



Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland

How will recent warm weather affect this year's New Year Plant Hunt?

Plant-hunters across Britain and Ireland will be heading out over the New Year holiday to find out which wild flowers are in bloom in their local patch. The New Year Plant Hunt combines a traditional winter walk with C21st technology, as people use smartphones, social media and email to share photographs and observations and get help with plant identification.

It may have started five years ago **as a bit of fun to blow the cobwebs away on New Year's Day** but the New Year Plant Hunt has blossomed into a national citizen science project. Everyone who participates is helping the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland¹ (BSBI) build up a clearer picture of how our wild flowers are responding to both recent weather patterns and wider climatic conditions.

Last year, hundreds of people from Guernsey to the Moray Firth and Norfolk to Killarney joined in the New Year Plant Hunt, sending us almost 3000 records of plants they had seen in bloom locally. In total, they found 368 different species - around 15% of all our British and Irish wildflowers. With more people getting involved each year – and the warm **weather we've had recently** - we may see an even bigger crop for this fifth successive New Year Plant Hunt.

BSBI New Year Plant Hunt Co-ordinator Ryan Clark² **said "In order to accommodate bad weather, visiting relatives and hangovers, our plant-hunters can select any three-hour period between the 1st and 4th of January – it doesn't have to be New Year's Day!** We are asking people to record wild plants in flower but not garden plants, unless they are naturalised – that is, established and surviving in the wild without human intervention."

Find out more here: http://www.bsbi.org.uk/new_year_plant_hunt.html

BSBI Publicity & Outreach Officer Louise Marsh³ **said "Daisy and Dandelion were the two most frequently recorded species last year. If you can identify those two, we hope you will take part in this year's New Year Plant Hunt.**

"Before you head out to record all the wild plants you can find in bloom, check out our [webpage](#) to find out how to upload your records to our database and share them with us [via social media](#). You can also [email us](#) if you need help to identify any of the plants. Ryan and I will be waiting to hear from you as the sun rises on 1st **January!**"

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Contact Louise Marsh, BSBI Publicity & Outreach Officer, for further information.

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Notes:

1. The Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI) is the leading society promoting the study, understanding and enjoyment of wild plants in Britain and Ireland. Founded in 1836, we are now one of the world's largest contributors of biological records, many collected by our members, both amateur and professional botanists, who benefit from our research, training and outreach programmes.

2. Ryan Clark is **BSBI's New Year Plant Hunt Co-ordinator**; he will be collating the plant records we receive and analysing the results.

3. **Louise Marsh is BSBI's Publicity & Outreach Officer**; she will be liaising with and supporting New Year Plant Hunt recorders on social media and via email.

Recorders can contact Ryan and Louise at nyplanthunt@bsbi.org if they have any queries.

From 1st January 2016, New Year Plant Hunt updates will appear on the BSBI News & Views blog: <http://bsbipublicity.blogspot.co.uk/>

New Year Plant Hunt records and images will be shared via the BSBI Twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/BSBIbotany> using the hashtag [#NewYearPlantHunt](https://twitter.com/BSBIbotany)

New Year Plant Hunt records and images will be posted to the BSBI Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/BSBI2011>