

Common weeds

The following is a guide to the most commonly found weeds that will be observed in the Members' Experiment: 'Are our weeds attracting more beneficial insects than our cultivated plants' 2023. The descriptions are provided for guidance only.



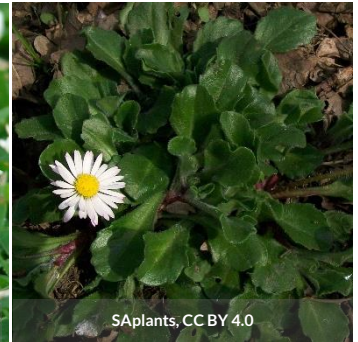
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Dandelion

Taraxicum officinalis

Grows from single unbranched taproot producing flowers on several leafless hollow stems. Leaves produced at the base are narrow, oblong and divided into large, jagged shapes. They taper as they approach the base of the plant.

Perennial nettle

Urtica dioica

Grows from a network of yellow underground roots. Stems and leaves are very hairy, leaves are oblong to spear-shaped with pointed tip and the edges are serrated. Short strings of numerous flowers are borne on the stem which are dull brown / green.

White clover

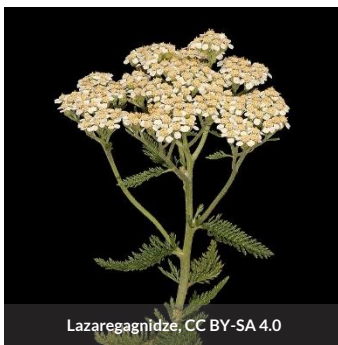
Urtica dioica

Grows from a network of creeping stems that can form a mat in the soil. Leaves are in groups of three, and oblong shaped with pale or dark markings. Small round-headed flowers are borne on short stems which are white, often with a slightly pink tinge.

Daisy

Bellis perennis

Grows from a network of creeping stems. Leaves are small and spoon shaped and grow in groups of rosettes. Flowers are a cluster of yellow 'bobbles' surrounded by white 'petals' and borne on a single leafless stem.



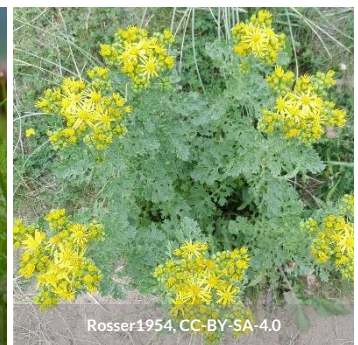
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Ursus sapien CC BY-SA 3.0



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Yarrow

Achillea millefolium

Produces several stems up to 1m in height, bearing feathery leaves evenly up the stem. Flowers are grouped together in a flat 'umbrella' structure with four to nine groups each comprising three to eight small oval flowers.

Chickweed

Stellaria media

Thin stems bearing small oval leaves that are directly opposite each other on the stem. The plant can form a dense mat of low growing foliage. There is a single line of hairs running up the stem. Flowers are small and white.

Self heal

Prunella vulgaris

Spear-shaped slightly serrated leaves that are opposite pairs on a square stem, which often has red colouration. The purple flowers are tubular and have a purple upper lip and paler lower lip.

Ragwort

Jacobaea vulgaris

Upright stems, usually around 1m in height. Leaves are divided into lobes. Produces profuse bright yellow flowers in a flat bobbly cluster, surrounded by 12-15 'petals' (or rays).



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Shepherd's purse

Capsella bursa-pastoris

Grows from a rosette of lobed leaves at the base. From the base, a single stem, around 30cm tall emerges that bears a few pointy leaves and many small white flowers with four petals. These give rise to small heart-shaped seedheads.

Common speedwell

Veronica officinalis

Small, simple, oblong leaves with a slightly serrated edge and hairy surface. These tend to cover the ground in a flat mat of foliage. Stems are hairy, around 30cm tall, and bear small, soft, violet flowers with four petals.

Red dead nettle

Lamium purpureum

Square stems up to 20cm tall, bearing oblong, slightly serrated leaves, green leaves at the bottom of the stem, purple at the top. Leaves are borne on short stalks. Bright pink-purple tubular flowers with one top lip and a pair of lower lips.

Common knapweed

Centaurea nigra

Leaves are slender, spear-shaped and hairy, borne on stems up to 1m tall. Lower leaves have stalks, but these are often absent in upper leaves. The flowers are purple and 'thistle-like'.



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Creeping thistle

Cirsium arvense

Leaves are pale green, slightly curly with numerous spines. They are much less jagged than spear thistle leaves. Plants emerge from a mass of underground roots that rapidly spread.

Spear thistle

Cirsium vulgare

Leaves are dark grey green and spear shaped, and much fatter and more jagged than creeping thistle, giving it a 'classic' thistle shape. It grows from a single taproot so doesn't spread as rapidly as creeping thistle.

Redshank

Persicaria spp.

Narrow oblong to spear-shaped leaves that often have a central, darker-coloured part. The stems flop along the ground then bend upright to about 30cm. Numerous white/pink/red 'bobbly' flowers are borne on spikes.

Find out more about how to manage weeds from Garden Organic at:

www.gardenorganic.org.uk/expert-advice/garden-management/weeds