

Bluebell –

Hyacinthoides non-scripta

The Bluebell is native to Britain and can be found in many woodlands throughout the country. As well as woodlands it can be found in open grassland and dappled shade. It prefers partial shade, the aspect doesn't matter and it can be exposed or sheltered. It is a perennial plant which flowers from April to May. They are short plants usually ranging between 25-45cm in height and they have a fragrant smell when flowering. Bluebells are poisonous and ingestion can cause severe discomfort. Bluebells are primarily pollinated by bumblebees but are beneficial to many other insects such as hoverflies and butterflies. Cattle and deer feed on the leaves of the bluebells and also damage them by crushing them.



Interesting facts

- The bulbs of bluebells were used in the past to make glue.
- Elizabethans would use the starch found in the bulbs to stiffen their ruffs .



Lesser Celandine – *Ficaria verna*

The Lesser Celandine is native to Europe including the British Isles, the Caucasus and Northern Africa, and has also been introduced to North America. It grows well in damp places, such as woodlands, hedges and stream banks. They require a North, East or West facing aspect, and grow well in loam. It is considered a pest by some in the UK and especially in the US as it is non-native, and it is poisonous if eaten and can kill grazers.

Lesser Celandine first flowers in late February and continues until May. It is often pollinated by true flies (Diptera), and can provide food for snails, slugs and aphids.



Written by James Appleby

Snowdrop –

Galanthus nivalis

Common Snowdrops are dwarf bulbous perennials which can be planted in chalk, clay, sand, or loam based soils. It is best if the soil is slightly acidic. They thrive best in humus-rich soil that is moist, as long as there is suitable drainage.

Snowdrops are versatile in terms of the level of light they can grow under but prefer to have an approximately equal amount of shelter and exposure to the sun. They generally start to flower from January to May. Individual plants can take anywhere from two to five years to grow to their maximum size and readily multiply to form clumps

Very little maintenance is required, though it is important to keep a lookout for narcissus bulb fly, slugs, and grey mould.

Written by Leon Fletcher



Wild Tulip – *Tulipa sylvestris*

The Wild Tulip is, contrary to its name, not native to Britain, but was introduced as a cultivated plant in the 16th century. They are native to Southern Europe, Northern Africa and parts of Asia, in Mediterranean climates. They require well drained soil, and can grow in sand and chalk as well as loam. They need full sunlight, and East, South or West facing aspect, but also need to be sheltered. They are mildly toxic, but squirrels can eat the bulbs, and slugs, aphids and eelworm can also target the plants. They flower in March to April, and need to be deadheaded afterwards. Tulips attract Bumblebees, solitary Bees and Hoverflies.



Written by James Appleby

Wild Cyclamen - *Cyclamen hederifolium* -

Introduced to the UK but long naturalised, there are 20 or so species of cyclamen in the genus that are native to areas around the Mediterranean, Northern Africa and parts of western Asia. Spring flowering garden species are easily naturalised. *C. hederifolium* is one of these that has long been cultivated for its aesthetic value and is originally from the Mediterranean. This species flowers in August to October, and prefers shaded areas rather than full sun, growing vegetatively in deciduous woodlands, under hedgerows and even rocks,

It is a hardy plant in the UK. Because of its lengthy herbaceous perennial lifecycle, it's known as a plant of deep feelings in some culture and given to others you feel deeply about! This is because the plant has a corm tuber that can withstand harsh conditions like summer drought underground. It is a useful nectar source for many insects as the flowers are easy to access as a nectar source.



Written by Jake Blade

Winter Aconite - *Eranthis hyemalis*

Winter Aconite is a cultivar and originally found in France, Italy and the Balkans but has become naturalised over much of Europe. It is a perennial plant that flowers from late winter through to spring. They are usually around 10cm in height. Winter aconite can grow in partial shade or sunlight and isn't fussy about aspect. It can be exposed or sheltered. It will grow in most soil types but prefers moist, well drained, alkaline soils. It is mildly toxic and may cause mild stomach upset if ingested.

Winter aconite is great for pollinators such as bees and hoverflies.

Written by Amy Jones



Tenby Daffodil – *Narcissus obvallaris*

This plant grows wild in Wales and is considered either as a separate species or as a subspecies of the wild daffodil (*N. pseudonarcissus obvallaris*.)

It flowers during March to April and is a herbaceous perennial that grows from a bulb each year. It is very suitable for naturalising in gardens and grassland, growing in moist and partial shade conditions but preferring well drained soil and full sun.

These daffodils will spread over time if in the right conditions. Bulbs are toxic and can be an irritant to skin! Its wildlife benefits include providing early spring nectar sources for bumble bees



Written by Jake Blade

Wood Anemone – *Anemone nemorosa*

Wood Anemone is a perennial plant native to Europe. They grow and spread via rhizomes. The flowers can vary in colour from white, lilac and light blue and are pollinated by hoverflies.

The Royal Horticultural Society class it as a H5 species which is hardy in most places can last severe winters.

Wood anemone is partial to shade but can also be exposed or sheltered

It can thrive in chalk, loam or clay soils that are moist but well drained.



Wild Daffodil –

Narcissus pseudonarcissus

The Wild Daffodil is smaller than horticultural varieties (up to 35cm) with paler petals. It is native to England and Wales growing in small groups in woodland, fields and orchards and was once one of the most common wild flowers, declining in the mid-19th century. It is often called the Lent Lily, is the national symbol for Wales and the county flower of Gloucestershire. The bulbs are also used to treat Alzheimer's disease.

The Wild Daffodil is pollinated by bumble bees and honey bees. Bulbs should be planted in Autumn and flowers March- April. They prefer moderately fertile, well-drained, slightly acidic to neutral loamy soil and may be exposed (full sun) or sheltered (partial shade) with any aspect. It is susceptible to slugs but not generally eaten by larger animals due to it containing toxic alkaloids

Written by Alessandra Moxey

