

Early Colour Spotter Sheet



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



Catkins

Corylus avellana

The dangling catkin is the male flower of the Hazel tree. Female flowers smaller & bud-like with red strands

Where to find it:

Hedgerows & woodland



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 and 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 and heathland



Ground Ivy

Glechoma hederacea

Once known as Alehoof, this wildflower 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, its 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* & 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:

North-facing banks & woods



Snowdrops

Galanthus nivalis

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

Where to find it:

Damp 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 & roadside verges

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