

CHECK-LIST OF TYPES OF

CORNISH HEDGE FLORA

© Sarah Carter 2006. Reviewed 2023.

Typical Cornish hedge / Coastal hedge / Moorland or heathland hedges / Woodland hedge / Wet hedge / Stone hedge / Typical garden escapes in Cornish hedges / Typical invasive species in flail-damaged hedges.

This check-list is a simple guide to the herbaceous plants typically indicating different habitat types found in the Cornish hedge. These short lists are of typical plants, not complete species lists for the habitat. Many of the plants in the Typical Hedge list also appear in the other types of hedge. Areas of intermediate population where location or physical conditions begin to change and habitats overlap are not included.

The typical Cornish hedge, if undamaged, will contain most of the listed species, and many more. The population of a healthy mile of typical hedge in sun or dappled shade would normally be between one and two hundred different flowering species; if not, the likelihood is that it is maintenance-damaged. This can be confirmed by the proportional presence of the typical flail-encouraged species listed below. The list of garden escapes may be useful in pin-pointing the site of a vanished dwelling, or in monitoring the speed of colonisation outward from the garden gate or fly-tipping site, and its effect on native flora. The lists are also indicators of previous land type or vanished habitat. Hedges that were built on cleared woodland or heathland will, if correctly maintained, retain those typical species even if the entire area is now in agricultural or other use.

The list is useful in identifying habitat differences, and at a more advanced level in researching the hedge's history and what may be happening to its floral diversity.

Typical Cornish hedge (woodland-edge/heathland mixture)

Anthriscus sylvestris - Cow parsley (Queen Anne's Lace)

Arctium minus - Lesser burdock

Agrimonia eupatoria - Agrimony

Calystegia sepium - Hedge bindweed

Centaurea nigra - Common knapweed

Cirsium vulgare - Spear thistle

Digitalis purpurea - Foxglove

Eupatoria cannabinum - Hemp agrimony

Fumaria species - Fumitories

Galium aparine - Cleavers (Goose-grass, Sticky-weed)



Red campion

Galium mollugo - Hedge bedstraw

Geum urbanum - Wood avens (Herb bennet)

Geranium species - Cranesbills, esp. G. robertianum (Herb robert), G. dissectum (Cut-leaved cranesbill),

G. molle (Dove's-foot cranesbill).

Heraclium sphondylium - Hogweed (Cow parsnip)

Hyacinthoides non-scripta - Bluebell

Knautia arvensis - Field scabious

Lapsana communis - Nipplewort

Lathyrus pratensis - Meadow vetchling

Leucanthemum vulgare - Ox-eye daisy (Moon daisy)

Linaria vulgaris - Common toadflax (Yellow snapdragon)

Lotus pedunculatus - Greater bird's-foot trefoil

Plantago lanceolata - Ribwort plantain

Prunella vulgaris - Self-heal

Ranunculus repens - Creeping buttercup

Rumex acetosa - Common sorrel

Rumex obtusifolius - Broad-leaved dock

Senecio jacobaea - Ragwort

Silene dioica - Red campion

Stachys officinalis - Betony

Stachys sylvatica - Hedge woundwort

Stellaria holostea - Greater stitchwort

Sisymbrium officinale - Hedge mustard

Umbilicus rupestris - Pennywort (Navelwort)

Veronica chamaedrys - Germander speedwell

Vicia species - Vetches, esp. V. cracca (Tufted vetch), V. sativa (Common vetch).

Viola riviniana - Common violet



Greater stitchwort



Hemp agrimony

Coastal hedge

Anthyllis vulneraria - Kidney vetch

Armeria maritima - Sea pink (Thrift)

Calystegia sepium ssp roseata - Pink hedge bindweed

Cochlearia officinalis - Scurvy-grass

Crambe maritima - Sea kale

Daucus carota - Wild carrot

Galium verum - Lady's bedstraw

Plantago coronopus - Buck's-horn plantain

Primula veris - Cowslip

Raphanus raphanistrum ssp maritimus - Sea radish

Reseda lutea - Wild mignonette

Silene uniflora - Sea campion

Smyrnium olusatrum - Alexanders



Pink hedge bindweed



Buck's-horn plantain

Moorland/heathland hedges

Achillea millefolium - Yarrow

Calluna vulgaris - Heather (Ling)

Conopodium majus - Pignut

Dactylorhiza maculata ssp elodes - Heath-spotted orchid

Erica cinerea - Bell heather

Galium saxatile - Heath bedstraw

Hieracium umbellatum - Umbellate hawkweed

Hypochoeris radicata - Cat's-ear

Jasione montana - Sheep's-bit scabious

Leontodon autumnalis - Autumn hawkbit

Polygala serpyllifolia - Heath milkwort

Potentilla erecta - Tormentil

Potentilla sterilis - Barren strawberry

Rumex acetosella - Sheep's sorrel

Solidago virgaurea - Wild golden rod

Succisa pratensis - Devil's-bit scabious

Vaccinium myrtillus - Bilberry (Whortleberry)



Bell heather



Wild golden rod

Woodland hedge

Ajuga reptans - Bugle

Alliaria petiolata - Garlic mustard (Jack-by-the-hedge)

Allium ursinum - Ramsons

Anemone nemorosa - Wood anemone

Arum maculatum - Lords-and-ladies (Cuckoo pint)

Circaea lutetiana - Enchanter's nightshade

Glechoma hederacea - Ground ivy

Mercurialis perennis - Dog's mercury

Oxalis acetosella - Wood sorrel

Primula vulgaris - Primrose

Ranunculus ficaria - Lesser celandine

Tamus communis - Black bryony

Veronica montana - Wood speedwell

Ferns, esp. Asplenium scolopendrium (Hart's-tongue), Dryopteris filix-mas (Male Fern), Polystichum setiferum (Soft Shield Fern), Blechnum spicant (Hard fern).

