

≡ **SEPTEMBER** ≡
SPOTTER SHEET



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

My name:

My age:

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. wildflowerhour.co.uk/herbologyhunt

Sow thistle

Sonchus arvensis

This is found in waste places and on bare ground. The leaves are softly spiny hence the name "thistle". The flowers are yellow and dandelion-like and found in a small group. The leaves are not stalked and clasp the stem with rounded extensions. The leaf edge zig-zags and the opposite sections match each other, (pinnately lobed). It is found in waste places and on bare ground. The plant produces a milky fluid when it is cut.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Hogweed.

Heracleum sphondylium

This grows tall, up to 3m. It has a large (up to 20 cm), flat dome of white flowers on a collection of short stalks. These grow out from the same place on the main stalk. (umbel). The leaves are made up of large toothed leaflets placed on either side of the stem. The stem is thick and grooved. It is found in grassy places, hedgerows and open woods. Do not touch the plant just in case you are looking at a giant hogweed. This very tall plant (up to 5m), causes bad skin rashes.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Black or common knapweed.

Centaurea nigra

This has a round black/brown flowerhead with a brush of purple flowers on the top. It looks like a thistle but is not prickly. The leaves are long, thin and pointed (lanceolate), with slightly wavy edges. (incomplete lobes). It is very good for bees and butterflies. Black knapweed is found growing in all types of grassland from roadside verges to lawns.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



White clover.

Trifolium repens

This is a common plant in lawns and has a distinctive "trefoil", three parts to its leaf. The leaflets making the trefoil are oval and have a white v-shape mark on them. The flowers are small and white and form a "head". The plant has a creeping habit. It grows roots from its stem and can spread along the ground, without growing tall so it is not easily cut down by lawnmowers.

When I found it:

Where I found it:



Red clover.

Trifolium pratense

This looks very similar to white clover, but has red flowers and the plants grow in a more upright manner. It is found in grassy places. If the flowers are not present, you can identify it by looking for hairs on stem and leaves and for leaflets that are more oval. White clover is almost hairless and the leaflets more rounded. Both clovers are valuable plants to farmers as they put nitrogen into the soil, (fertilises it) and are good feeds for animals. Bees love the nectar too.

When I found it:

Where I found it:

