



Plantlife

Threatened arable plants of Wales

An identification guide



**Arable
plants
are the
most
critically
threatened
group of
wild plants
in the UK**



**Identifying where
these rare species
remain is essential
to ensuring their
conservation.**

Wales is rich in arable plants and the distinctive arable flora which has developed under its mild, wet climate is of international importance.

Yet during the 20th century the amount of arable land across Wales reduced by 75 per cent. Just 11 per cent of land is now arable.

Many fields have been converted to permanent pasture to cater for a rise in livestock farming across Wales. Meanwhile the costs of arable farming have increased, making it uneconomical for smaller farms to cultivate land.

However the arable fields that are still cultivated retain impressive arable displays. Corn marigolds can still be seen creating a blaze of golden colour, and less well-known species such as corn spurrey, field woundwort, weasel's-snout and dwarf spurge can still easily be found.

Wales is also a hotspot for some very rare arable plants, including small-flowered catchfly, large-flowered hemp-nettle, corn buttercup, shepherd's needle, broad-fruited cornsalad and cornflower.

This guide not only helps you identify Wales's threatened arable plants, but also provides germination and flowering times, soil types they tend to grow on, seed longevity and places where populations have most recently been found.

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Blue pimpernel

🦊 Gwlyddyn mair benyw

Anagallis arvensis ssp. foemina

Scrambling mat-forming plant with stems up to 30cm and opposite stalkless oval leaves 20 x 9mm. The five blue petals are about 10mm in diameter, do not overlap showing the sepal between the petals, and are on stalks shorter than the leaves. The petal edges are sparsely hairy and the hairs are four cells (sections) in length.



©Richard Moujse

Soil: Calcareous.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: July - August.

Distribution: The most recent record was reported from Monmouthshire.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Cornflower

🦊 Glas yr ŷd

Centaurea cyanus

Tall, branched plant up to 1m. Grey-green hairy leaves with long, narrow and variably dissected lower leaves 10-20cm in length and smaller, un-dissected upper leaves. The blue flower heads are typical of the daisy family and up to 3cm in diameter.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Sandy soils but may be present on calcareous clays and chalk.

Germination period: Autumn and spring.

Flowering period: June - August.

Distribution: Scattered populations in Cardiganshire, Pembrokeshire, Anglesey, Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire. Cornflower is often used in annual seed mixtures.

Seed longevity: Short-lived seed unless deeply-buried where it may survive dormant for longer.

Corn mint

 Mintys yr ôd
Mentha arvensis

Downy, aromatic herb with a peppery mint smell when bruised, 10-30cm tall. Leaves are round-elliptical and blunt-tipped, arranged in opposite pairs up the stem. Dense whorls of flowers are present at the leaf axils. The calyx of each flower is bell-shaped and very hairy with short triangular teeth. The petals are mauve with projecting stamens.



©JJP Martin / Plantlife

Soil: All soil types.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: May - October.

Distribution: Widespread across Wales.

Seed longevity: Unknown.

Field woundwort

 Briwlys y tir âr
Stachys arvensis

Hairy spreading plant with branched stems from the base growing to more than 20cm. Opposite paired oval-heart-shaped hairy leaves have short stalks. Bilaterally symmetrical pale purple flowers with a large lower lip and three smaller lobes, up to 7mm long, are arranged in whorls of up to 6 flowers in leaf axils. Unpleasant smell when bruised.



©Bob Gibbons / Plantlife

Soil: Sandy and clay loams.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: April - November.

Distribution: Widespread across Wales.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Corn marigold

 Melyn yr ŷd
Glebionis segetum

Tall branched plant up to 60cm. Deeply-shallowly lobed leaves are about 10cm long and greyish-green in colour with a waxy surface. The orangey-yellow flower heads are typical of the daisy family with disc florets producing cylindrical, unwinged seeds and ray florets producing broad-winged seeds.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Sandy soils which may be acid or calcareous where they are derived from shell-sand.

Germination period: Spring (early autumn seedlings may be able to survive frosts).

Flowering period: June - October.

Distribution: Pembrokeshire, Cardiganshire, Anglesey, Lleyn peninsula and Gower peninsula. Scattered populations elsewhere. Corn marigold is often used in annual seed mixtures.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Smooth cat's-ear

 Melynydd moel
Hypochaeris glabra

Small dandelion-like annual with a rosette of leaves and flowering stem up to 40cm. The scales on the flowering stem are shaped-like cats' ears. Hairless 1-8cm long leaves are narrowly-spear shaped, broader closer to the tip than base with occasional teeth. Each inflorescence in the flower head has a single large yellow petal twice as long as broad only opening in full sunshine.



