

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Petty spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*)

Least Concern

A familiar plant to many gardeners, Petty spurge favours fertile soils in arable and gardens alike

Infrequently found by the CFP in arable habitats (only 8% of surveys)

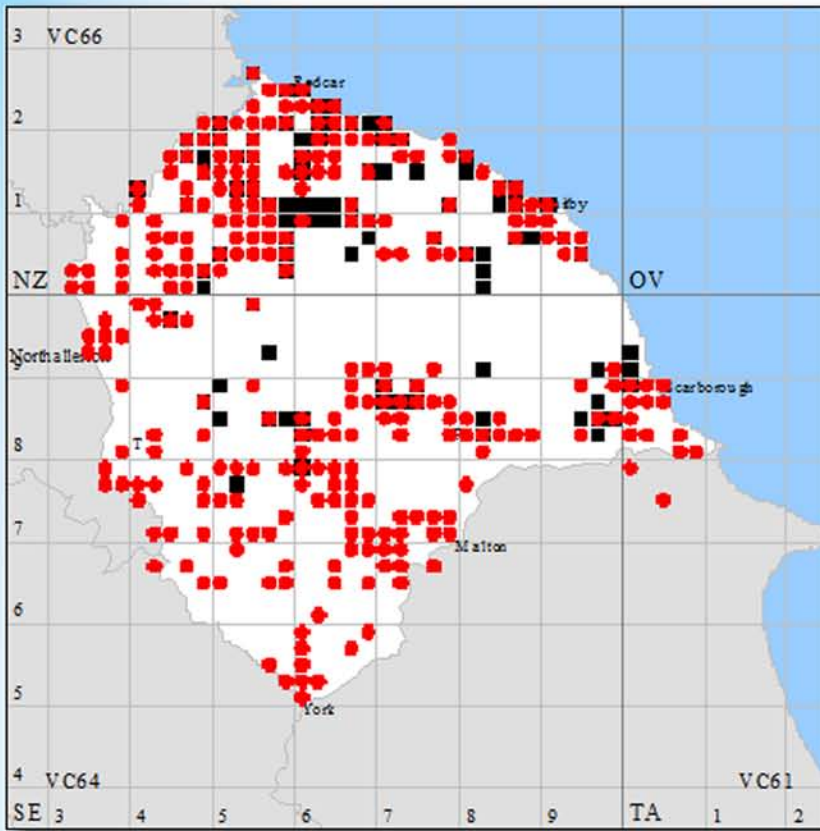
REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Herbicides

Our Petty spurge experience...

Our local botanical books seem to consider Petty Spurge to be of similar distribution to Sun spurge, stating that it is common or locally frequent, but our feeling is that at least in our arable fields, it is much less common than Sun spurge.

The herbalists appear to have ignored it too; they seem not to have differentiated between the two species.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Petty spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*)



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 - Petty spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*)

- Found on a variety of fertile soils
- Spring germinating
- Reddish stems help differentiate it from Dwarf spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*)
- Between Dwarf and Sun spurge in height and character, Petty spurge has densely-clustered flowerheads like Dwarf spurge, but with the rounded, light-green bracts of Sun spurge

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.

