

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Thorn-apple (*Datura stramonium*)

Status not evaluated

An exotic-looking and poisonous rarity, occasionally recorded on arable land in years with favourable weather conditions

Found rarely by the CFP, known from only three sites in recent years

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

A non-native species, not well-suited to our northern climate

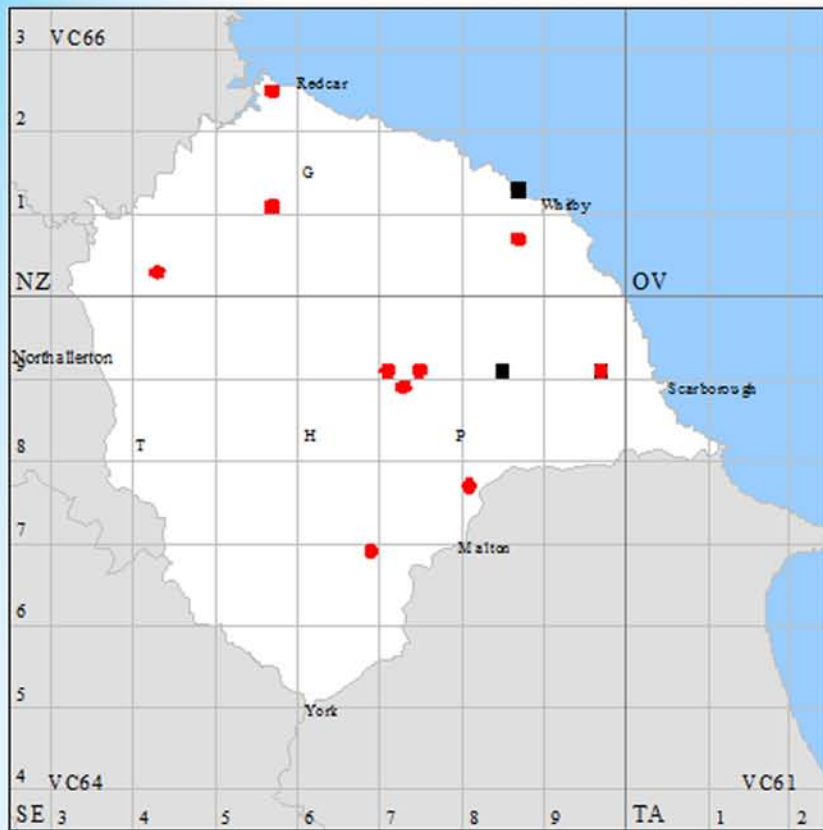
Our Thorn-apple experience...

The Thorn-apple is a strange plant of unknown origin, the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* speculates possibly America or the Black Sea. It was first noted as being grown in England as a cure for asthma in 1597 and was first found in the wild in 1777.

In our area it appears occasionally, as at the top of Silpho Windings at Hackness in a turnip field in 1998, at Stepney Hill Farm, Scarborough in quantity in 2003, and at Low Askew Farm, Cropton in 2012.

Seed from the Low Askew Farm site has been supplied to the Physic Garden at Abbey House YHA, Whitby, and if all goes well Thorn apple will be flowering there in 2014.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Thorn-apple (*Datura stramonium*)



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 - Thorn-apple (*Datura stramonium*)

- Found in waste ground and arable land on a variety of soils
- A large, robust plant up to 1m tall, not easily confused with anything else
- Spring germinating
- A member of the Nightshade family, with bindweed-like trumpet flowers leading to large, spiky 'apple' sized 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.

