

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Large-flowered hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis speciosa*)

Vulnerable

Prefers damp, peaty soil in arable fields

Populations have declined significantly since the 1950s due to arable intensification

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Herbicides; habitat loss through land drainage

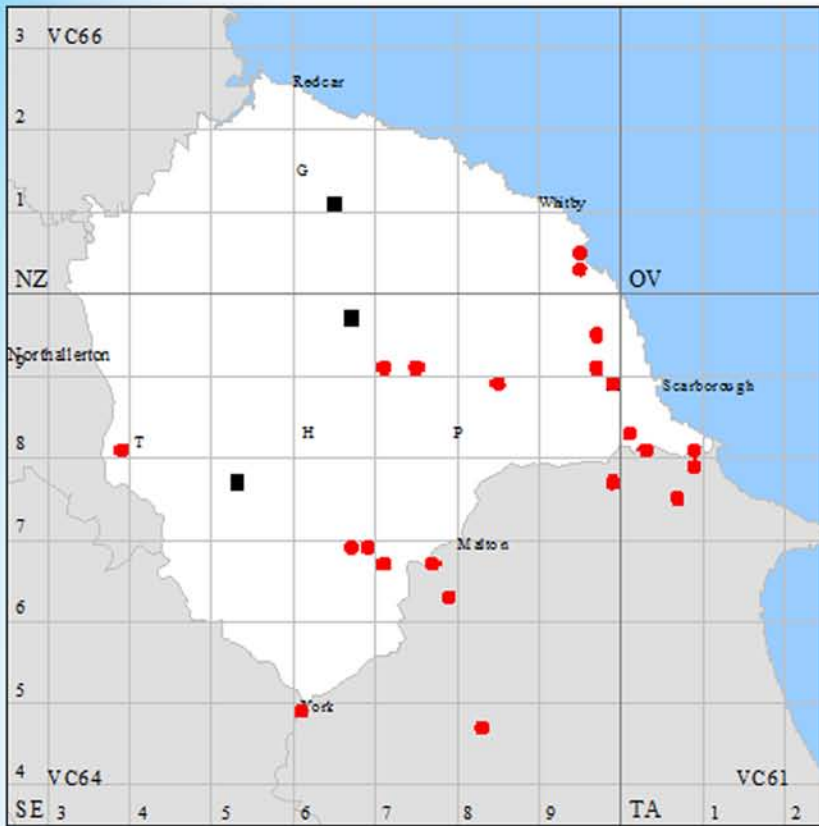
Our Large-flowered Hemp-nettle experience...

Large-flowered Hemp-nettle has a northern and lowland distribution; its southern strongholds are north Wales, Lancashire and the Wash, and to the north, lowland Scotland and Aberdeenshire. It seems to thrive on clays and peats which lay wet in winter and is described today as locally common on these soils. In our area we thought it was mostly confined to the Vale of Pickering until we found it alive and well at Birkdale Farm, Terrington; in 2008 it did so well that it covered more than two acres. With its large golden flowers with purple lip it is everyone's favourite and we often get asked for seed by gardeners and farmers, which we can usually supply because it is a prolific producer of seed.

Surprisingly enough when the Millennium Seed Bank were publishing their needs on television circa 2004, Large-flowered Hemp-nettle was on the list of seeds needed. We sent them 100 seeds, but at that time were not aware of their need for a minimum of 2,000.

The CFP has introduced the Large-flowered Hemp-nettle to all its sites and participating farms over the last ten years but it does not do well on dry calcareous soils, preferring moist and fertile sites where it can attain a height of over two feet with over fifty individual flowers. It always puts on a good show at the Ryedale Folk Museum and is a great favourite with the visitors, most of whom have never seen it before and find it difficult to believe that it is a wild flower.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Large-flowered hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis speciosa*)



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 - Large-flowered hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis speciosa*)

- Formerly quite frequent in north-east Yorkshire, now very scarce
- Although leaves look nettle-like, Hemp-nettles have no sting
- Showy yellow flowers have distinctive purple lower lip
- Similar to other hemp-nettles but larger, with golden-green foliage and bristly-hairy throughout - including flowers

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.