©Andrew Gagg / Plantlife

Soil: Acidic sandy soils.

Germination period: Autumn.

Flowering period: June - October.

Distribution: Coastal fields and sand dunes on Anglesey, in Caernarfonshire and Glamorganshire.

Seed longevity: Short-lived.

Corn buttercup

🦊 Cranfanc yr ŷd
Ranunculus arvensis

Branched plant up to 50cm. Stalked, 3-5 lobed deeply-divided leaves are more elongated and linear than the leaves of common grassland buttercups. Typical but smaller, pale lemon-yellow buttercup flowers up to 12mm in diameter. Distinctive seeds up to 8mm in length, ovate and covered in spines up to 2mm in length.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Sandy and clay loams.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: April - November.

Distribution: Widespread across Wales.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Henbane

🦊 Llewyr yr iâr
Hyoscyamus niger

Tall bristly-stemmed annual and biennial plant up to 80cm. Sticky-haired, glaucous-green, strong-smelling leaves that are oval-oblong and toothed. The upper leaves may clasp the stem. Two rows of flowers are present along a flowering stem, flowering in succession with new buds growing at the top of the stem. Dull-yellow flowers have purple veins and a purple centre. Whole plant is very poisonous.



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Soil: Sandy, light chalk and limestone soils.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: July - September.

Distribution: Radnorshire, Flintshire, Montgomeryshire, Merionethshire and Cardiganshire.

Seed longevity: Unknown.

Sharp-leaved fluellen

 Llysiâu Llywelyn

Kickxia elatine

&

Round-leaved fluellen

 Llysiâu-Llywelyn deilgrwn

Kickxia spuria

Long-stemmed, prostrate creeping plant with many branching stems and occasionally forming mats. Leaves are arranged alternatively up the stem and basal leaves of both species are round. Bilaterally symmetrical yellow flowers with a purple upper lip have fused petals and straight spur. Flowers are borne solitarily on long stalks from the leaf axils.

Sharp-leaved fluellen has

hairy triangular-shaped leaves with teeth at the bottom projecting sideways similar to an arrow-head. These leaves are only present from the second or third set of leaves on the flowering stem.

Round-leaved fluellen continues to grow hairy round-oval shaped leaves along the flowering stem. The leaves tend to be larger than those produced by sharp-leaved fluellen.

Sharp-leaved fluellen



Round-leaved fluellen



Sharp-leaved fluellen

Llysiâu Llywelyn

Kickxia elatine

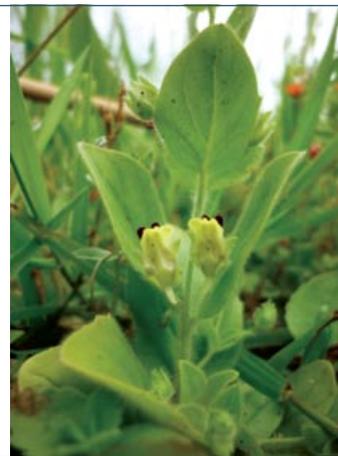


©Cath Shellsweil

Round-leaved fluellen

Llysiâu-Llywelyn deilgrwn

Kickxia spuria



©Cath Shellsweil

Soil: Both species present on well-drained calcareous soils. Sharp-leaved fluellen more common on sands compared with round-leaved fluellen which is more common on clay loams.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: July - October.

Distribution: Sharp-leaved fluellen is widespread across Wales. Round-leaved fluellen is restricted to Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Large-flowered hemp-nettle

Y benboeth amryliw

Galeopsis speciosa

Tall branched plant up to 1m. Nettle-like ovate leaves are shallowly toothed and 2.5-8cm long. The large bilaterally symmetrical flowers have a hairy hooded upper-lips, large three-lobed lower lip, and very long corolla tube up to 3cm. The pale-yellow petals have a large violet patch on the lower lip and each flower produces four seeds.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Clay loams.

Germination period: Autumn and spring.

Flowering period: July - October.

Distribution: Coastal populations only, particularly around the sand dune systems of Anglesey, Caernarfonshire, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Glamorganshire.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Red hemp-nettle

Y benboeth gulddail

Galeopsis angustifolia

Low-growing plant up to 50cm. Shallowly-toothed, softly-hairy, spear-shaped leaves up to 1.5cm long by less than 1cm wide. The relatively large bilaterally symmetrical flowers have a hooded upper-lips, large three-lobed lower lip and very long corolla tube and are densely clustered in leaf axils. The pinkish-red petals have white patches and each flower produces four seeds.



