

May Wildflowers Spotter's Sheet



Columbine
Aquilegia vulgaris

STAR
FIND
*

A native favourite of cottage gardens. It's name comes from the Latin for dove which its petals are said to resemble.

Where to find it:
Woods & damp places



Bird's Foot Trefoil
Lotus corniculatus

Also known as Eggs & Bacon because of its red & yellow petals. Bees & other pollinators love it as its very rich in nectar.

Where to find it:
Grassy places



Bulbous Buttercup
Ranunculus bulbosus

One of the first buttercups to flower. Easy to spot as the five bracts under the flower (*sepals*) lie down against the flower stalk.

Where to find it:
Meadows and lawns



Cow Parsley
Anthriscus sylvestris

Its frothy white petals are a common sight along country roads. Did you know that it's a close relation of the carrot?

Where to find it:
Meadows and lanes



Hawthorn
Crataegus spp.

In folklore the magical May Tree was the home of fairies. It provides food for caterpillars, dormice & birds.

Where to find it:
Hedgerows



Herb-Robert
Geranium robertianum

Pretty but smelly. According to one theory it was so-named by a botanist as an insult to a "Robert" he knew!

Where to find it:
Hedgerows & woods



Red Campion
Silene dioica

Often adorning country Lanes, these tall, pink wildflowers were once known as "bachelors buttons".

Where to find it:
Hedge banks



Red Clover
Trifolium pratense

Rich in pollen, its an essential food source for bees - in the past it was known as "bee bread". Cows love it too.

Where to find it:
Parks and lawns



Sea Campion
Silene maritima

A coastal cousin of Red Campion. It's fleshy leaves store water & help stop it drying out in such salty conditions.

Where to find it:
Sea walls & shingle



White Dead-nettle
Lamium album

No need to fear a sting from this nettle - as it's name suggests it is safe to touch. Look for the white ruff of flowers.

Where to find it:
Grassy banks