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≡ OCTOBER ≡ SPOTTER SHEET

Can you find all the wild flowers on this sheet? Post your pictures on the Herbology Facebook group, or on Twitter and Instagram using the #herbologyhunt hashtag.



My name:

My age:

If you're really good at finding flowers, you can join the Wild Flower Society as a #herbologyhunt member and get a free hand lens, a diary where you can record all your plant finds, and printed copies of these spotter sheets. If you find 50 plants in one year, you'll get a T-shirt. Go to thewildflowersociety.org.uk

Heather *Calluna vulgaris*

This is a low-growing shrub with spikes of purple or occasionally white flowers. The flowers are small and held on leafy stalks and are not bell-shaped. The leaves are in opposite rows and are small (scale leaves). Heather is found on heaths and moorlands and this time of year it colours the hillsides purple. People used to use bunches of heather tied on a handle as a broom.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*

This has small five-petalled pink flowers. Its leaves are deeply cut into five parts. It grows in shady places, often near houses, or in woodland, hedges and stony areas. The stem is hairy and gives out an unpleasant smell when crushed. It's stalks and leaves often turn red at this time of year. In folklore it is associated with the robin, good luck if seen in the garden, bad luck if it is in the house.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Brambles *Rubus fruticosus*

This time of year, the fruits of this flower are ripe, blackberries. However, some of the flowers may still be in bloom so look for five-petalled, white or pink flowers. The leaves are divided into 3 or 5 oval leaflets with zig-zag edges. Leaves are dark green on top and pale beneath. The stems are thorny and the leaves prickly so take care! Found along hedgerows and woodland edges.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Cat's Ear *Hypochaeris radicata*

This plant's flower looks like a dandelion, but the stem and leaves are different. The stem is sometimes branched and it is not hollow. The leaves grow in a ring around the base of the stem and are hairy. They are not as jagged as dandelion and have smoother edges. They are said to look like cat's ears and give their name to the plant. It is found in grassy areas.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*

This is a small, low-growing plant found in lawns, grassy places and bare ground. It has a flat head of purple flowers that have two lips, a hooded top petal and a lower petal with three parts. The leaves are downy with hairs and are pointed and oval. In the past the plant has been used to treat wounds and bruises and even sore throats. These useful properties gave it its name "self-heal".

When I found it:

Where I found it:

