



Sweet Violet (top) & Hairy Violet (bottom)

Sepals These two species are the *only* ones to have rounded, blunt-tipped sepals, all the rest have pointy sepals.

Sepal Appendages SV: angled away from the flower stem (patent). HV: pressed toward the stem (appressed).

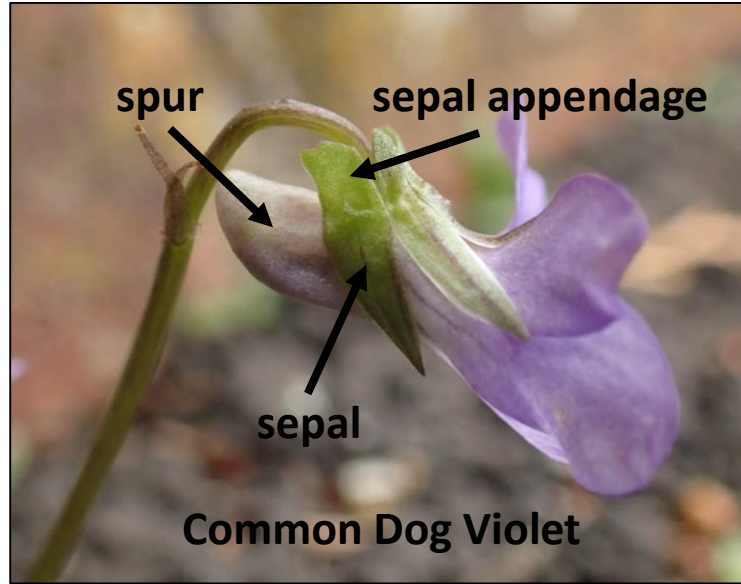
Petal colour SV: Most common are rich violet or white. HV: Pale violet blue, rarely white.

Spur SV: stout, unnotched, sometimes hooked upwards, same colour as petals, except the white variety which has a violet spur. HV: slightly hooked, unnotched, purplish.

Habitat SV: road verges, open woodland and churchyards. HV: prefers short vegetation on dry calcareous grassland.



#dinkymoira Violet ID Tips #wildflowerhour



Common Dog Violet

One violet can look very much like another when you are starting out in botany, so how do you tell the different species apart? A good wildflower guide will give full species accounts, but there is a lot you can tell just from looking at the characteristics of the flowers. Here's a brief look at the four most common species.

The most helpful features of the flowers to look at are, the **spur**, the **sepals** and the **sepal appendages** (small flaps at stem end of sepals).



Early Dog (top) & Common Dog (bottom) Violet

Sepals These two species have pointy sepals.

Sepal Appendages EDV: much smaller (<1.5mm) than those of CDV, which are large (>1.5 mm) and square cut and sometimes notched or scalloped.

Veining on lower petal EDV: unbranched or scarcely branched. CDV: long and much branched.

Spur EDV: slender, unnotched and generally a darker violet than the petals. CDV: stout, obviously notched on the end and generally paler than petals.

Habitat EDV: mostly a woodland plant and rarely grows in the open. CDV: Our commonest violet with a wide range of habitats.

These two can be sometimes be very tricky to tell apart, as infuriatingly there are plants that seem to share floral characteristics of both species!

