

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Common hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*/ *Galeopsis bifida*)

#### Least Concern

A common plant, found in a wide range of habitats including arable fields

*G. tetrahit* and *G. bifida* are very similar - best distinguished by the split lower lip in flowers of *bifida*

**REASONS FOR DECLINE:**  
Herbicides

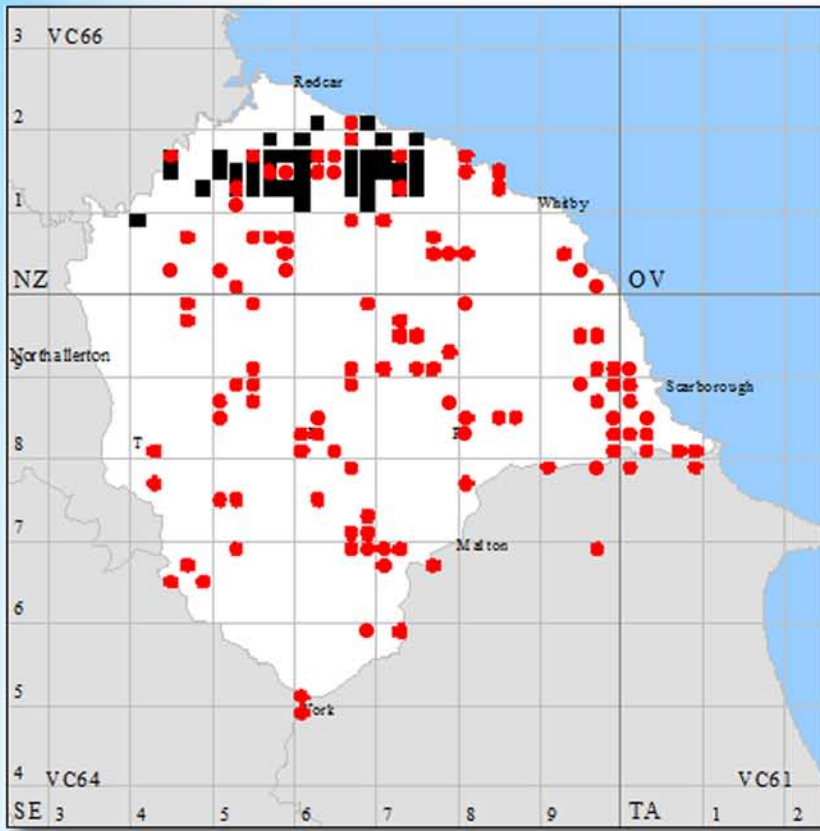
### Our Common hemp-nettle experience...

This plant is, as its name suggests, is the most common of the Hemp-nettles. It can be found everywhere except the high Pennines and the Highlands of Scotland, and seems to be just as happy in moderately dense woodland as it is under bracken, on hedge banks, ditch-sides or in arable fields.

Common hemp-nettle, however, has a big problem. It is not one plant but two. At the beginning of the 1900s *Galeopsis tetrahit* had a closely related sub-species - *var. bifida* - and for many years *G. tetrahit* and *G. tetrahit var. bifida* were recorded together. However, sometime in the 1960s *Galeopsis bifida* was given distinct species status in its own right, though many people continued to record both species as one. Only the *Wild Flower Society* rejoiced, as they could now tick-off two plants instead of one. Those of us concerned with distribution now had three maps, instead of one.

Both *G. tetrahit* and *G. bifida* are present in our area, but work is needed if their distribution is to be understood. Here is a tip though: *bifida* is always red and never white, so if you find a red-flowered Common hemp-nettle, with the bottom lip forked, it will probably be *bifida*. Then again, there is another rule that says all plants will throw out albinos from time to time, just to complicate matters further...

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Common hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit* / *bifida*)



## 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 - Common hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit* / *bifida*)

- Found in a wide range of habitats and throughout the country
- Flowers either creamy-white or pinky-red
- Leaves are long, pointed, deeply-veined and coarsely toothed
- *G. bifida* identified by split lower lip of flower; remains intact in *G. tetrahit*

### 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.

