

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Field forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvensis*)

Least Concern

One of the numerous *Myosotis* species, which specialise in a wide variety of habitats. Field forget-me-not is extremely successful in arable conditions

There are three Forget-me-nots typically found in arable. This is the commonest, being recorded in 85% of CFP surveys

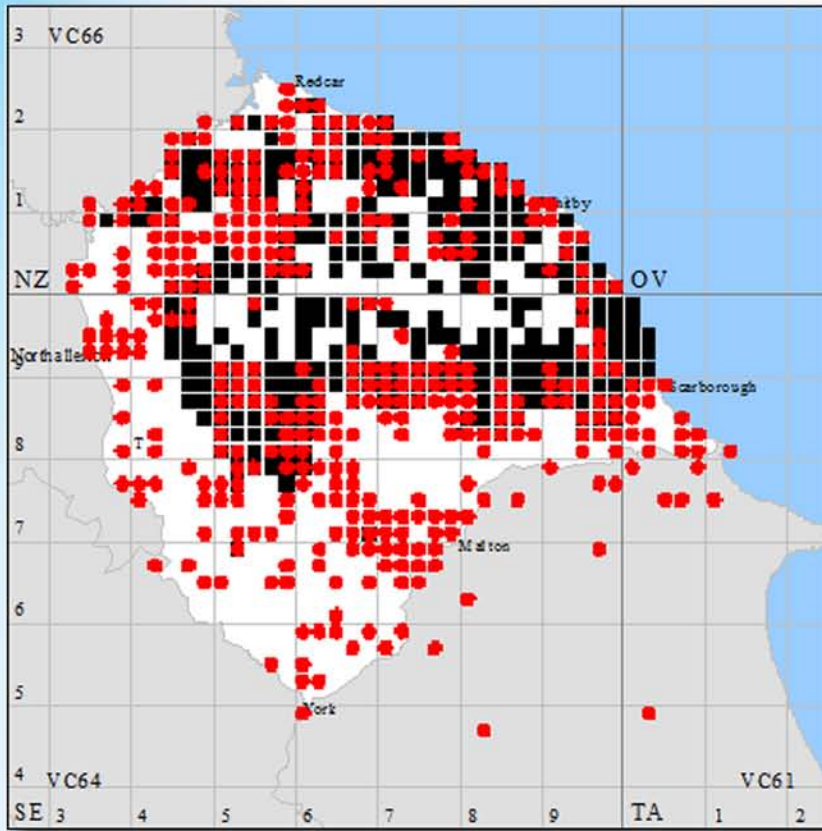
Our Field forget-me-not experience...

There are numerous Forget-me-nots in the UK flora and they seem to have carved a niche in almost every main habitat type. We have three that feature in arable habitats and by far the most common is the Field-forget-me-not. Interestingly this is also the only *Myosotis* that isn't originally native, having been introduced sometime prior to 1500.

Field forget-me-not is one of our most frequently recorded plants, occurring in virtually every farm we visit, and at some of the less species-rich sites it can be dominant – in 2011 the Mushroom Field was a carpet of blue.

Myosotis is a derivation of the Latin and Greek words for *mouse* and *ears*, bearing reference to the shape and soft downiness of the leaves.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Field forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvensis*)



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 - Field forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvensis*)

- Found in wide-range of soils on arable, disturbed ground and roadsides
- In arable, can only be confused with Early forget-me-not or Changing forget-me-not - see respective cards for details
- Autumn and spring germinating
- Has relatively large blue flowers up to 5mm across, but wide variability in the field means correct identification not always clear-cut!

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.

