

*The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

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PART FIVE  
Westray Flora

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*Huperzia selago*

**FIR CLUBMOSS**, native,  
Species-poor heath

*Selaginella selaginoides*

**LESSER CLUBMOSS**, native,  
Damp species-rich heath, fens and flushes.

*Equisetum fluviatile*

**WATER HORSETAIL**, native,  
Standing or slow moving water. Found in  
the Roadmire area.

*E. arvense*

**FIELD HORSETAIL**, native,  
Various habitats, found at Gairy.

*E. palustre*

**MARSH HORSETAIL**, native,  
Fens and flushes, e.g. the Roadmire area.

*Polypodium vulgare*

**COMMON POLYPODY**, native,  
Rock outcrops, shady dykes, storm beaches.

*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*

**BLACK SPLEENWORT**, native,  
rock outcrops.

*A. marinum*

**SEA SPLEENWORT**, native,  
Sea cliffs. Plentiful at Githigeo.

*A. trichomanes*

**MAIDENHAIR SPLEENWORT**, native,  
Rock crevices

*A. ruta-muraria*

**WALL-RUE**, native,  
Rock outcrops and Ancient Monuments.

*Athyrium filix-femina*

**LADY FERN**, native,  
tall herb.

*Cystopteris fragilis*

**BRITTLE BLADDER-FERN**, native,  
Wet rock outcrops, usually in heath or peat.

*Dryopteris filix-mas*

**MALE FERN**, native,  
Variable

*D. affinis ssp affinis*

**SCALY BUCKLER FERN**, native,  
tall herb.

*D. affinis ssp borrieri*

**SCALY MALE-FERN**, native,  
tall herb, sometimes on soft sea-cliff.

*D. dilatata*

**BROAD BUCKLER-FERN**, native,  
tall herb, species-poor heath

*Blechnum spicant*

**HARD FERN**, native,  
blanket peat, species-poor heath

*Caltha palustris*

**MARSH MARIGOLD**, native,  
Burns, drains and loch sides

*Ranunculus acris*

**MEADOW BUTTERCUP**, native in various  
places, tall herb, swamp and fen

*R. repens*

**CREEPING BUTTERCUP**, native?,  
Cultivated and waste ground, grows at Sand  
o' Mason.

*R. bulbosus*

**BULBOUS BUTTERCUP**, native,  
Links, machair and dry turf, flowwring in  
late spring.

*R. flammula*

**LESSER SPEARWORT**, native,  
various wet places, ditches, fen; on Fitty  
Hill.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*R. ficaria ssp ficaria*

