5m	May-June	sun	Pink	Moist, well drained	Nectar for pollinators, hips provide food into Winter
Tree	Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)	10m*	June	Sun, partial shade	White	Most	Early nectar source for pollinators. Leaves provide food for many moth caterpillars. Late summer fruits for birds.
Tree	Goat Willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>)	10m	Early Spring		yellow/green	Moist	Early nectar source for pollinators. Leaves provide food for many moth caterpillars. Late summer fruits for birds.
Tree	Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	15m*	May-June	Full Sun	White	Most	Supports more than 300 species of insect. Flowers eaten by dormice and provide nectar and pollen for pollinators. Haws eaten by many migrating birds.
Tree	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	10m*	Spring	shade tolerant		Well drained to moist	Catkins feed pollinators. Nuts feed lots of small mammals in Autumn.
Shrub	Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>)	up to 60cm	July-Sept	Full Sun	pink purple	Acidic	
Tree	Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	15m*		Most	White	Most	Main food plants for the holly blue butterfly caterpillar. Its deep, dry leaf litter beneath the tree may be used by toads, hedgehogs and small mammals for hibernation. Berries feed birds and mammals.
Climber	Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>)	8m	Jun-Sept	Semi-shade	Cream	Most	Supports many pollinating insects, including night flying moths; many birds eat the berries (late summer and autumn)
Tree	Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	8-15m	Spring		Cream	Most but prefers, well drained	Flowers are a nectar source for pollinators. Berries provide food for birds.
Shrub	Guelder Rose (<i>Viburnum opulus</i>)	4m	May-Jul	Sun	White	Moist	Flowers are a nectar source, particularly for hoverflies. Berries provide food for birds.

* Can be kept smaller with pruning

** [Most information from Woodlands Trust website](#)

NATIVE PLANTS FOR A SENSORY GARDEN

Many native plants work well in a sensory garden. Here are just a few suggestions.

Type	Name	Sense				
		Visual	Sound	Touch	Smell	Taste
Shrub	Bilberry/Blaeberry (<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>)	✓				✓
Perennial	Common Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>)	✓				✓
Perennial	Corn Mint (<i>Mentha arvensis</i>)	✓			✓	✓
Perennial	Cowslip (<i>Primula veris</i>)	✓				✓
Perennial	Goat's Beard (<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>)	✓		✓		
Tree	Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	✓			✓	
Climber	Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>)	✓			✓	
Perennial	Lady's Bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>)	✓			✓	
Perennial	Meadow Foxtail grass (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>)	✓		✓		
Perennial	Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>)	✓		✓	✓	
Perennial	Musk Mallow (<i>Malva moschata</i>)	✓			✓	
Perennial	Quaking Grass (<i>Briza media</i>)	✓	✓			
Perennial	Sweet vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>)	✓			✓	✓
Perennial	Tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)	✓		✓	✓	
Biennial	Teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>)	✓	✓	✓		
Perennial	Wavy hair grass (<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>)	✓	✓			
Perennial	Wild Basil (<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>)	✓			✓	✓
Perennial	Wild Carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>)	✓			✓	
Perennial	Wild Garlic/Ramsons (<i>Allium ursinum</i>)	✓			✓	✓
Perennial	Wild Marjoram (<i>Origanum vulgare</i>)	✓			✓	✓
Perennial	Wild Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)	✓			✓	
Perennial	Wild Strawberry (<i>Fragaria vesca</i>)	✓				✓
Perennial	Wild thyme (<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>)	✓			✓	✓
Perennial	Yellow Rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>)	✓	✓			