

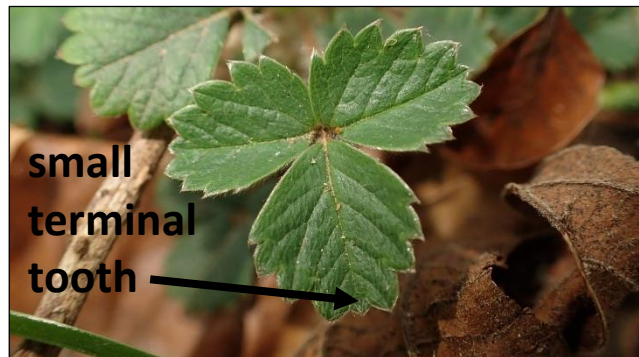
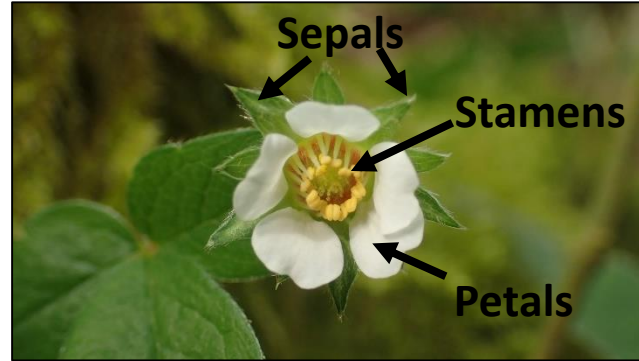
#dinkymoira #wildflowerhour

Wild or Barren Strawberry?

Wild Strawberry



Barren Strawberry



Strawberries are starting to flower, and the two you are likely to come across out in the wild are Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) and Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*). As its name suggests, Barren Strawberry produces small, dry, inedible fruits, whereas Wild Strawberry produces small, but yummy fruits. So apart from the differences in fruits, how do you tell them apart? A good wildflower guide will give detailed descriptions, but here are a few tips.

They are both common, native species which are found in broadly similar habitats, such as woods, scrub, and hedgebanks. Barren Strawberry tends to come into flower slightly earlier than Wild Strawberry.

Looking at the flowers first, those of Barren Strawberry typically have quite large gaps in between the **petals**, meaning the **sepals** are usually quite visible, whereas with Wild Strawberry the petals more or less conceal the sepals.

#dinkymoira's top tip:

I always think the **stamens** of Barren Strawberry look a bit like a crown of lamb!



Now looking at the leaves, Barren Strawberry has quite dull, dark bluish-green leaflets with 4-7 teeth per side, whereas those of Wild Strawberry are a brighter, shinier, yellowish-green with 8-13 teeth per side. A good way to tell the leaves apart is that in Barren Strawberry the terminal tooth of a leaflet is usually rather smaller and shorter than the adjacent teeth.