

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Hairy tare (*Vicia hirsuta*)

Least Concern

In our area, Hairy tare is much more commonly recorded than the locally rare Smooth tare

Has hairy, two-seeded pods rather than the smooth, four-seeded pods of Smooth tare

REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Herbicides

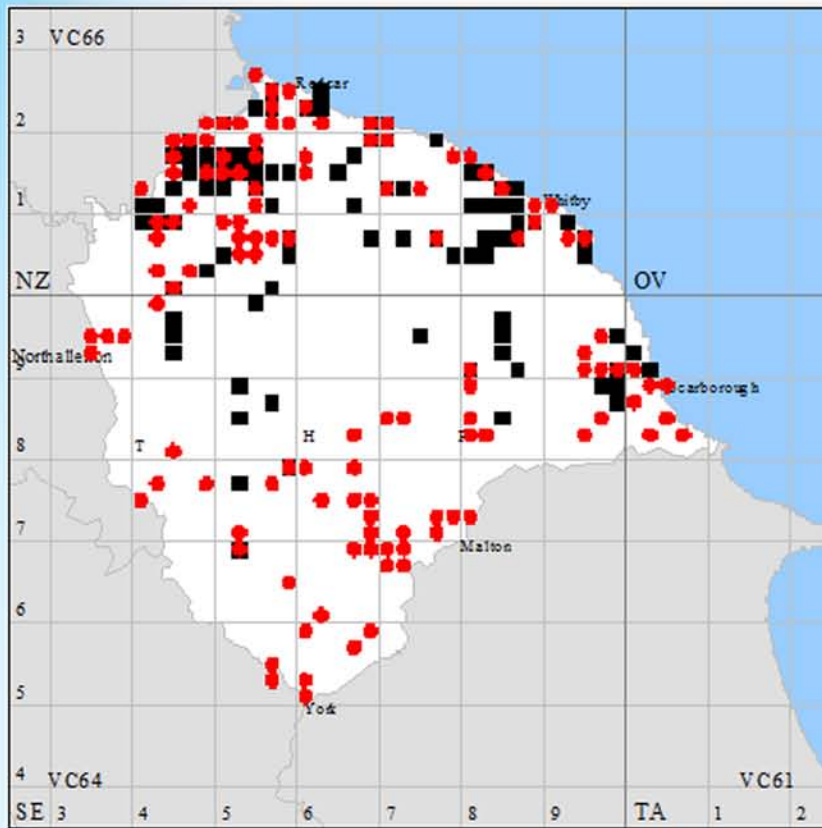
Our Hairy tare experience...

Hairy tare is widespread throughout the UK, extending much further north than the closely-related Smooth tare, which reaches its northerly limit around our area.

A scrambling annual of disturbed ground, including roadsides, rough grasslands and hedge banks. It is less frequently found in arable headlands these days, but was historically regarded as a problematic weed of cornfields, known to strangle the crops. The Project has recorded it in only 4% of our surveys, around the Silpho and Harwood Dale area, so certainly not a common sight at all in arable.

The flowers are typical of the vetch family, but pale and rather insignificant. Along with its slender leaflets and untidy scrambling growth it cannot be easily confused with any of the other vetches, with the exception of Smooth tare; the key differences are the hairy two-seeded pods, as opposed to the smooth four-seeded pods of the latter.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Hairy tare (*Vicia hirsuta*)



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 - Hairy tare (*Vicia hirsuta*)

- An annual of rough and disturbed ground, including arable margins
- Regarded as a troublesome cornfield weed in the 19th Century, now much declined in this habitat
- Autumn and spring germinating
- In our area can only be confused with Smooth tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*) - best differentiated by the seed pods

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.