**LESSER CELANDINE**, native,  
Various, mainly damp and shady places,  
also roadside verges; e.g. at Littlehouse.

*R. baudotii*

**BRACKISH WATER-CROWFOOT**, native,  
open water, usually brackish or near sea.

*R. trichophyllus*

**THREAD-LEAVED WATER-CROWFOOT**,  
native, small open water

*R. aquatilis*

**WATER-CROWFOOT**, native,  
small open water areas

*Thalictrum alpinum*

**ALPINE MEADOW-RUE**, native,  
each cliff heath, fen, basic flushes

*Papaver dubium*

**LONG-HEADED POPPY**, native?,  
cultivated and waste ground; grows at  
Hallobrig.

*Fumaria capreolata*

**WHITE RAMPING FUMITORY**, weed of  
cultivation;  
found at Roadmire.

*Urtica dioica*

**STINGING NETTLE**, native,  
common, cultivated and waste ground

*U. urens*

**SMALL NETTLE**, native,  
cultivated sandy ground, dunes

*Suaeda maritima*

**SEA-BLITE**, native,  
sheltered sea-shores, sometimes clifftops

*Montia fontana agg.*

**BLINKS**, native,  
various bare damp places; at White Moss.

*Honckenya peploides*

**SEA SANDWORT**, native,  
common, sandy beaches and dunes

*Stellaria media*

**CHICKWEED**, native,  
common, cultivated or waste ground and  
bird cliffs

*S. graminea*

**LESSER STITCHWORT**, native,  
wet places, usually at roadsides; found in  
Noup area.

*S. uliginosa*

**BOG STITCHWORT**, native,  
tall herb, swamp

*Cerastium fontanum ssp vulgare*

**COMMON MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED**,  
native, common, variable habitats

*C. glomeratum*

**STICKY MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED**,  
native, common, waste or cultivated  
ground

*C. diffusum*

**SEA MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED**, native,  
turf near sea

*Sagina nodosa*

**KNOTTED PEARLWORT**, native,  
basic flushes, fen

*S. procumbens*

**PROCUMBENT PEARLWORT**, native,  
abundant

*S. maritima*

**SEA PEARLWORT**, native,  
seashores, cliffs, piers, causeways

*Spergula arvensis*

**CORN SPURREY**, native,  
cultivated and waste ground; becoming less  
abundant. Still found in Skail area.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*Spergularia media*

**GREATER SEA-SPURREY**, native,  
Seashores, saltmarsh, cliffs and clifftops at  
Aikerness.

*S. marina*

**LESSER SEA-SPURREY**, native in less  
exposed sties than *media*.  
Skaill area.

*Lychmis flos-cuculi*

**RAGGED ROBIN**, native,  
fens and marshes, damp verges, species-  
rich heath. Grows at Rapness Mill but not  
at the north end of the island.

*Silene acaulis*

**MOSS CAMPION**, native,  
grows at the back of Fitty Hill, sometimes  
in close company with *Primula scotica*.

*Silene uniflora*

**SEA CAMPION**, native, sea-cliffs and  
shingle beaches.  
Profuse along Rapness Cliffs.

*S. dioica*

**RED CAMPION**, native,  
tall herb and nitrogen-rich sites

*Persicaria viviparia*

**ALPINE BISTORT**, native,  
usually breck-stony, often species rich  
heath; found at Backarass.

*P. amphibia*

**AMPHIBIOUS BISTORT**, native,  
open water and wet ground

*P. lapathifolia*

**PALE PERSICARIA**, weed of cultivation

*Rumex acetosella*

**SHEEPS SORREL**, common native,  
Acid cultivated ground, species-poor heath,  
blanket bog.

*R. acetosa*

**SORREL, SOUROS**, common native,  
fens, maritime heath, verges and banks

*R. longifolius*

**LONG-LEAVED DOCK**, Native,  
common, cultivated ground

*R. crispus*

**CURLED DOCK**, native,  
common, weed of cultivation and on sea  
shores

*R. obtusifolius*

**BROAD-LEAVED DOCK, BULOWANS**,  
common native,  
cultivated and waste ground

*Armeria maritima*

**THRIFT, SEA-PINK**, common native,  
cliffs and exposed clifftop sward, plentiful  
around Noup Head.

*Hypericum pulchrum*

**SLENDER ST JOHN'S WORT**, native,  
grassy or species-rich heaths.

*Viola riviniana*

**COMMON DOG-VIOLET**, native,  
dry often species-rich heath, banks and  
cliffs; along Noup Road.

*V. tricolor ssp tricolor*

**HEART'S-EASE PANSY**, native,  
as both a weed of cultivation and persistent  
on machair

*V. arvensis*

**FIELD PANSY**, native,  
cultivated ground; at Jerusalem.

*Salix repens var. repens*

**CREEPING WILLOW**, native,  
various types of heath, banks, heathy  
clifftops, Backarass.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*S. herbacea*

**DWARF WILLOW**, native,  
feldfield on the hilltops; also at Backarass.

*Arabidopsis thaliana*

**THALE CRESS**, native?,  
crevices in paving, walls, waste ground

*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*

**WATERCRESS**, native,  
open water

*Cardamine pratensis*

**LADY'S SMOCK**, native,  
damp pasture, fen and marsh, verges and  
ditches

*C. flexuosa*

**WAVY BITTER-CRESS**, native,  
gardens, waste places; at Lightcost.

*Arabis hirsuta*

**HAIRY ROCK-CRESS**, native,  
rock crevices, may be extinct on Westray;  
its only Orkney site: at Lightcost..

*Cochlearia officinalis*

**SCURVY-GRASS**, common native,  
Sea cliffs (especially around seabird  
colonies), rocky shores, saltmarsh, cliff-top  
turf.

