

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



**Scarlet pimpernel -
blue flowered variant**
(*Anagallis arvensis* subsp.
arvensis, forma *azurea*)

Least Concern

This is a blue-flowered form of Scarlet pimpernel, not to be confused with the true Blue pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis* subsp. *foemina*) a distinct sub-species in its own right

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Nitrogen application; herbicides

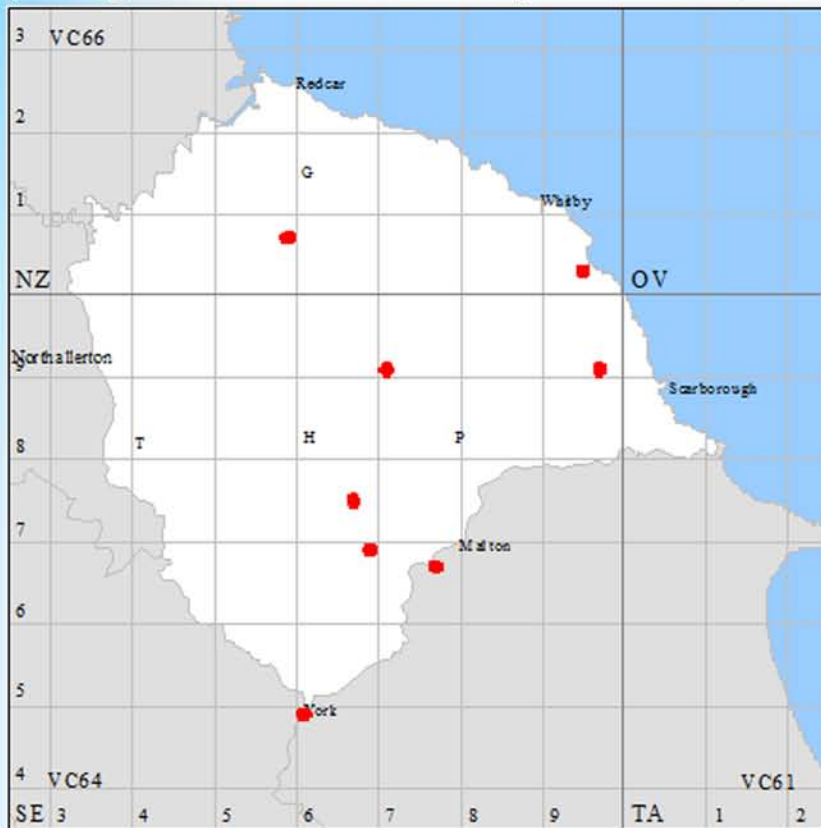
Our Scarlet pimpernel - blue flowered variant experience...

This is the very blue and flashy form of the Scarlet pimpernel. We acquired it when it was included in some seed from the south of England for use in the cornfield at the Ryedale Folk Museum in 2000 – the first year of the Cornfield Flowers Project.

It continued to grow in the cornfield for four years but after that we could not find it, but whilst sorting out some old seed packets in 2009, Chris Wilson found a packet labelled Blue pimpernel, which appeared to have two seeds still lurking in a corner. Chris gave these seeds to Stephen Gibson at Birkdale Farm, Terrington, and somehow Stephen raised two plants that thrived on his clay and produced lots of seed and some splendid photographs. Some of the seed was passed on to Martin Stringer at Old Rectory Farm, Nunburnholme, where it now grows every year.

All sites on the map are CFP introductions but Eva Crackles tells us 'The blue-flowered form occurred at Spurn in 1984'.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Scarlet pimpernel - blue flowered variant (*Anagallis arvensis* subsp. *arvensis*, forma *azurea*)



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 - Pheasant's-eye (*Adonis annua*)

- Favours calcareous and clay soils in our area
- Much more rare than Scarlet pimpernel
- Spring germinating
- As a variant form of Scarlet pimpernel, in theory the flowers could revert back to scarlet at some point. The true Blue pimpernel sub-species always remains blue-flowered

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.

