

# Eycott Hill Nature Reserve: Wild flower fact file



**Cumbria**  
Wildlife Trust

## Wild flower species

The following species are by no means an exhaustive list of those found within the hay meadows at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve. In 2019, there was 51 species recorded across the six hectares of hay meadows.

## Very early flowering



### Dandelion

(*Taraxacum*)

One of the most familiar flowers. Rosettes of long, backwardly-toothed leaves and large yellow flowerheads on smooth, hollow and leafless stalks. Height: up to 30 cm  
Flowers: March–October



### Marsh-marigold

(*Caltha palustris*)

A robust low-growing perennial with big, shiny, kidney-shaped leaves. Yellow buttercup-like flowers 1–5 cm across, borne at the end of the stems. Found in wetter areas of hay meadows. Height: up to 50 cm  
Flowers: March–July



### Germander speedwell

(*Veronica chamaedrys*)

This is one of the largest of the common speedwells. The flowers are bright blue with a white centre and about 10 mm across. The leaves are hairy and heart-shaped, with serrated edges. Height: up to 25 cm  
Flowers: March–July



### Pignut

(*Conopodium majus*)

A small, delicate plant with filigree dark-green leaves and umbels of small white flowers, growing from a small, round tuber. Height: up to 40 cm  
Flowers: May–June

### Wood anemone

(*Anemone nemorosa*)

A small spring flowering plant with palmate leaves and a delicate white blushed-pink flower. Wood anemone is one of the prettiest early spring flowers. The flowers are about 4 cm across. Height: up to 30 cm  
Flowers: March–May



## Early flowering

### Yellow-rattle

(*Rhinanthus minor*)

An upright plant with tough stems and opposite, rather long, toothed leaves. When ripe, the seeds rattle inside the fruiting head - hence the name. It is a semi-parasite, attaching itself to the roots of other species from which it gains nourishment. Height: up to 50 cm  
Flowers: May–September



### Red clover

(*Trifolium pratense*)

A tufted perennial with typical hairy clover-type leaves and deep pinkish-purple flowers. The flowerheads are rounded and up to 4 cm long. Height: up to 60 cm  
Flowers: May–September



### Greater bird's-foot trefoil

(*Lotus uliginosus*)

This plant has erect and ascending stems. The yellow flowers are in clusters, 10–18 mm across. It is found in damper meadows. Height: up to 60 cm  
Flowers: June–August



### Selfheal

(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

Selfheal is a low-growing, perennial herb with paired, oval leaves and bluish or violet flowers that appear in dense, oblong clusters on the top of its stems. Its purple-tinged seed head remains after flowering. This flower contains oils used for treating sore throats. Height: up to 30 cm  
Flowers: June–September



### Oxeye daisy

(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

A large-flowering daisy-like plant, with flowering heads held high on long stalks. The flowerheads can be as large as 6 cm across, the base leaves are spoon-shaped and about 10 cm long. Height: up to 70 cm  
Flowers: June–August

Photography credits Imogen Rutter, Katrina Martin/2020vision, Lizzie Wilberforce, Lee Schofield and Richard Burkmar



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## Mid-season flowering

### Eyebright

(*Euphrasia*)

An annual with toothed leaves; opposite towards the base of the plant, but alternate towards the top. Petals are white to purple, usually with darker veins and a yellow blotch on the lower lip.

Height: up to 40 cm

Flowers: June–September



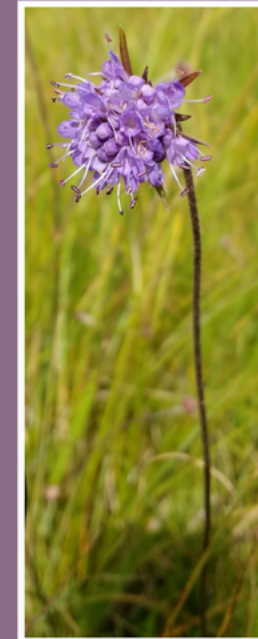
### Devil's-bit scabious

(*Succisa pratensis*)

A tall plant with oval leaves at its base and narrow stem-leaves. The flowering heads are rounded and about 20–25 mm across and deep purple in colour.

Height: up to 1 metre

Flowers: July–October



### Common knapweed

(*Centaurea nigra*)

A hairy plant with tough, grooved stems and mostly undivided leaves. The flowerheads are tightly-packed red-purple and about 2–4 cm across.

Height: up to 65 cm

Flowers: June–September



### Meadow buttercup

(*Ranunculus acris*)

This species is the tallest of the three common buttercups - creeping and bulbous. The bright yellow flowers are 18–25 mm across. The leaves are lobbed and hairy.

Height: up to 1 metre

Flowers: June–July



### Rough hawkbit

(*Leontodon hispidus*)

Hairy stems of this plant arise from a rosette of toothed leaves. The small yellow 'dandelion' flowers often have a red underside to the petals.

Height: up to 60 cm

Flowers: June–September

## Late flowering

### Great burnet

(*Sanguisorba officinalis*)

A tall plant, great burnet has oval, crimson flower heads that appear on long, green stalks, giving them the look of lollipops. The divided leaves have oval leaflets.

Height: up to 1.2 metre

Flowers: June–September



### Autumn hawkbit

(*Leontodon autumnalis*)

The yellowheads of autumn hawkbit are usually reddish underneath and 12–35 mm across. The heads grow on leafless, branched, slender stems and the leaves are deeply lobed, pointed and not obviously hairy.

Height: up to 50 cm

Flowers: June–October



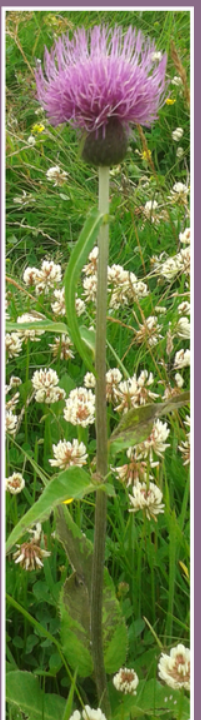
### Melancholy thistle

(*Cirsium heterophyllum*)

The tall melancholy thistle stems bear large purple flowers surrounded by oval, purple-tinged leaf-like structure. The large leaves have felted undersides that form a wide rosette.

Height: up to 1.2 metre

Flowers: July–August



### Betony

(*Stachys officinalis*)

Betony consists of leafy rosettes and two to four pairs of stem leaves. The purple-red flowers are 12–18 mm across and its found on drier slopes and banks within hay meadows.

Height: up to 75 cm

Flowers: June–September



### Lady's mantle

(*Alchemilla vulgaris*)

A plant with pretty, soft green leaves with rounded lobes, and heads of tiny yellow-green flowers, each only 3–4 mm across. The flowers have no petals, but the yellowish sepals are petal-like.

Height: up to 50 cm

Flowers: June–September



Photography credits Imogen Rutter, Lee Schofield, Philip Precey and Catherine Williamson



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