*Capsella bursa-pastoris*

**SHEPHERD'S-PURSE**, Weed of  
cultivation, common, especially around  
human artefacts.

*Sinapis arvensis*

**CHARLOCK**, Weed of cultivated and waste  
ground

*Cakile maritima*

**SEA ROCKET**, native,  
strand lines and sea-shores; grows at  
Avertaft

*Raphanus raphanistrum*

**WILD MUSTARD, RUNCHO**, Common  
weed of cultivated and waste ground

*Empetrum nigrum ssp nigrum*

**CROWBERRY**, native,  
widespread in heaths and hills, especially  
near sea; found on Fitty Hill.

*Arctostaphylos alpinus*

**ALPINE BLAEBERRY**, native,  
feldfield, blanket bog

*Calluna vulgaris*

**HEATHER**, common native,  
Blanket peat, heaths, hills

*Erica tetralix*

**CROSS-LEAVED HEATH**, native,  
Hill, wet heath, flushes

*E. cinerea*

**BELL HEATHER**, native,  
dryish peat or heath; at Wurhoose.

*Primula vulgaris*

**PRIMROSE**, common native,  
grassy sea banks, dunes, grassy heath,  
burnsides and roadside verges.



*Primula vulgaris X veris = P. polyantha*

**FALSE OXLIP**, native,  
where both parent plants occur; i.e at  
Newcastle.

*Primula veris*

**COWSLIP**, native,  
links, grassy sea banks. On Westray grows  
at the Westside and on the Links of  
Noltland.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*Primula scotica*

**SCOTTISH PRIMROSE**, native, maritime heath, machair and links. On Westray, can be found on the western maritime heath, especially to the west of Fitty Hill and on the Aikerness Hill. Formerly common on the Hill of Noup. Two flowering seasons from mid-May to mid-June and again from mid-July to mid-August. The first period typically produces many long-stemmed, multi-headed blooms.

