

Wildflower & butterfly spotter sheet



White clovers' leaves are usually trifoliate which means three (tres) and leaf (folium). It is known for sometimes producing 'lucky' fourleaf clover leaves, caused by a mutation that occurs approx. once in every 10,000 specimens.



The bright pink flowers of red campion appear soon after the bluebell has finished flowering.
This flower is cited in several myths. One says that the plant protects fairies from being discovered.

False oat grass

Arrhenatherum elatius

False oat-grass is very common, but often overlooked. It is very important in stabilising dunes and providing shelter for small mammals such as field voles. Hence, these long grasses make an excellent hunting ground for barn owls.

Ox-eye daisy

This daisy is the largest

Leucanthemum vulgare

native member of its family and popular with a range of pollinating insects.

The petal-plucking game, 'He loves me; he loves me not', is thought to have started with the oxeye daisy, and is now a common children's activity.



Small tortoiseshell **Aglais urticae**

Their bright colours act as a warning to deter predators such as birds even though the small tortoiseshell is not poisonous.

Common knapweed Centaurea nigra

The flower-head of common knapweed vaguely resembles a shaving brush. Both its stems and leaves are covered in short rough hairs, giving it a slightly greyish-green colour. Common knapweed is a source of nectar for bees, beetles and butterflies. Birds also feed on its seeds.

Yellow rattle **Rhinanthus minor**

This plant is a hemi-parasite that suppresses the dominance of grasses, enabling other wildflowers to prosper.

The common name derives from the rattling noise the mature seeds make in the calyx, after the yellow flowers faded.

Lesser burdock Arctium minus

The mature seeds' hooked bracts attach to humans and other animals, transporting the entire seed head.

The flower heads of burdocks

inspired the traditional 'Burry

Man' parade in

Edinburgh

where a man,

dressed head to toe in burs, parades through the town.

Meadow buttercup Ranunculus acris

This flower has rounded leaves, divided into three to seven lobes, and does not possess the runners of Creeping Buttercup. It is common in grazed pastures because it is poisonous to grazing animals, so avoided. It produces a chemical called protoanemonin in its sap.



Speckled wood Pararge aegeria

Speckled woods often perch in sunny spots, spiralling into the air to chase each other.

Sir David Attenborough said: "The sight of a Specked Wood flitting through the dappled sunlight of woodland glade is a memorable high summer spectacle."