©Richard Mouise

Soil: Light chalky and sandy soils and coastal shingle.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: July - September, some regrowth and flowering in cereal stubbles.

Distribution: Two known populations both on coastal shingle in Glamorganshire.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Henbit dead-nettle

🦊 Marddanhadlen goch gron

Lamium amplexicaule

Low-growing, irregularly-branched plant up to 30cm. Round irregularly-toothed leaves arranged in opposite pairs up the stem. Lower leaves have short stalks and upper leaves are stalkless and clasp the stem. Up to 10 pinkish-purple bilaterally symmetrical flowers are borne in whorls in the leaf axils and at the end of the stem. Each flower produces four seeds.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Present on a wide variety of soils, especially well drained calcareous loams.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: July - August.

Distribution: Widespread across Wales.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Grass-poly

🦊 Gwyarllys isop-ddail

Lythrum hyssopifolium

Low-growing, spreading plant with a branched stem up to 20cm. Leaves are stalkless and oval at the base of the stem and become increasingly narrower with parallel-sides up the flowering stems. Flowers are borne singly in the leaf axils along the stem and have six pink petals. It is found in crop-free areas as a result of winter water-logging and summer dry-outs.



©Andrew Gagg / Plantlife

Soil: Water-retentive soils, especially clays.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: June - July.

Distribution: The only known recent population was in Monmouthshire.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Prickly poppy

 Pabi penwrychog

Papaver argemone

&

Rough Poppy

 Pabi penbigog

Papaver hybridum

Basal rosettes of leaves with stems growing from the centre up to 50cm. Leaves are pinnately divided with narrow, parallel-sided segments and can appear flattened.

Flowering stems can branch at the base but more commonly the main stem is branched each bearing a single flower at the end with four petals.

Prickly poppy flowers are up to 5cm across with orange-red petals that persist for a single

day. The stamens have bright blue pollen. The elongated, club-shaped seed head is 2-2.5cm long with numerous prickles and a terminal disc.

Rough poppy flowers are up to 5cm across with scarlet petals that have black blotches at their base. The stamens have deep blue pollen.

The spherical seed head is 1-1.5cm in diameter with numerous upward pointing prickles and a terminal disc.

Prickly poppy



Rough Poppy



Prickly poppy

 Pabi penwrychog

Papaver argemone



©Cath Shellswell

Rough Poppy

 Pabi penbigog

Papaver hybridum



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Predominantly chalky and sandy loams, sometimes calcareous clays.

Germination period: Spring and autumn.

Flowering period: June - July.

Distribution: Prickly poppy is known from a few scattered sites on Anglesey, Pembrokeshire and Gower peninsula. Rough poppy has only been recorded recently from Pembrokeshire and Gower peninsula.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Weasel's-snout or Lesser snapdragon

Y trwyn-y-llo lleiaf

Misopates orontium

Tall, branched plant with a leafy stem growing up to 60cm. Shiny leaves up to 5cm long are dark-green and narrowly oval in shape. Stalkless bilaterally symmetrical flowers are borne in the leaf axis. The petals are deep pink with a slight yellow tinge in the flower tube and resemble those of the garden snapdragon.



©Cath Shellsweil

Soil: Sandy loams.

Germination period: Predominantly spring, with some autumn and summer germination.

Flowering period: June - October.

Distribution: Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Gower, Cardiganshire, Llyn peninsula, Anglesey and Monmouthshire.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Night-flowering catchfly

Gludlys nos-flodeuol

Silene noctiflora

Branched sticky-haired plant up to 50cm. A basal rosette of 5-10cm elliptical leaves dies back. Smaller, narrower stem leaves, up to 8cm. Five-petalled white-pink flowers are 2cm across with creamy-yellow backs. Each petal is deeply divided into two. The flowers are tightly-rolled by mid morning, opening again in the early evening. Behind the flower are oval seed capsules about 1.5cm long.



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Soil: Calcareous and sandy loams.

Germination period: Predominantly spring.

Flowering period: July - September.

Distribution: Denbighshire and north Cardiganshire.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Common cudweed

Edafeddog
Filago vulgaris

A branched, erect silvery-grey plant up to 50cm. Woolly stems have strap-shaped, wavy blunt-tipped, woolly leaves. The leaves below the flowering head are shorter than the terminal cluster of flowers. Globular flower clusters are present on each branch with outer woolly white bracts and inner pointed yellow-bristles.