*Anagallis tenella*

**BOG PIMPERNEL**, native, fen, flushes, wet machair

*Glaux maritima*

**SEA MILKWORT**, native, stony cliff tops, seashore, saltmarsh; at Avertaft.

*Sedum rosea*

**ROSEROOT**, native, in geos and on cliffs; plentiful at Githigeo.

*S. acre*

**WALL PEPPER**, introduced?, seashores and links, planted on walls and roofs.

*Parnassia palustris*

**GRASS OF PARNASSUS**, common native, fen and wet machair.

*Filipendula ulmaria*

**MEADOW-SWEET**, native, common in marshes, fens, burnsidings, roadsides

*Potentilla palustris*

**MARSH CINQUEFOIL**, native, swamp, marshes, old peat cuttings; at Fribo and White Moss.



*P. anserina*

**SILVERWEED**, native, persistent in various habitats

*P. erecta*

**TORMENTIL**, native, various heaths, grassy sea banks, verges; common at Rapness cliffs.

*Alchemilla glabra*

**LADY'S-MANTLE**, native, short turf, banks

*Anthyllis vulneraria*

**KIDNEY VETCH**, native, not on acidic ground, dry turf, banks, rock outcrops; thought to be declining.

*Lotus corniculatus*

**BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL**, native, very common but mainly on species-rich heath.

*Vicia cracca*

**TUFTED VETCH**, native, banks, field margins, roadside verges and ungrazed rough pasture; at Coastguards.

*V. sepium*

**BUSH VETCH**, native, rough heathy and rushy places; at Coastguards.

*V. sativa*

**COMMON VETCH**, introduced, cultivated and waste ground, at Russland.

*Lathyrus pratensis*

**MEADOW VETCHLING**, native, various, roadside, banks.

*Trifolium repens*

**WHITE CLOVER**, introduced?, common in most grassy habitat.

*T. hybridum*

**ALSIKE**, introduced relict of cultivation.

*T. campestre*

**HOP TREFOIL**, introduced, rare on cultivated ground.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*T. pratense*

**RED CLOVER**, native,  
grassy heaths, old pastures, verges and  
waysides.

*Ulex europaeus*

**GORSE, WHIN**, native?,  
not common, also known to have been  
planted. Grows above Sangar.

*Epilobium hirsutum*

**GREAT HAIRY WILLOWHERB**,  
introduced; Fribo.

*E. parviflorum*

**SMALL-FLOWERED WILLOWHERB**,  
native, wet machair

*E. montanum*

**BROAD LEAVED WILLOWHERB**, native?,  
weed of cultivation but sometimes tall herb.

*E. palustre*

**MARSH WILLOWHERB**, native,  
damp places

*Chamerion angustifolium*

**ROSEBAY WILLOWHERB**, could be  
native or introduced,  
found in some wild places.

*Fuchsia magellanica*

**FUCHSIA**, introduced,  
common, sets fertile seed.

*Euphorbia helioscopia*

**SUN SPURGE**, weed of cultivation

*Linum catharticum*

**PURGING FLAX**, native,  
base-rich sites

*Radiola linoides*

**ALLSEED**, native,  
damp, usually species-poor heath with  
barish patches

*Polygala vulgaris*

**COMMON MILKWORT**, native,  
Basic rock outcrops, dunes etc.

*P. serpyllifolia*

**HEATH MILKWORT**, native,  
heaths, dry peat, banks. Grows on Fitty Hill.

*Acer pseudoplatanus*

**SYCAMORE**, introduced in gardens and  
plantations,  
occasionally self-sown.

*Geranium pusillum*

**SMALL-FLOWERED CRANES-BILL**, not  
native? waste ground in the Pierowall area.

*Impatiens glandulifera*

**INDIAN BALSAM**, introduced,  
waste places.

*Hedera hibernica* var 'Hibernica'

**IRISH IVY**, introduced,  
the most common cultivated Ivy.

*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*

**MARSH PENNYWORT**, common native,  
marshes, wet places in old pasture and  
heath.

*Anthriscus sylvestris*

**COW PARSLEY**, native,  
waste ground and verges

*Myrrhis odorata*

**SWEET CICILY, MYRRH**, garden outcast.

*Aegopodium podagrariai*

**GROUND ELDER, BISHOP-WEED**,  
common, persistent garden weed

*Apium inundatum*

**MARSH-WORT**, native,  
shallow pools, loch margins

# The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney

*Carum carvi*

**CARAWAY, CARVIE**, introduced?, sandy pasture, often near houses; grows at Cottahowan.

*Ligusticum scoticum*

**SCOTTISH LOVAGE**, grows along the Rapness cliffs and possibly elsewhere.



*Angelica sylvestris*

**WILD ANGELICA, CAIKO**, native, heath, dales, verges; at Rapness Mill.

*A. archangelica*

**GARDEN ANGELICA**, introduced around Pierowall and Broughton, said to be a relict of Viking colonisation. Possibly declining.

