



Living Field Study Centre

The flora and fauna of Scotland's Arable Farmland

TAYSIDE'S MOST WANTED

Tayside has over 200,000 hectares of arable farmland supporting a wide range of plant species.

Many of the once common species have declined during the last 50 years.

The presence of farmland plants enhances biodiversity within the ecosystem by providing food and shelter for many invertebrates, birds and small mammals.

These plants are declining in the Tayside area. Have you seen any of them?

If you have, The Living Field Study Centre would like to know about it.

SCARLET PIMPERNEL

Anagallis arvensis



- Square stemmed annual; single red-orange flowers produced June to August
- Height 6 – 30 cm; tiny black dots on underside of leaves

CORNFLOWER

Centaurea cyanus



- Erect, branching annual; single bright blue flowers produced June to August
- Height 20 – 80 cm; attracts many insects especially flies and bees

CORN MARIGOLD

Chrysanthemum segetum



- Erect, hairless annual with greyish-green fleshy leaves; single golden yellow flowers produced June to Sept
- Height 20 – 60 cm; attracts many insects especially flies

SHEPHERD'S NEEDLE

Scandix pecten-veneris



- Erect branching annual producing tiny white flowers arranged in clusters from May to August.
- Height up to 40 cm with distinctive needle like pods.

LARGE FLOWERED HEMP-NETTLE

Galeopsis speciosa



- Bristly, erect square stemmed annual; pale yellow flowers with lower lip mostly violet produced July to September
- Height 30 – 100 cm; pollinated by various insects

CHICORY

Cichorium intybus



- Tall, stiff branching perennial; unstalked, bright blue flowers produced July to October
- Height 30 – 120 cm; attracts bees and hoverflies

CORN MINT

Mentha arvensis



- Perennial plant with a slight minty and lemon smell; lilac flowers produced in clusters on the leaf axils May to October.
- Height 10 – 60 cm

NIGHT-FLOWERING CATCHFLY

Silene noctiflora



- Sticky, hairy annual with whitish pink flowers produced July to September; flowers open at night and roll inwards during the day.
- Height 15 – 60 cm; night scented flowers attract moths.

GREATER CELANDINE

Chelidonium majus



- Branched, hairy perennial with POISONOUS orange sap; bright yellow flowers in loose clusters produced May to August
- Height 20 – 90 cm; attracts flies and bees

All sightings will be added to the study centre database and will help us compile an up-to-date picture of the distribution of these species within Tayside.

Please email – livingfield@scri.ac.uk

or fill in an online survey form at www.scri.ac.uk/livingfield

Scottish Crop
Research Institute



The centre has been funded by SCRI, the Biodiversity Action Grants Scheme (part of Scottish Executive Environmental, and Rural Affairs Department), the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund and the McRobert Trust.