

# NATURE - WATCHING AT HOME

## Some common spring wildflowers

**The spring is a great time to look for wildflowers as they add a splash of colour to our countryside.**

The following wildflowers are common around NE Scotland so should be easy to find at this time of year.

### In woodlands look out for:-



1. Bluebells which carpet the floor producing a lovely sweet scent which hangs in the air if it is still.



2. Wood sorrel is a small white flower which usually occurs in patches. It has characteristic three lobed leaves.



3. Wood anemone is another small white flower. It's leaves look feathery.



4. Dog violets are a bluey purple colour sometimes even white.



5. Wild cherry trees are covered in white blossom at this time of year and are very popular with bees.



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## In grasslands and meadows look out for:-



6. Sweet cicely is a white umbellifer, its flowers are like an umbrella. The leaves are feathery and the whole plant has an aniseed scent. There are lots of other white umbellifers, some of which are poisonous so take care!



7. Dandelions are also very common in lawns or grassy areas that are not cut very often. They produce the dandelion clock seed heads. The seeds are carried away on the wind.



8. Red campion grows tall up to about 50cm with pinky red flowers at the top, you will find these in damp places too.



9. Daisies, these are common even in lawns that are not cut too often.

## River edges and wet meadows look out for:-



10. Cuckoo flower, a lilac pink flower that grows about 30cm tall. It is the foodplant of the orange tip butterfly caterpillars.



11. Garlic mustard has white flowers and can grow up to 50cm tall. Another foodplant for the orange tip butterfly caterpillars.



12. Water avens has a very unusual brown and yellow flower that hangs downwards. It likes really wet ground next to a river, burn or pond.