*Heracleum sphondylium*

**HOGWEED**, native, weed of cultivation or verges and waste ground.

*Gentianella amarella*

**FELWORT, AUTUMN GENTIAN**, native, found at Backarass and Sand o' Mason.

*Calystegia sepium*

**HEDGE BINDWEED**, introduced garden escape.

*Menyanthes trifoliata*

**BOGBEAN**, native, fens and loch margins; found at Fribo.

*Anchusa arvensis*

**BUGLOSS**, native?, sandy fields and pastures.

*Martensia maritima*

**OYSTER PLANT**, native, formerly found at Kirbist but not seen for several years; possibly extinct.

*Myosotis laxa*

**TUFTED FORGET-ME-NOT**, native, fens and small pools; at White Moss.

*M. arvensis*

**FIELD SCORPION-GRASS**, native, weed of cultivation and waste ground

*Stachys sylvatica x palustris* = *S. x ambigua*

**LAMB'S-LUGS**, almost always introduced, weed of cultivation and waste ground.

*Lamium purpureum*

**RED DEAD-NETTLE**, common native, weed of cultivation.

*L. confertum*

**NORTHERN DEAD-NETTLE**, native, weed of cultivation, often with the above species.

*Galeopsis tetrahit*

**COMMON HEMP-NETTLE**, native?, abundant weed of cultivation.

*Glechoma hederacea*

**GROUND IVY**, not native, garden outcast, nearly naturalised in places; recently found.

*Prunella vulgaris*

**SELF-HEAL**, native, various heath types, old pasture e.g. at Skaill.

*Thymus polytrichus ssp britannicus*

**WILD THYME**, native, especially in species-rich heath and maritime heath; at Backarass and Old Kirk.

*Mentha aquatica*

**WATER MINT**, native, marshes, ditches; common at Roadmire.

*Hippuris vulgaris*

**MARE'S-TAIL**, common native, Standing water, usually in small lochs or ditches.

*Callitriche hermaphrodita*

**AUTUMNAL WATER-STARWORT**, native, Lochs, rarely small pools.

# The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney

*C. stagnalis*

**COMMON WATER-STARWORT**, native, small pools, ditches, sometimes wet mud.

*C. hamulata*

**INTERMEDIATE WATER-STARWORT**, native, not usually in nutrient-rich waters.

*Plantago coronopus*

**BUCK'S-HORN PLANTAIN**, common native, strictly maritime.

*P. maritima*

**SEA PLANTAIN**, common native, often inland, very common but not on wet peat.

*P. major*

**GREATER PLANTAIN**, native?, usually in cultivated or recently abandoned land.

*P. lanceolata*

**RIBWORT, SOLDIERS**, native, various habitats including maritime heath and roadside verges.

*Littorella uniflora*

**SHOREWEED**, native, stony or slightly muddy loch margins.

*Veronica serpyllifolia*

**THYME-LEAVED SPEEDWELL**, introduced?, common, often a garden weed

*V. officinalis*

**COMMON SPEEDWELL**, common native, dry banks, rock outcrops.



*V. chamaedrys*

**GERMANDER SPEEDWELL**, said to be introduced, cultivated or waste ground, found around Westside Mill.

*V. beccabunga*

**BROOKLIME**, native, wet ditches, burns, loch margins.

*V. anagallis-aquatica*

**WATER-SPEEDWELL**, native, burns, wet ditches and swamp; at Fribo.

*V. persica*

**BUXBAUM'S SPEEDWELL**, introduced?, Weed of cultivation?

*Euphrasia* agg.

**EYEBRIGHTS**, common natives, very varied habitats.

*E. confusa*

**EYEBRIGHT**, native, very variable, usually with grass species.

*E. foulaensis*

**EYEBRIGHT**, native, short turf, sea banks, saltmarsh.

*E. micrantha*

**EYEBRIGHT**, native, wet heath, flushes, perhaps saltmarsh.

*Odontites vernus*

**RED BARTSIA**, native, usually sandy sites; found at Rapness Mill and Garth.



*Rhinanthus minor* agg.