Wet hedge (marsh or ditch)

Apium nodiflorum - Fool's watercress

Cardamine pratensis - Milkmaids (Lady's smock)

Epilobium species - Willowherbs

Filipendula ulmaria - Meadowsweet

Galium palustre - Marsh bedstraw

Holcus lanatus - Yorkshire Fog [grass]



Primrose



Meadowsweet

 ${\it Juncus effusus}$ - Soft rush

Lythrum salicaria - Purple loosestrife

Oenanthe crocata - Water dropwort

Ranunculus flammula - Lesser spearwort

Scrophularia auriculata - Water figwort

Sibthorpia europaea - Cornish moneywort

Valeriana officinalis - Common valerian

Stone hedge (Earth capping but with stone core).

Peltigira canina - Dog lichen

Parmelia saxatilis - Crottle

Cladonia pyxidata - Cup lichen

Lecanora atra - Black Shields

Ochrolechia parella - Crab's-eye lichen

Homalothecium sericeum - Silky Wall Feather-moss

Dicranum scoparium - Broom's Fork-moss

Hypnum cupressiforme - Cypress-leaved Plait-moss

Campylopus introflexus - Heath Star Moss

Polytrichum formosum - Bank Haircap

Grimmia tricophylla - Hair-pointed Grimmia

Polypodium vulgare - Common Polypody

Sedum anglicum - English stonecrop



Common valerian



Polypody fern and lichens



Cypress-leaved plait-moss

Typical garden escapes in Cornish hedges

Allium triquetrum - Three-cornered leek

Arum italicum - Italian lords-and-ladies

Aster novae-belgii - Michaelmas daisy

Campanula poscharskyana - Serbian bellflower

Centranthus ruber - Red valerian

Cerastium tomentosum - Snow-in-summer

Chamaenerion angustifolium - Rosebay willowherb

Chrysanthemum maximum - Shasta daisy (Marguerite)

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora - Montbretia

Erigeron karvinskianus - Mexican fleabane (Cousin Jack)

Fallopia japonica - Japanese knotweed

Galanthus nivalis - Snowdrop

Hyacinthoides hispanica - Spanish squill

Hypericum calycinum - Rose of Sharon (St John's wort)

Impatiens glandulifera - Himalayan balsam

Lamiastrum galeobdolon ssp argentatum - Variegated yellow archangel

Narcissus species - Daffodil

Oxalis articulata - Pink sorrel

Pentaglottis sempervirens - Green alkanet



Himalayan balsam



Michaelmas daisy

Petasites fragrans - Winter heliotrope Solidago canadensis - Golden rod Vinca major (and V. minor) - Periwinkle

Typical species rampant in flail-damaged hedges

Allium triquetrum - Three-cornered leek

Anthriscus sylvestris - Cow parsley

Arrhenatherum elatius var bulbosum - False Oat Grass (onion couch)

Chamaenerion angustifolium - Rosebay willowherb

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora - Montbretia

Fallopia japonica - Japanese knotweed

Galium aparine - Cleavers

Hedera helix ssp Hibernica - Irish ivy

Heraclium sphondylium - Hogweed

Petasites fragrans - Winter heliotrope

Pteridium aquilinum - Bracken

Urtica dioica - Stinging nettle



Green alkanet



Three-cornered leek

You are welcome to download these papers and photographs for your private use and study. If you use any of this material in any other way, the copyright holder and the Cornish Hedges Library must be acknowledged as the source - thank you.

Titles of papers available on www.cornishhedges.co.uk

Advice for Working on Roadside Hedges

Building Hedges in Cornwall

Building Turf Hedges

Building and Repairing Cornish Stone Stiles

Butterflies, Moths and Other Insects in Cornish Hedges

Check-list for Inspecting New or Restored Hedges in Cornwall

Check-list of Types of Cornish Hedge Flora

Code of Good Practice for Cornish Hedges

Comments on the © Defra Hedgerow Survey Handbook (1st Edition)

Comments on the © Defra Hedgerow Survey Handbook (2nd

Edition)

Cornish Hedges in Gardens

Cornish Hedges on Development and Housing Sites

Gates and Gateways in Cornish hedges

Geology and Hedges in Cornwall

Glossary of some Cornish Words used in the Countryside

Hedges in the Cornish Landscape

How to Look After a Cornish Hedge

How Old is That Cornish Hedge?

Literature Sources

Mediæval Hedges in Cornwall (450AD - 1550)

Modern Hedges in Cornwall (1840 - present day)

Mosses, Lichens, Fungi and Ferns in Cornish Hedges

Pipe-laying and Other Cross-country Works Involving Hedges

Post-Mediæval Hedges in Cornwall (1550 - 1840)

Prehistoric Hedges in Cornwall (5,000BC - 450AD)

Repairing Cornish Hedges and Stone Hedges

Repairing Turf Hedges

Risk Assessment Guidance for working on Cornish Hedges

Roadside Hedges and Verges in Cornwall

The Curse of Rabbits in Cornish Hedges

The Life and Death of a Flailed Cornish Hedge

Trees on Hedges in Cornwall

Unusual Old Features in Cornish Hedges

Who Owns that Cornish Hedge?

Wildlife and the Cornish Hedge