

# Wild Flowers!

Bressay is full of blooms! There are many places here where wild flowers like to grow, including in pasture and croftland, on banks near the sea, rocky places, roadside verges, and in your own garden! Many flowers are small and delicate and grow close to the ground - but if you look very carefully, you'll see all kinds of colours and shapes. Use this guide to help you identify what you find.



## Cuckooflower

Native. **Flowers:** May - August

**Where to look:** Damp pastures, ditches. Delicate pinkish, sometimes white flowers with 4 petals.



## Creeping Forget-Me-Not

Native. **Flowers:** June - August

**Where to look:** Streams, ditches and marshes.

## Heath Bedstraw

Native. **Flowers:** June - August

**Where to look:** Gravelly roadside verges and banks, dry heaths.

You'll have to look very carefully for this is a tiny white flower with 4 petals!



## Pignut

**Flowers:** June - July

**Where to look:** Pastures and roadsides.

Very delicate with small white flowers. Look at the leaves to tell this flower apart from Cow Parsley (which has fern-like leaves).



## Oxeye Daisy

**Flowers:** July - August

Shetland has its own Daisy or 'Kokkeloori' of course - but these ones are much bigger! Often flowers escape from people's gardens (like this one), or are introduced accidentally, and then return year after year in the wild, becoming an 'alien' wild-flower species.





### Hogweed 'Keksi'

**Flowers:** July - August

**Where to look:**

Rough grassy places, sandy pastures.

Much less delicate than Pignut or Cow Parsley. These white-pink flowers have 5 petals, and the stems are covered in hairs.

### Wild Angelica

Native.

**Flowers:** July - September

**Where to look:**

Damp meadows, streamsides.

To identify Wild Angelica, look at where a leaf joins the main stem. If this part (called the 'leaf sheath') is swollen, you've found Wild Angelica.



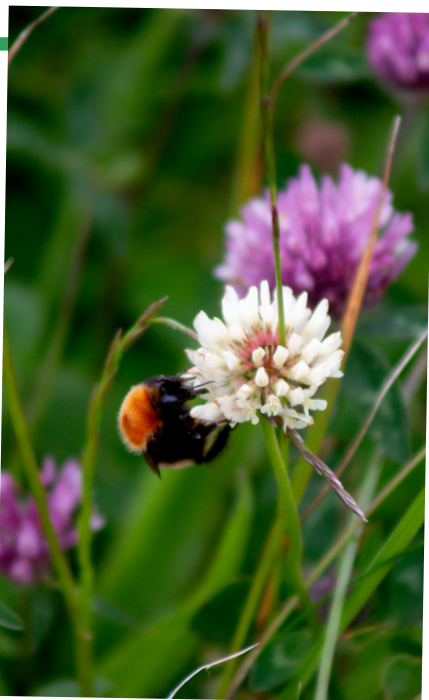
### White and Red Clover

Native and alien. **Flowers:** May - August

**Where to look:**

Dry pastures, grassy sea cliffs, roadside verges.

Bzzzz! An orange-coated Shetland Bee has stopped by the flowers too!



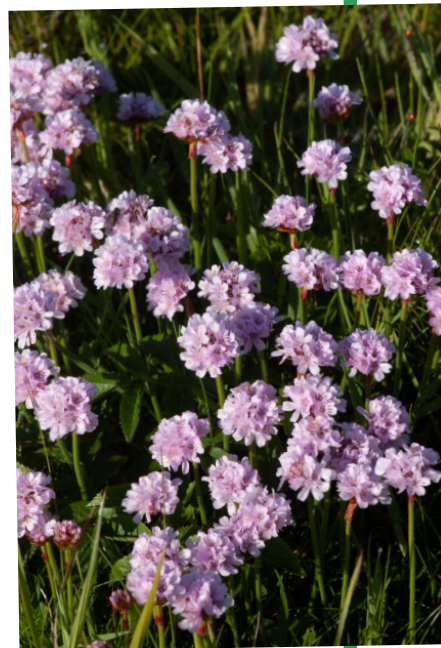
### Sea Pink or Thrift 'Banksfloer'

Native. **Flowers:** May - July

**Where to look:**

Coastal banks, cliff-tops, rocky areas, beaches, stony ground.

Sea pinks may look delicate, but they can survive the most weather beaten places!