**YELLOW RATTLE**, native, damp heath, fen and wet machair.

*Pedicularis palustris*

**RED RATTLE**, native, species-rich heath, fen

*P. sylvatica*

**LOUSEWORT**, native, heaths, hill; Skail Area and Rapness Mill.

*Pinguicula vulgaris*

**BUTTERWORT**, native, nutrient-poor heath; at Powdykes.

*Galium palustre* ssp

**MARSH BEDSTRAW**, native, marshes; at Roadmire.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*G. verum*

**LADY'S BEDSTRAW**, native,  
mainly machair and links; at Rapness cliffs.

*G. sternerii*

**LIMESTONE BEDSTRAW**, native,  
varied, dry machair, flagstone outcrops, dry  
turf.

*G. saxatile*

**HEATH BEDSTRAW**, native,  
heaths and hill.

*G. aparine*

**GOOSEGRASS, CLEAVERS, STICKY  
WILLIE**, native,  
waste ground.

*Sambucus nigra*

**ELDER**, introduced,  
often near houses and in waste ground.

*Lonicera periclymenum*

**HONEYSUCKLE**, planted in gardens,  
especially Pierowall.

*Succisa pratensis*

**DEVIL'S-BIT SCABIOUS**, common native  
in various species-rich habitats.

*Cirsium vulgare*

**SPEAR THISTLE**, common native,  
normally a weed of cultivation, and waste  
ground

*C. palustre*

**MARSH THISTLE**, common native,  
marsh and tall herb community.

*C. arvense*

**CREEPING THISTLE**, quite common  
native, weed of cultivation.

*Centaurea nigra*

**HARDHEADS, KNAPWEED**, common  
native, dry or sandy pastures, links,  
roadsides.

*Cichorium intybus*

**CHICORY**, introduced,  
relict of cultivation.

*Hypochaeris radicata*

**CAT'S-EAR**, native,  
dryish banks, heaths and grassland.

*Leontodon autumnalis*

**AUTUMNAL HAWKBIT**, native,  
near the sea but often well inland, roadside  
verges etc.

*Sonchus arvensis*

**CORN SOWTHISTLE**, native,  
seashore, cultivated and waste ground.

*S. oleraceus*

**COMMON SOWTHISTLE**, native,  
cultivated and waste ground.

*S. asper*

**PRICKLY SOWTHISTLE**, native,  
cultivated and waste ground, rock crevices.

*Taraxacum ssp.*

**DANDELIONS**, common native or  
introduced,  
very varied, the sub-species are under-  
recorded.

*T. faeroense*

**DANDELION**, native,  
grassy heath and fen.

*T. polyodon*

**DANDELION**, rare native,  
locality unknown.

*Hieracium scoticum*

**HAWKWEED**, rare native.

*H. caledonicum*

**HAWKWEED**, rare native.

*Antennaria dioica*

**MOUNTAIN EVERLASTING, CAT'S-  
FOOT**, native, dry short heath, rock  
outcrops.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*Inula helenium*

**ELECAMPANE**, Introduced, waste places, sea banks, often well naturalised

*Solidago virgaurea*

**GOLDEN-ROD**, native, cliffs, rock outcrops, heath.

*Aster tripolium*

**SEA ASTER**, native, shingly saltmarsh, and sea cliffs; on both sides of Bay of Tuquoy at Damaquoy and Tuquoy.

*Bellis perennis*

**DAISY**, common native, short turf and weed of cultivation.

*Tanacetum vulgare*

**TANSY**, introduced, only two sites on Westray, i.e. at Pertglen.

*Artemisia vulgaris*

**MUGWORT**, native, machair and links.



*Achillea ptarmica*

**SNEEZEWORT**, native, swamp and wet meadows, i.e. at Gairy and Garth.

*A. millefolium*

**YARROW**, common native, well drained, usually near habitations.

*Leucanthemum vulgare*

**OX-EYE DAISY**, native?, grassy banks, roadside verges and old pasture; formerly found in the old quarry at Cleat but not seen for a few years. May be extinct.

