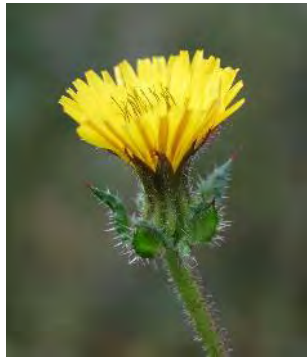


# Identiplant

plant identification course for beginners in serious botany



[www.identiplant.co.uk](http://www.identiplant.co.uk)

[brendaharold@btinternet.com](mailto:brendaharold@btinternet.com)

[tutor@identiplant.co.uk](mailto:tutor@identiplant.co.uk)

## NEW TUTORS ARE WELCOME

Could you be a Tutor? [See job description and qualifications](#)



### Want to know more?

[See the Introduction](#)

### Is the level right for you?

[See the Sample unit](#)

### How much will it cost?

[See Fees and Application](#)

### Apply to be a student

[Fill in the application form](#)

### Could you be a Tutor?

[See The Tutor's Role](#)

### Contact us

[enrolment@identiplant.co.uk](mailto:enrolment@identiplant.co.uk)

### Course Log In

The Identiplant on-line course is now closed for maintenance.

Tutors and students will receive an email when the site re-opens

### Report a Log In problem

**The online course is supported by the BSBI and the FSC.**

**It is available to anyone throughout Britain and Ireland.**

**The course is for people who may know plenty of plants**

**BUT**

**have learnt names from other people or by matching pictures**

**do not read descriptions fully because terms are incomprehensible**

**rely heavily on flowers rather than leaves or fruits**

**do not know how to use a key**

**use English rather than scientific names.**

**The 'big flora', without pictures, might as well  
be in a foreign language.**

## **Learning outcomes are to:**

- 1. learn key diagnostic features of important plant families**
- 2. become familiar with botanical terminology**
- 3. improve observational skills**
- 4. become confident in using a flora**
- 5. develop the critical faculty necessary for accurate ID.**

**Learning the names of plants is not on this list!**

# But surely it isn't possible to teach observational skills online?

The trick is to get students to find common plants and to describe their diagnostic features in such a way that an expert is sure that they have found the right species.

The expert is the student's tutor – a BSBI member with good local knowledge.

*“ Getting individual feedback is such a luxury! “*

**The material is delivered in 15 units, one per fortnight, Feb – August**

**1. Classification & names**

**2. Terminology**

**3. Keys**

**4. The Cabbage family**

**5. The Buttercup family**

**6. The Lily family**

**7. The Campion family**

**8. The Carrot family**

**9. The Pea family**

**10. The Rose family**

**11. The Deadnettle family**

**12. The Figwort family**

**13. Some small families & how to  
prepare voucher specimens**

**14. The Daisy family**

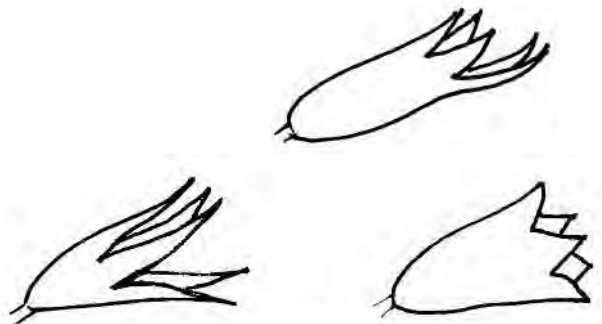
**15. The Orchid family**

Online delivery makes presentation very easy.

There are plenty of pictures.



Forked hairs  
visible with a  
lens. Look at  
leaf edge.







Certificate of completion

## A Student

has successfully completed both fieldwork and assignments in the



plant identification course for beginners in serious botany

November  
2014



Supported by BSBI and FSC





## **Where are we now?**

**69 students enrolled in 2013; 20 completed in one year (29%)  
14 more completed in 2014. Final completion rate 49%.**

**134 students enrolled in 2014; 57 completed in one year (43%).  
24 more completed in 2015. Final completion rate 60%.**