### Heath Spotted Orchid 'Curl Dodie'

Native. **Flowers:** June - August

**Where to look:**

Damp pastures, moorland, but also in dryer coarser ground.

Look for the beautiful spotted patterns made of dots and lines on the flowers.



### Northern Marsh Orchid also 'Curl Dodie'

Native.

**Flowers:** late May - July

**Where to look:**

Marshes and damp pastures, also dry verges.

This orchid is a richer purple colour and has spotted leaves. There are many kinds of orchid in Shetland, some very rare - so keep a look out on your next walk, you never know what you might find!







### Ragged Robin

Native.

**Flowers:** June - August

**Where to look:**

Damp meadows, marshes. So called because of its raggedy petals!

### Marsh Thistle

Native. **Flowers:**

June-August

**Where to look:**

Rough marshy meadows, roadsides.

Commonly called a weed, this prickly character certainly takes root! Buttercups ('Craafit') can also be seen in this picture, which flower May - September.



### Red Campion 'Sweet William'

Native.

**Flowers:** May - September

**Where to look:**

Roadsides, coastal banks, grassy sea-cliffs.

A lovely deep coloured flower with five petals.

Can you see how the stems are also pinkish here?



### Kidney Vetch

Native and alien.

**Flowers:**

late May - early July

**Where to look:**

Sea banks, grassy sea cliffs, meadows and roadside verges.



### Marsh Ragwort 'Gowan'

Native.

**Flowers:** June - September

**Where to look:**

Pastures, streamsides, roadsides.

A bright, sunny yellow flower, widespread in Shetland.



### Monkeyflower

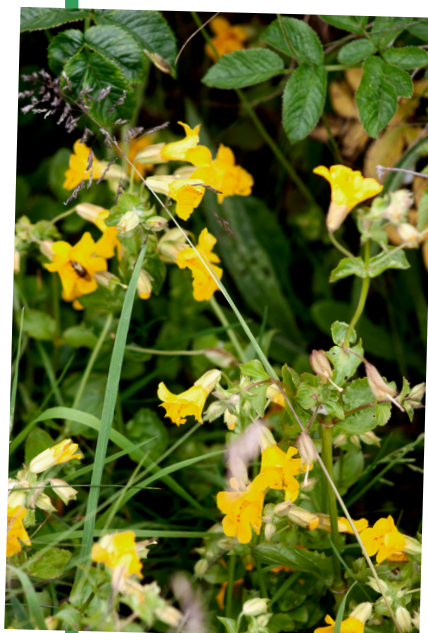
**Flowers:**

July - September

**Where to look:**

Streamsides and ditches.

If you look carefully, these yellow flowers have red spots on them. Patterns like this on petals help attract bees and insects to pollinate flowers.





### Common Bird's-foot- trefoil 'Kattikloo'

Native and alien.

**Flowers:** May -  
August

**Where to look:**

Dry grassy places,  
roadside verges.  
These lovely yellow  
flowers grow  
very close to the  
ground.



### Cat's-Ear

**Flowers:** May -  
October

**Where to look:**

Meadows, banks,  
grassy roadsides.

There are many  
Dandelion-like  
flowers in  
Shetland.

Looking for  
differences such  
as leaf shapes,  
colours, and  
sizes helps  
identify exact

species - so always look  
closely!



### Marsh Marigold 'Blugga'

Native. **Flowers:** late April  
- June

**Where to look:** Ditches,  
streams, loch sides and  
marshes. It's buttercup-like  
but has glossy leaves with  
scalloped edges.



### Tormentil 'Bark'

Native. **Flowers:** May - September

**Where to look:** Heathland, moor-  
land, waysides and roadside banks.

These very delicate flowers have 4  
petals and small divided leaves.



### Yellow Iris

#### 'Seggi-floer' or 'Seggs'

Native. **Flowers:** July - early August

**Where to look:** Streams,  
marshes, edges of lochs.

A very showy flower! But can you  
see patterns on the petals again?  
Although beautiful, flowers are  
also very important in the life-cycle  
of the plant, to help pollination.



The wild flowers in this guide are just a few of the many kinds that grow on Bressay. You might be able to find a really rare and unusual flower somewhere on the island - keep your eyes peeled!

**PLEASE REMEMBER!** You must never destroy, uproot or pick any flowers you see whilst walking around Bressay. They are best appreciated in the wild, so please leave them there for everyone to enjoy!