

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Common field-speedwell (*Veronica persica*)

Least Concern

Now our most abundant Speedwell on arable land, despite it being a non-native introduction from the Caucasus and Iran in early-19th Century

The similar UK native Field-speedwells - Green and Grey field-speedwell - are now much outnumbered by *persica*; recorded in over 90% of CFP surveys

REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Herbicides

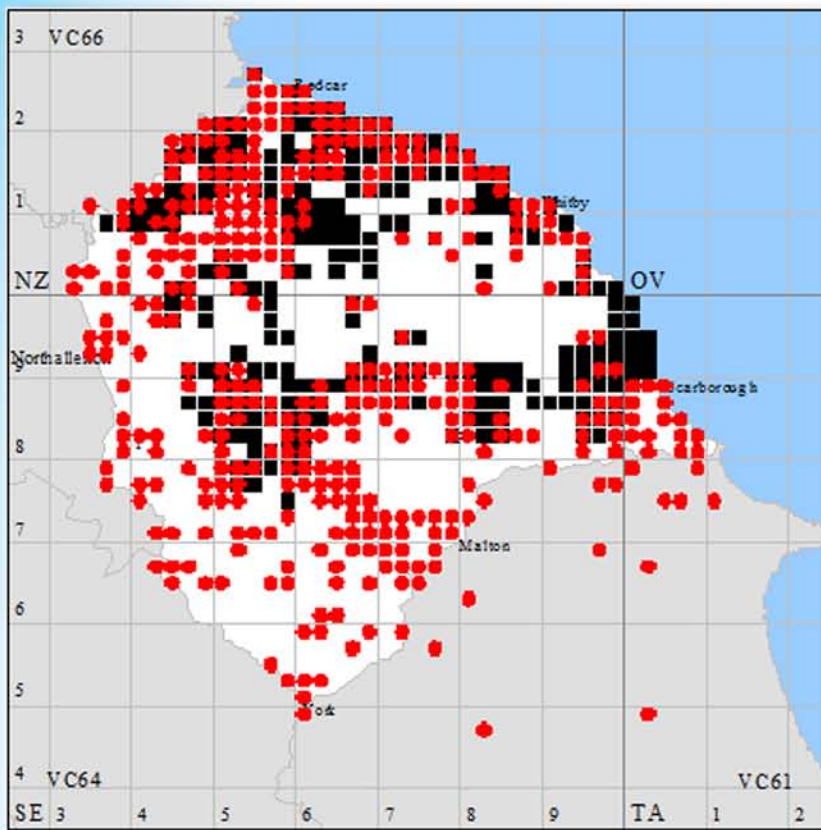
Our Common field-speedwell experience...

Common field-speedwell is our most frequently recorded arable weed species, just beating Field pansy (*Viola arvensis*). This is quite a remarkable achievement given that it is a relatively recent introduction to the UK, first recorded in the wild in 1826. As with Field forget-me-not, it can be the dominant species in lower-quality sites.

The key to identifying this species at first glance is the pale, almost white lower petal with the others being bright blue, whilst the leaves are bright-green, almost rounded with pointed margins. Care needs to be taken when distinguishing it from Green and Grey field-speedwell (*Veronica agrestis / polita*). However, as nearly 80% of the time this will be the field-speedwell you find, it is best just to train your eye to anything that looks a bit different to *Veronica persica* and take it further from there.

Superficially, Green field-speedwell has a pale-green hue to the leaves and small very-pale blue flowers with a white lower petal; Grey field-speedwell has a grey-green hue and small flowers that are completely bright blue. However you need to investigate the mature seeds to tell them all apart thoroughly.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Common field-speedwell (*Veronica persica*)



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 field-speedwell (*Veronica persica*)

- Commonly found in arable and disturbed soils
- Frequently forms the dominant, or only, speedwell species in some arable fields
- Year-round germinating
- Blue petals with paler, almost white, lower petal is key to identification

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.

