

FLOWERS SINGLE IN LEAF AXIL



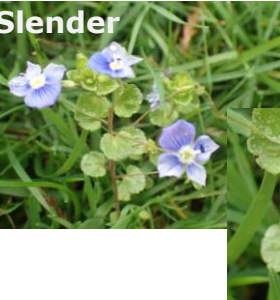
Common Field Speedwell is very widespread and its bright blue flowers can be seen from January onwards. The lowest petal is normally a little smaller and paler in colour than the others. There are two other Field Speedwells, both of which look similar but have smaller flowers and are less common. **Grey Field Speedwell** has bright blue flowers and **Green Field Speedwell** has pale flowers. Best told apart by looking at their fruits with a hand lens (see pics on right).



Hairy Bum Fruits

Top: **Common FS**, spreading lobes, glandular and non-glandular hairs
 Middle: **Grey FS**, erect lobes, short normal and obvious glandular hairs
 Bottom: **Green FS**, erect lobes, glandular hairs only.

Slender Speedwell is recognisable by the flowers being on long stalks and by its characteristic rounded to kidney-shaped leaves. It is found in regularly mown grass.



Ivy-leaved Speedwell Very small, pale-coloured flowers. The characteristic leaves are ivy-like with a broad end tooth. There are two different sub-species, but most people are just happy to know they have found an Ivy-leaved Speedwell. If you are interested you can look up the differences in your wild flower guide.



#dinkymoiria Speedwells

#wildflowerhour

Where do you start with Speedwells? They can all look frustratingly similar with their small, blue, four-petalled flowers. They have their own plant family, the Veronicaceae, and are in the genus Veronica. Here are a few photos and pointers to help with ID.

First of all, look at the way the **flowers** are arranged. (There are some diagrams below to help you with this, with lists of the species which have that arrangement.) Are they:

- **single flowers** in the **leaf axils** (the angle where a leaf stalk joins the stem).
- on **axillary racemes** which grow from the upper leaf axils.
- **On terminal racemes** at the top of the plant.

(A **raceme** is an unbranched inflorescence in which the flowers are borne on individual stalks.)

Next take a look at the leaves. Then compare your plant to the ones in the photos. Once you think you know which species you have, check you are correct by looking it up in your wild flower guide which will give a fuller description. Happy Veronica hunting!



Single in leaf axil	On axillary raceme	On terminal raceme
Common Field Speedwell	Germander Speedwell	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Grey Field Speedwell	Wood Speedwell	Wall Speedwell
Green Field Speedwell	Heath Speedwell	
Slender Speedwell	(Also Brooklime, Veronica beccabunga, not illustrated)	
Ivy-leaved Speedwell		

FLOWERS ON AXILLARY RACEME



Germander has bright blue flowers and stalkless (or very short stalked) leaves (grassland). **Wood** has more lilac flowers and the stalked leaves are a fresher green (deciduous woods).



Heath has delicate lilac flowers and distinctive oval shallowly-toothed leaves. Found in open wood, grassland & heath.

FLOWERS ON TERMINAL RACEME



Thyme-leaved Speedwell has distinctive white or pale blue flowers with blue veining. The leaves are egg-shaped or oval and are often shiny.

Wall Speedwell has tiny bright blue flowers that only open fully in bright sunshine. What look like leaves under the flowers are actually bracts, and these are a different shape to the leaves.