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DECEMBER 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, on Twitter and Instagram using the #herbologyhunt hashtag.
wildflowerhour.co.uk/herbologyhunt



Winter heliotrope.
Petasites fragans

This plant grows in damp places, like hedge bottoms, near streams and in woodlands. It occurs next to gardens from where it may have "escaped". It was originally a garden plant, introduced from North Africa. It has pale pink flowers on stalked clusters. The leaves are large and heart-shaped. You may find large patches of these leaves as the plant spreads by underground stems, (rhizomes). The flowers smell of vanilla.
 Where I found it:

When I found it:



Hairy Bittercress
Cardamine hirsuta.

This plant has very small white flowers, in a bunch at the top of a stem. The leaves are made of opposite pairs of round leaflets, growing alternately (on either side) up the stem and in a ring around the base of the stem. The plant can be eaten and has a strong, peppery taste. It can be found in gardens and waste areas.
 Where I found it:

When I found it:



Petty Spurge
Euphorbia peplus

This plant has tiny green flowers towards the top of the stems. They are surrounded by bracts, (modified leaves). The stem divides into several branches. The leaves grow alternately but the topmost leaves are opposite. The plant has oval green leaves. It is found in gardens, waste areas and in fields. Don't pick the plant: the sticky liquid that comes out may irritate your skin!
 Where I found it:

When I found it:



Red Dead-nettle.
Lamium purpureum

This has purple flowers in rings around the stem. Each flower has a hood-like petal at the top and two lower petals. The leaves have short stalks. They are hairy, heart-shaped and with toothed edges. Red dead nettle is found on waste ground, alongside arable land, gardens and along hedges and roads. The plant has a square stem. It looks like a small nettle but does not sting, hence the name "dead".
 Where I found it:

When I found it:



Holly.
Ilex aquifolium
 This plant has shiny green, prickly leaves with red berries. It is traditionally used as an indoor decoration at Christmas. We can't ask you to look for the small white flowers as they come out in May! Only female trees have berries. The male trees have leaves but no berries. Holly trees are planted in gardens and are sometimes found in hedges and woodlands.
 Where I found it:

When I found it:

When I found it.