**133 students enrolled in 2015. 54 completed this year (41%).**

**There were 26 tutors in 2013.**

**There were 50 in 2014 and 60 in 2015.**

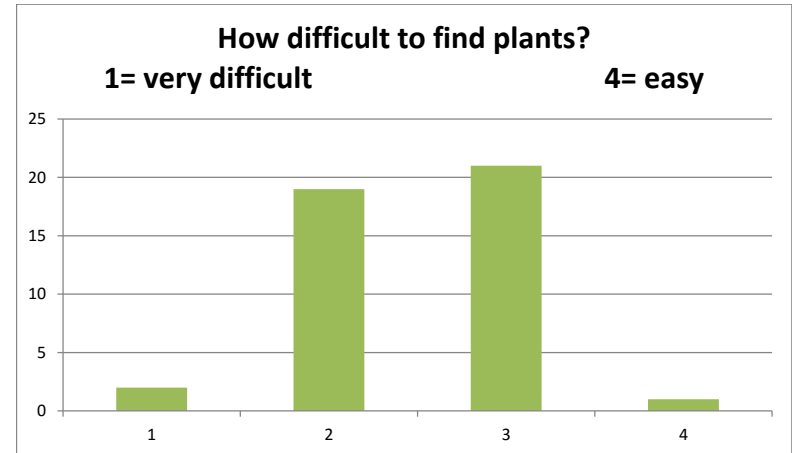
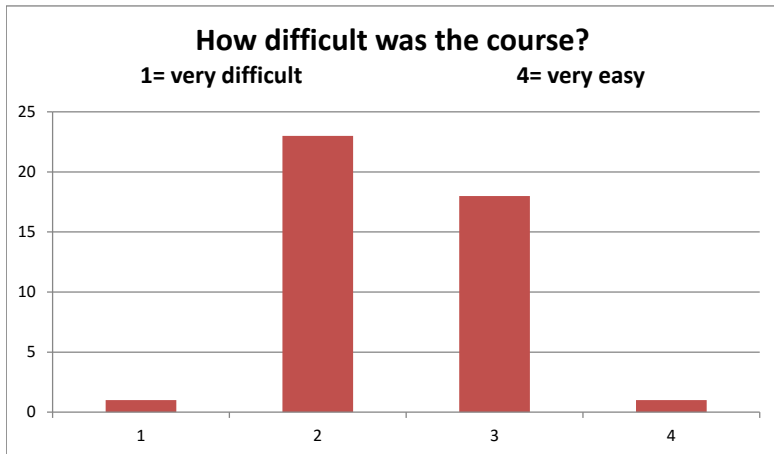
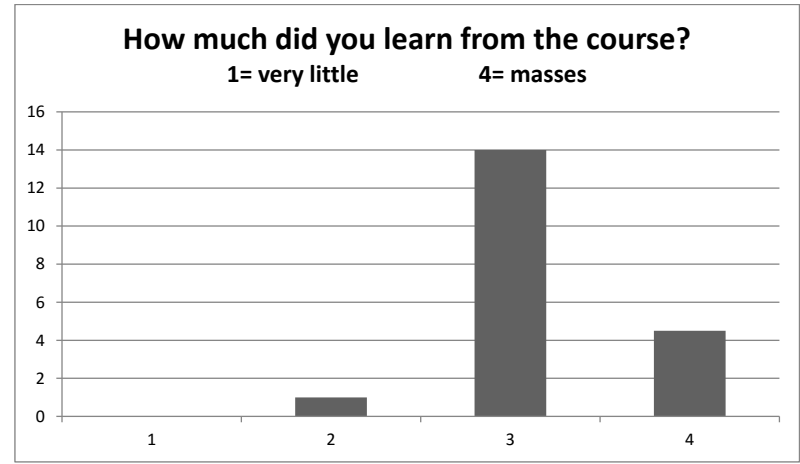
**New tutors have only 3 students each, in their own geographical area.**