*Matricaria discoidea*

**PINEAPPLE WEED**, common, probably first introduced in 1930s with chicken feed.

*Tripleurospermum maritimum*

**SEA MAYWEED**, native, strandlines, sea cliffs.

*Senecio jacobaea x aquaticus*

**HYBRID RAGWORT**, native cultivated and waste ground, also invades natural habitats.

*S. vulgaris*

**GROUNDSEL**, native, cultivated and waste ground.

*Tussilago farfara*

**TUSHILAGO, COLT'S-FOOT**, native, cultivated ground, verges, often on clay.

*Triglochin palustris*

**MARSH ARROW-GRASS**, native, fens, swamp, saltmarsh.

*T. maritima*

**SEA ARROW-GRASS**, native, saltmarsh, seashores.

*Potamogeton polygonifolius*

**BOG PONDWEED**, native, pools in blanket bog and in hill lochs; at White Moss.

*P. gramineus*

**VARIOUS-LEAVED PONDWEED**, native, open water, absent from nutrient-rich lochs.

*P. perfoliatus*

**PERFOLIATE PONDWEED**, native, open water, sometimes fairly deep.

*P. freisii*

**FLAT-STALKED PONDWEED**, native, shallow open water.

*P. pusillus*

**LESSER PONDWEED**, native, open water.

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*P. berchtoldii*

**SMALL PONDWEED**, native,  
small areas of open water.

*P. crispus*

**CURLED PONDWEED**, native,  
shallow open water.

*P. filiformis*

**SLENDER PONDWEED**, native,  
open water except on peat.

*P. pectinatus*

**FENNEL-LEAVED PONDWEED**, brackish  
open water

*Zostera marina*

**EELGRASS**, native,  
marine well below low water mark.

*Juncus squarrosus*

**HEATH RUSH**, native,  
hills and heaths.

*J. gerardii*

**MUD RUSH**, native,  
saltmarsh, or in turf above high water mark  
on shores.

*J. bufonius*

**TOAD RUSH**, native,  
marsh and saltmarsh.

*J. articulatus*

**JOINTED RUSH**, native,  
widespread in fens, loch margins.

*J. bulbosus*

**BULBOUS RUSH**, native,  
wet peat, peaty pools, shallow burns.

*J. effusus*

**SOFT RUSH**, native,  
marshes.

*J. conglomeratus*

**COMPACT RUSH**, native,  
marshes.

*Luzula sylvatica*

**GREAT WOODRUSH**, native,  
increasingly dominant on sea and inland  
cliffs.

*L. campestris*

**FIELD WOODRUSH**, native,  
damp lawns, banks, grassy heath.

*L. multiflora*

**HEATH WOODRUSH**, native,  
heaths, often difficult to distinguish from  
preceding species.

*Eriophorum angustifolium*

**COMMON COTTONGRASS**, native,  
fens, marshes and ditches.

*Trichophorum cespitosum*

**DEER-GRASS**, native,  
species-poor heath, blanket bog.

*Eleocharis palustris*

**COMMON SPIKE-RUSH**, native,  
loch margins and marsh.

*E. uniglumis*

**ONE-GLUMED SPIKE-RUSH**, native,  
marshes, pools, loch edge.

*E. quinqueflora*

**FEW-FLOWERED SPIKE-RUSH**, native  
on wet flushes.

*Bolboschoenus maritimus*

**SEA CLUB-RUSH**, not seen for many  
years at its only Orkney site at the Ayre of  
Roadmire.

*Schoenus nigricans*

**BLACK BOG-RUSH**, native, basic flushes  
and fens.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*Carex arenaria*