©Richard Moujse

Soil: Acid and calcareous sandy soils, loams and chalk.

Germination period: Autumn and spring.

Flowering period: July - August.

Distribution: Scattered populations across Wales but more often found in dry grasslands and rare on arable land.

Seed longevity: Unknown.

Field pepperwort

Codywasg y maes
Lepidium campestre

Annual and biennial softly hairy plant up to 60cm. Lyre-shaped basal leaves wither and triangular toothed stem leaves are stalkless with clasping pointed basal lobes. Inconspicuous white flowers are 2-2.5mm in diameter in long racemes. Five, 4mm fruits are covered in minute bumps, visible using a hand lens, and have a short style not projecting above the fruit notch.



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Soil: Dry sandy and gravelly soils.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: May - August.

Distribution: Scattered populations widespread across Wales.

Seed longevity: Unknown.

Corn chamomile

Camri'r ŷd

Anthemis arvensis

&

Stinking chamomile

Camri'r cŵn

Anthemis cotula

Tall, branched mayweed up to 50cm. Alternate, deeply divided leaves that are slightly flattened. The typical daisy flowers have yellow ray-florets with no scales. The yellow disc-florets have a scale attached to the bottom of the flower receptacle.

Corn chamomile's downy leaves smell aromatically of chamomile when crushed. The disc floret scale is 2.5mm long

and 1mm wide, and broadens to about two-thirds of its length and then tapers to a point.

Stinking chamomile leaves smell unpleasant when crushed and are usually less hairy. The flowers tend to be slightly smaller and the similar-sized scales are narrow with linear sides tapering to a point.

Corn chamomile



Stinking chamomile



Corn chamomile

Camri'r ŷd

Anthemis arvensis



©Cath Snellsweil

Stinking chamomile

Camri'r cŵn

Anthemis cotula



©Cath Snellsweil

Soil: Corn chamomile grows on chalky loams and calcareous sands; stinking chamomile also grows on clays.

Germination period: Spring.

Flowering period: June - August.

Distribution: The only known natural population of corn chamomile is in the Vale of Glamorgan, while stinking chamomile is found in Monmouthshire, Glamorganshire, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Both chamomiles and Austrian chamomile *Anthemis australis* are often used in annual seed mixtures.

Seed longevity: Unknown.

Narrow-fruited cornsalad

 Gwylaeth yr oen deintio
Valerianella dentata

Hairy-fruited cornsalad

 Gwylaeth-yr-oen ffrwythau gwlanog
Valerianella eriocarpa

& Broad-fruited cornsalad

 Gwylaeth yr oen llyfn
Valerianella rimosa

Slender, branched plants with stems up to 30cm. Spear-shaped leaves with a few teeth are present up the hairless stem and the white to pale-pink flowers are borne in clusters at the end of the stem on a couple of branches. There is often a single flower located in the base of the stem branch immediately below the flower clusters, which is the first to flower and set fruit. The seeds are the distinguishing characteristic but there is a degree of uncertainty surrounding inter-breeding, particularly with narrow-fruited and

hairy-fruited cornsalad. Narrow-fruited cornsalad seeds have a single large tooth at the apex with smaller sub-teeth. They are not swollen and are about 0.75mm across.

Hairy-fruited cornsalad seeds have five to six large teeth at the apex, resembling a crown, and the body of the fruit has small hairs visible using a x30 hand lens.

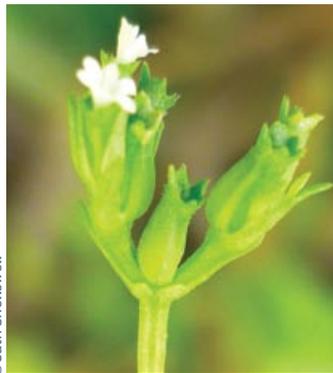
Broad-fruited cornsalad seeds are grape-pip like and swollen 2mm long by 1.5mm wide. All of the teeth are short at the apex of the fruit.

► Narrow-fruited cornsalad

Gwylaeth yr oen deintio
Valerianella dentata

▼ Hairy-fruited cornsalad

Gwylaeth-yr-oen ffrwythau gwlanog
Valerianella eriocarpa



©Cath Shellsweil



©Cath Shellsweil

▼ Broad-fruited cornsalad

Gwylaeth yr oen llyfn
Valerianella rimosa



©Cath Shellsweil

Soil: Calcareous sandy, clay and chalky loams.

Germination period: Spring and autumn.

