



Useful Resources

Flower field guides and keys

Field guides are all subtly different and there is no single one which could be regarded as the best; it will depend upon your own personal taste and experience. Not every plant likely to be seen in the British countryside can be found in every book and pocket or concise guides will probably not be extensive enough. The main information that you will need about a plant is a description of the main identifying features, a map showing where it grows and flowering times. For situations where you have no inkling of what a plant might be, a wildflower key is useful together with an easily understood glossary of plant parts. If you already have an older flower book be aware that some scientific names may have been revised in accordance with current classifications.

Titles that you might find useful are:

Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland by Blamey, Fitter and Fitter – 1900 species, 5000 detailed colour paintings. Includes grasses, sedges, rushes, ferns and horsetails. (ISBN: 9781408179505)

Harrap's Wild Flowers by Simon Harrap – guide of over 800 carefully selected species uses colour photographs rather than illustrations and close ups of key features. Includes distribution maps. Also available as an e-book. (ISBN: 9781408113608)

Collins Flower Guide by David Streeter et al – 1900 flowers with illustrations, also covers trees, grasses and ferns. Gets good reviews but new edition to be called **Collins British Wild Flower Guide** is due to be released May/June 2016. (ISBN: ISBN 10: 0007451253)

New Flora of the British Isles 3rd edition by Clive A. Stace – 1600 species are illustrated. The reviews suggest that this is quite technical so not for the beginner. (ISBN: 9780521707725)

The Wild Flower Key: How to identify Wild plants, Trees and Shrubs in Britain and Ireland by Francis Rose – (revised edition). Identification guide for serious study of flowers. (ISBN: 9780723251750)

The Vegetative Key to the British Flora by John Poland and Eric Clements – covers 3000 plants with the approach of being able use a hand lens to identify plants without fruit or flowers. Not recommended for beginners. (ISBN: 9780956014405)

Plants and Habitats, Ben Averis – An introduction to common plants and their habitats in Britain and Ireland. (ISBN: 9780957608108)

A Flora of Norfolk, Gillian Beckett, Alec Bull and Robin Stevenson – (ISBN: 9780953499908)

The **Field Study Council** produces a number of laminated identification guides (approximately £3 per guide). These are available at NWT visitor centres as well as www.field-studies-council.org/publications/fold-out-charts.aspx

Most of these books should be obtainable from bookshops or online. If you are having difficulty finding a book then www.nhbs.com has an extensive list of wildlife books.

