

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Flowers and Grasses of Upland Hay Meadows

Sweet vernal-grass



Flowering time: April-July
One of the earliest grasses to flower. When dried has characteristic smell of fresh hay. Leaves flat. Spike-like flower heads with bent bristles.

Size: Up to 50 cm

Cock's foot



Flowering time: Late April-November
Stout. Stems flattened. Leaves often rough. Dense, purplish flower heads.

Size: Up to 100 cm

Rough meadow-grass



Flowering time: May-July
Leaves pale green, flat and soft. Loose, pyramidal flower head.

Size: Up to 90 cm

Meadow fescue



Flowering time: June-July
Dark green, flat leaves. Large, loose flower head.

Size: Up to 80 cm

Common bent



Flowering time: June-August
Delicate, spreading purple-brown flower head.

Size: Up to 70 cm

Crested dog's-tail



Flowering time: June-August
Narrow, glossy leaves. Flower head is a compact, one-sided spike.

Size: Up to 60 cm

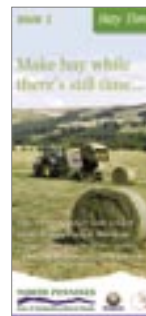
The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is among the finest landscapes in the country. Stretching across large parts of County Durham, Cumbria and Northumberland, it was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1988. At almost 2,000 square kilometres, it is the second largest of the 40 AONBs and is one of the most peaceful and unspoilt places in England. AONBs were established with the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty and are given the same protection as National Parks.

In June 2003 the North Pennines was awarded UNESCO European Geopark status in recognition of its world-class geological heritage and the way that this is used to support sustainable development. In April 2004 it became a founding member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.



Please respect the hay crop!

When harvested, hay is an important fodder crop for North Pennines livestock. Please walk in single file along footpaths and take care not to crush or trample the growing hay.



Hay Time – North Pennines

Working together for a bright future for our hay meadows.

North Pennines hay meadows are a rare and important habitat with 40% of the UK's remaining upland meadows found in the AONB. Hay meadows are dependent on traditional management and are an important element of the cultural landscape of the North Pennines. This guide has been produced as part of the North Pennines AONB's Hay Time project which aims to conserve and enhance the hay meadows of the AONB and to increase public awareness, enjoyment and understanding of this internationally important habitat.

Hay Time Walks - Look out for this pack of three leaflets describing hay meadow walks in Allendale, Weardale and Baldersdale.

Illustrations: Sarah Ingwersen

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We can provide the information contained in this publication in large print, different formats and other languages on request. Please call 01388 528801 for details.

NORTH PENNINES AONB PARTNERSHIP

Working together for the North Pennines

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Wood crane's-bill

NORTH PENNINES

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Common hay meadow plants

Meadow buttercup



Flowering time: May-July
Lobed leaves with lobes not stalked. Flower stalks not furrowed.
Size: 30-100 cm

Selfheal



Flowering time: June-November
Downy. Leaves pointed oval. Lower leaves stalked. Flower heads square. Flowers blue/violet.
Size: 10-25 cm

Pignut



Flowering time: May-July
Stem hairless and hollow. Upper leaves threadlike. Flowers white.
Size: 20-30 cm

Common sorrel



Flowering time: May-June
Arrow-shaped leaves with lobes at the base that point backwards. Upper leaves clasp stem.
Size: 30-100 cm

Ribwort plantain



Flowering time: April-October
Long, spear-shaped leaves with conspicuous veins. Flower stalk furrowed.
Size: 10-40 cm

Red clover



Flowering time: May-October
Hairy. White crescent on leaves. Egg-shaped flower heads. Flowers deep pink.
Size: 10-30 cm

Less common hay meadow plants

Marsh marigold



Flowering time: March-June
Stout and hairless. Stem hollow. Large kidney-shaped, dark green glossy leaves. Leaves paler on underside. Flowers yellow.
Size: 15-40 cm

Meadow vetchling



Flowering time: May-August
Clambering. Parallel veins on leaves. Tendrils. Yellow flowers. Black seedpods.
Size: 30-100 cm

Meadowsweet



Flowering time: June-September
Hairless. Long-stalked leaves, dark green above and white, softly furry below. Flowers in dense clusters, creamy coloured and sweet-scented. Damp places.
Size: 50-150 cm

Common knapweed



Flowering time: July-September
Stout stem. Spear-shaped leaves. Scales below flower blackish-brown. Deep pink brush-like flowers.
Size: 20-80 cm

Yellow-rattle



Flowering time: May-July
Leaves in opposite pairs and not stalked. Flowers yellow. Seed case inflated with seeds rattling inside when ripe.
Size: 15-40 cm

Rough hawkbit



Flowering time: June-September
Shaggily hairy. Not branched. End of leaf rounded. Flower heads solitary and droop before flowering. Seeds form a 'clock'.
Size: 10-40 cm

Special plants of dry meadows

Lady's-mantles



Flowering time: May-July
Roundish, lobed leaves. Tiny green/yellow flowers in loose clusters.
Size: 10-30 cm

Great burnet



Flowering time: June-September
Hairless. Leaves stalked and blue/green below. Flowers deep red in dense, oblong head.
Size: 30-100 cm

Meadow saxifrage



Flowering time: April-June
Hairy stem. Shallowly-lobed, kidney-shaped leaves, mainly at the base of the plant. Leaves shrivel before flowering time. White flowers in loose clusters.
Size: 10-40 cm

Wood anemone



Flowering time: March-May
Hairless. Stem leaves long-stalked and in whorl of three. Flowers white and solitary.
Size: 10-25 cm

Wood crane's-bill



Flowering time: June-August
Hairy. Leaves deeply lobed. Reddish/mauve flowers in pairs. Seed head ends in long, straight, pointed beak, hence name 'cranesbill'.
Size: 20-60 cm

Melancholy thistle



Flowering time: June-July
Almost spineless. Spear-shaped leaves green above and thickly white-felted below. Large, deep pink brush-like flower heads.
Size: 50-100 cm

Special plants of damp meadows

Devil's-bit scabious



Flowering time: June-October
Hairy. Elliptical leaves often blotched purplish. Flowers blue/purple in rounded heads.
Size: 20-80 cm

Water avens



Flowering time: May-September
Downy. Main leaves at base of the plant. Nodding, bell-shaped flowers, dull pink/dark red. Seed head with hairy hooks.
Size: 20-60 cm

Ragged-robin



Flowering time: May-July
Stem rough. Narrow leaves. Bright pink flowers with 'ragged' appearance.
Size: 30-80 cm

Globeflower



Flowering time: May-July
Hairless. Deeply cut lobed leaves. Large, ball-like yellow flowers.
Size: 10-60 cm

Sneezewort



Flowering time: July-September
Hairy. Dark green, shiny, long narrow leaves with tiny teeth. White flowers with creamy centres.
Size: 20-60 cm

Marsh valerian



Flowering time: May-July
Leaves at base of plant oval and stalked. Stem leaves un-stalked. Pale pink flowers in rounded clusters.
Size: 10-30 cm