Flowering period: June - August.

Distribution: All three cornsalads are rare across Wales. Narrow-fruited cornsalad has been recorded in Pembrokeshire, south Cardiganshire and Gower peninsula. Hairy-fruited cornsalad has only been recorded on arable land from one location in Pembrokeshire. Broad-fruited cornsalad has only been recorded from one location in recent years on the Gower peninsula.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Shepherd's-needle

 Nodwydd y bugail
Scandix pecten-veneris

Tall, occasionally branched plant up to 60cm, typical of the carrot family. Finely divided leaves with narrow parallel-sided segments. Flowers are clustered on umbels at the end of the flowering stem and have small, white petals. The distinctive fruits begin to form shortly after flowering, elongating from the base of the flower to form long “needles” up to 5cm.



©Cath Shellsweil

Soil: Heavy clay loams.

Germination period: Predominantly autumn, occasionally germinating in the spring.

Flowering period: April - July.

Distribution: Vale of Glamorgan and Flintshire.

Seed longevity: Short-lived.

Small-flowering catchfly

 Gludlys amryliw
Silene gallica

Branched sticky-haired plant up to 30cm. A basal rosette of narrowly-oval leaves die back as the stem grows, with smaller narrow leaves on the stem. White or occasionally pink, small, five-petaled flowers are 1.5cm across and each petal has a short notch. Behind the flower are oval seed capsules about 1cm long.



©Cath Shellsweil

Soil: Sands and sandy loams.

Germination period: Spring and autumn.

Flowering period: June - October.

Distribution: Pembrokeshire, Cardiganshire and Gower peninsula.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Corn spurrey

🦊 Troellig yr ŷd

Spergula arvensis

Slender scrambling plant with branched stems up to 60cm. Long 3cm narrow thread-like leaves are arranged in whorls up the stem. Loosely branched clusters of five-petalled white flowers 8mm across are present at the end of stems. Black, round seeds are about 1.5mm in diameter.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Sandy and gravelly soils, but can occur on clays and in chalky soils.

Germination period: Predominantly spring, with some autumn germination.

Flowering period: June - August.

Distribution: Widespread across Wales.

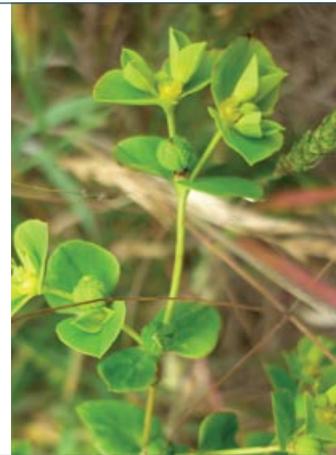
Seed longevity: Short-lived.

Broadleaved spurge

🦊 Fflamgoed lydanddial

Euphorbia platyphyllus

A green, hairless plant up to 60cm with often reddish stems. The broad, narrowly-oblong pointed leaves can be up to 5cm long with serrated edges. The petal-less, yellowish-green flowers are arranged in a loose umbel with a leafy bract at the base. Fruits are about 3mm in diameter and covered with warts. They explode on ripening.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Calcareous clays and silty loams.

Germination period: Predominantly autumn germinating with some spring germination.

Flowering period: June - October.

Distribution: Two known populations, in Monmouthshire and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Dwarf spurge

🦊 Fflamgoed eiddil flaenfain

Euphorbia exigua

A light-green, hairless plant up to 10cm. The narrow, parallel-sided leaves can be up to 2cm long by 3mm wide. The petal-less yellowish-green flowers are arranged in a loose umbel with a leafy bract at the base. Fruits are smooth, spherical capsules that explode on ripening.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Sands, calcareous loams and clays, chalk and limestone soils.

Germination period: Predominantly spring germinating with some autumn germination.

Flowering period: June - October.

Distribution: Scattered populations in Monmouthshire, and on Anglesey and coasts of Denbighshire, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Glamorganshire.

Seed longevity: Unknown.

Annual knawel

🦊 Dinodd flynyddol

Scleranthus annuus

Low-growing, spreading, mat-forming plant up to 20cm. Linear, pointed leaves are paired up the stem. Clusters of minute flowers 4mm across at the stem terminals with no petals. The sepals form the flower tube and are pointed, straight, grey-green with narrow white margins, and enclose the stamens and ovary. Annual knawel is commonly found on disturbed grassland as well as arable land.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Dry sandy and gravelly soils, clay loams and chalky loams.

Germination period: Autumn.

Flowering period: June - August.

