

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Flixweed (*Descurainia sophia*)

Least Concern

A very distinctive, feathery-leaved plant in the Mustard family

Uncommon in our area, found in only 8% of *Cornfield Flowers Project* surveys

REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Nitrogen application; herbicides

Our Flixweed experience...

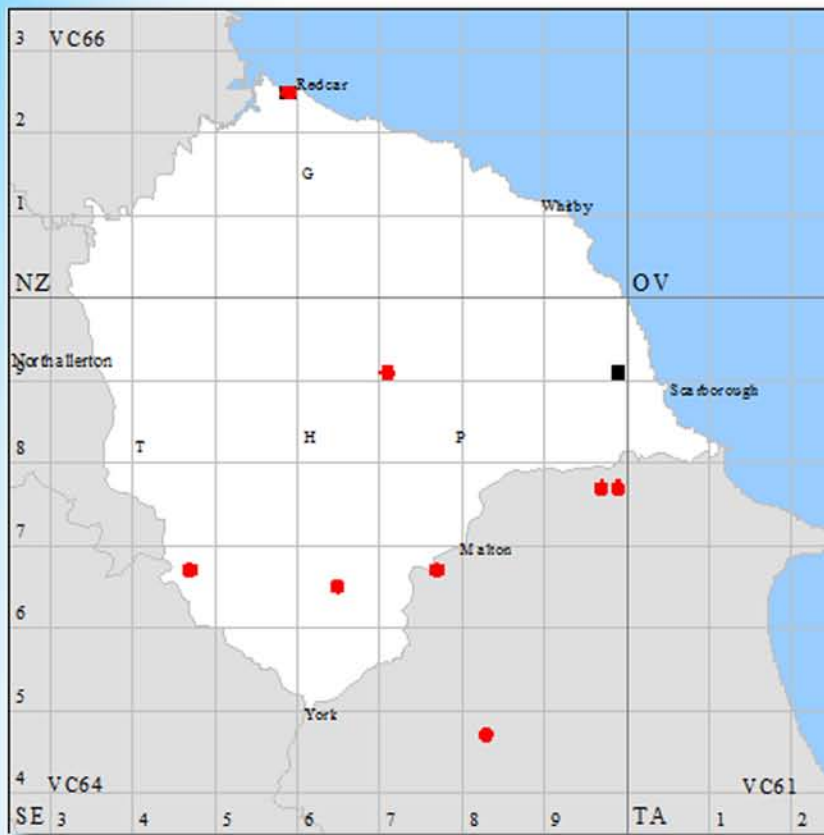
Flixweed has a widespread, but easterly, distribution in Britain. It has a stronghold on the arable land bordering the Moray Firth, which shows that it is not averse to northerly climates. On the North York Moors it is rare and was only found once during Nan Sykes' survey, though it has been seen on at least two occasions since.

In our area it is mostly found on the sandy soils near Staxton, Sherburn and Rillington. We find it on Glebe Farm at Potter Brompton every year, but never in great quantity.

In *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire*, Eva Crackles gives a number of sites for it, spread over Holderness, Lower Derwentland and the Wolds and confirms its presence at Staxton and Ganton.

All records for Flixweed in our area are spontaneous; we have never attempted to grow it or introduce it elsewhere.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Flixweed (*Descurainia sophia*)



Key

● Post-2000 records
(inc. CFP introductions)

■ Pre-2000 records

G: Guisborough T: Thirsk

H: Helmsley P: Pickering

Data: BSBI, 2014 Maps produced by MapMate®

Key Facts - Flixweed (*Descurainia sophia*)

- Found on light, sandy and calcareous soils - also as a casual on waste ground
- Autumn and spring germinating
- Population strongholds in east England
- Historically valued for its use in herbal remedies

UK Conservation Designations

The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (2006) designates all UK wildflowers by their rarity, and hence conservation importance, in the following order:

Extinct → Extinct in the wild → Critically Endangered → Endangered
Vulnerable → Near Threatened → Least Concern

The Cornfield Flowers Project is spearheaded by the Carstairs Countryside Trust, Ryedale Folk Museum, North Yorkshire Moors Association and North York Moors National Park Authority. It has a demonstration field and nursery at Ryedale Folk Museum and a working arable field at Silpho, near Scarborough. It is supported by the North York Moors National Park Sustainable Development Fund, North York Moors Coast & Hills LEADER Programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