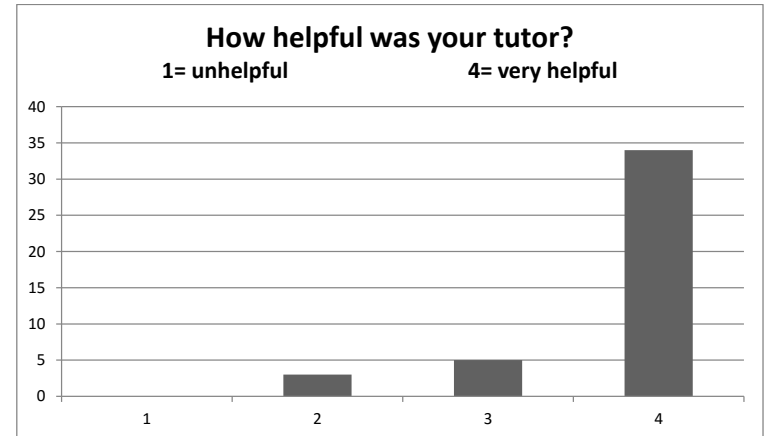
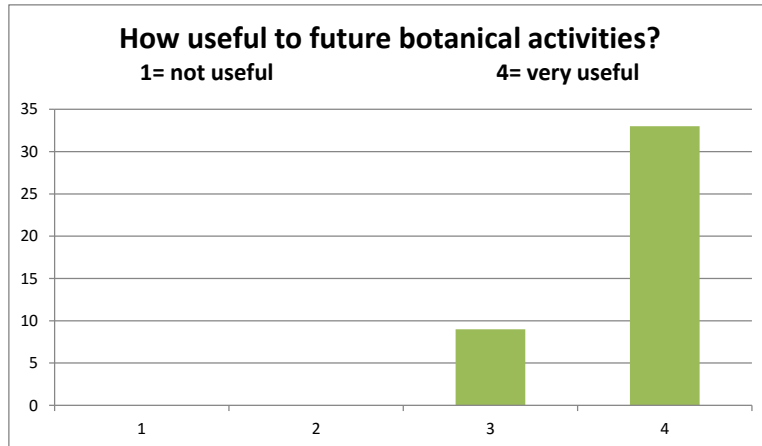
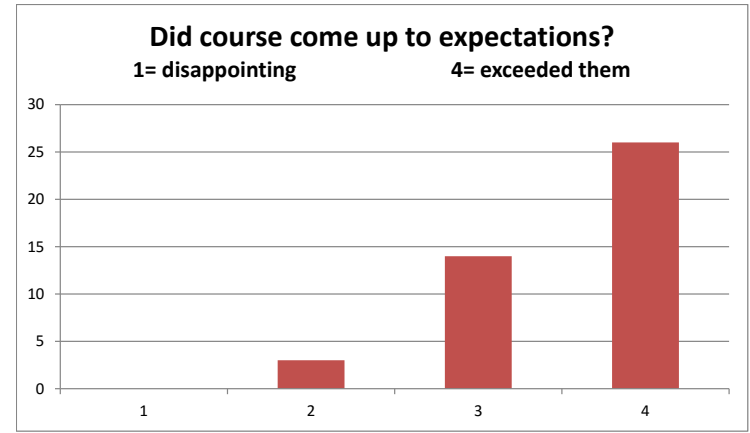
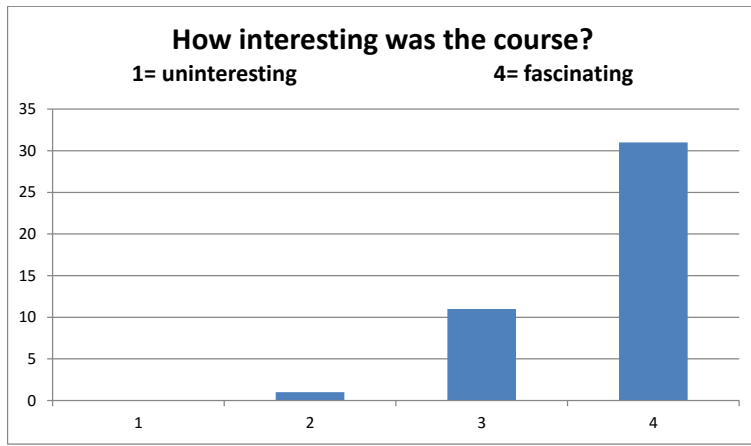
**We do need a few more tutors, especially in London and the Home Counties.**

**Some students give up after the first few units. They received a questionnaire seeking the reasons, which were varied.**

**Lack of time and difficulty finding the plants were common.**

**A different questionnaire went to the remaining students. The responses of 43 students are summarised in the following bar charts.**





## What will they do next?

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>MAYBE</b>
<b>Join the BSBI</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Take an FSC course</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Take a FISC</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>

**169 people have completed Identiplant since its beginning in 2013, scattered throughout Britain.**

**38 have said that they intended to join the BSBI and 25 that they would take an FSC course.**

**Many more said 'maybe'.**

**(And these only represent the c.50% who returned the questionnaire.)**



## What the students say:

*'I enjoyed so much learning and looking for plants - finding out lots more than was asked for.'*

*'I now look at plants in a different way.'*

*'The course was at just the right level for me, and has brought my knowledge on by leaps and bounds! I felt well supported throughout.'*

*'I really enjoyed the course and feel enthusiastic about continuing to use my skills and building them further.'*