Distribution: Pembrokeshire, near Mwnt in Ceredigion, and Gower peninsula.

Seed longevity: Unknown.

Mousetail

 Cynffon llygoden

Myosurus minimus

Low-growing plant in the buttercup family growing. Narrow, linear dark-green leaves form a basal rosette. The flower spikes have short-lived, small, green-yellow petals below the seed-bearing receptacle, which elongates forming a long narrowly conical tube resembling a mouse tail. It occurs on water-retentive soils in disturbed areas such as tracks and hollows, particularly in gateways.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Clays and other silty soils which are non-calcareous.

Germination period: Autumn.

Flowering period: May - June.

Distribution: Denbighshire.

Seed longevity: Long-lived.

Rye brome

 Pawrwellt bach

Bromus secalinus

An erect grass up to 1m tall. Leaves are 5mm wide and can be 20cm long with blunt ligules up to 4mm long. The stem and leaf are softly hairy. The branched flower-head has slightly laterally-compressed, long-stalked oval spikelets. The inrolled lemma stops the spikelets breaking-up and shedding when ripe, keeping the seeds in a spikelet form until much later in the season.



©Cath Shellswell

Soil: Clays loams and occasionally other soil types.

Germination period: Autumn germinating.

Flowering period: June - July.

Distribution: Scattered populations in Cardiganshire, Breconshire, Carmarthenshire, Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire.

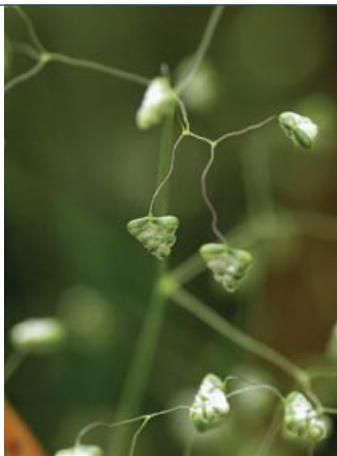
Seed longevity: Short-lived.

Lesser quaking-grass

 Crydwellt bychan

Briza minor

An erect grass up to 50cm tall. Leaves are 3-7mm wide, hairless and blue-green in colour with a pointed ligule 3-6mm long. The branched flower-head has triangular flower spikelets and looks like a smaller version of the common quaking-grass associated with calcareous grasslands.



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Soil: Acidic sands, loams, gravels and clays.

Germination period: Predominantly autumn germinating with some spring germination.

Flowering period: June - August.

Distribution: Only two populations are known in Monmouthshire.

Seed longevity: Unknown.

Glossary

Axil the upper angle between a leaf or bract and the stem from which it grows.

Basal at the base, such as in a rosette of leaves.

Bract a leaf-like structure, usually green, immediately below a flower and located where the flower-stalk joins the stem, or in Umbellifers (carrot family), used for the whorl of small leaves at the base of the main umbel.

Bilaterally symmetrical the flower is symmetrical along one angle usually in cross section.

Calyx the whorl of sepals below an individual flower. A sepal is one of the outer whorl of green leaves surrounding the flower petals.

Corolla the petals of the flower (used collectively).

Elliptical widest in the middle and up to 3x as long as wide, tapering to the tip and the base (applied to flat objects such as leaves).

Floret a small flower, especially in the flower-head of members of the daisy and related families; or the individual tiny flower in grasses, sedges and rushes.

Inflorescence any grouping of flowers on a stem or in a leaf-axil.

Lemma The lower (outer) of the two bracts that enclose the grass flower.

Ligule the tiny membranous flap or hairs present where the leaf-blade joins its sheathing base in grasses and sedges.

Ovary the carpels (female seed units) of a flower collectively, especially when they are fused together forming a case or several cells in which are attached the ovules. After pollination and fertilisation the ovary develops into the fruit and the ovules into seeds.

Racemes an elongated inflorescence in which the individual flowers are usually stalked. The lowest flower opens first, and then the others in sequence towards the tip, which can continue to form new buds.

Style the stalk-like structure at the tip of a carpel or on top of an ovary of several joined carpels, that bears on its tip the stigma(s).

Umbels a flat-topped inflorescence, with several branches all rising from one point at the top of the main stem.

Acknowledgements

Text compiled using *Arable Plants - a field guide*, Wilson, P and King, M, 2003, English Nature and Wildguides; *The Wild Flower Key*, Rose, F and O'Reilly, C, 2006, Penguin Books, and *Field Flora of the British Isles*, Stace, C, 1999, Cambridge University Press.

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