**SAND SEDGE**, native,  
dunes.

*C. maritima*

**CURVED SEDGE**, native,  
damp machair, dune slacks.

*C. ovalis*

**OVAL SEDGE**, native,  
often in neglected pastures.

*C. rostrata*

**BOTTLE SEDGE**, native,  
slow-moving water, pools.

*C. flacca*

**GLAUCOUS SEDGE**, native,  
species-rich and maritime heath, fens; at  
Backarass.

*C. panicea*

**CARNATION SEDGE**, native,  
species-poor to maritime heath.

*C. binervis*

**GREEN-RIBBED SEDGE**, native,  
heath.

*C. hostiana*

**TAWNY SEDGE**, native,  
fen, damp grassland.

*C. viridula ssp oedocarpa*

**YELLOW SEDGE**, native,  
wet heath, muddy flushes.

*C. nigra*

**COMMON SEDGE**, native,  
species-poor heath, peat.

*C. pulicaris*

**FLEA SEDGE**, native,  
fen, species-rich heath.

*Nardus stricta*

**MAT GRASS**, native,  
heaths and feldfield.

*Festuca arundinacea*

**TALL FESCUE**, introduced,  
loch sides and roadsides.

*F. rubra*

**RED FESCUE**, native,  
everywhere.

*F. vivipara*

**VIVIPAROUS FESCUE**, native,  
hill, wet heath.

*Lolium perenne*

**PERENNIAL RYEGRASS**, native?,  
good pasture, verges, lawns.

*L. multiflorum*

**ITALIAN RYEGRASS**, introduced,  
verges and waste ground.

*Cynosurus cristatus*

**CRESTED DOG'S-TAIL**, native,  
pasture, banks, verges.

*Puccinellia capillaris*

**COMMON SALTMARSH-GRASS**, native,  
saltmarsh.

*Poa annua*

**ANNUAL MEADOW-GRASS**, native,  
abundant.

*P. trivialis*

**ROUGH MEADOW-GRASS**, native,  
damp pasture, sometimes sown.

*P. humilis*

**SPREADING MEADOW-GRASS**, native,  
natural pasture, banks, maritime heath.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

*Dactylis glomerata*

**COCKSFOOT**, introduced?,  
leys, persisting in rough pastures and  
roadside verges.

*Catabrosa aquatica*

**WHORL-GRASS**, native,  
burns in machair or outflows to sandy  
seashores.

*Glyceria fluitans*

**FLOATING SWEET-GRASS**, native,  
ditches, loch margins.

*Arrhenatherum elatius*

**FALSE OAT-GRASS**, native?,  
old pasture, field margins, verges.

*Deschampsia cespitosa*

**TUFTED HAIR-GRASS**, native.

*Aira praecox*

**EARLY HAIR-GRASS**, native,  
poor soils, dry banks.

*Anthoxanthum odoratum*

**SWEET VERNAL-GRASS**, native,  
old grassland, species-rich heath, banks.

*Phalaris arundinacea*

**REED CANARY-GRASS**, native fen and  
swamp.

*Agrostis capillaris*

**COMMON BENT**, native, pasture, maritime  
heath.

*A. gigantea*

**BLACK BENT**, not native?,  
waste ground.

*A. stolonifera*

**CREEPING BENT**, native,  
damp pasture, fen.

*A. canina*

**VELVET BENT**, native,  
permanent pasture.

*Ammophila arenaria*

**MARRAM**, native,  
dunes.

*Alopecurus geniculatus*

**MARSH FOXTAIL**, native,  
wet pasture.

*Phleum pratense*

**TIMOTHY**, introduced,  
persistent relict of cultivation.

*Elytrigia repens*

**COUCH**, native,  
waste and cultivated ground.

*E. juncea*

**SAND COUCH**, native,  
outer dune margins.

*Leymus arenarius*

**LYME GRASS**, native,  
sand dunes.

*Danthonia decumbens*

**HEATH GRASS**, native,  
heaths, dry grassy banks.

*Molinia caerulea*

**PURPLE MOOR-GRASS**, native,  
various types of heath.

*Phragmites australis*

**REED**, native,  
fen, open water, marsh, i.e. Roadmire.

*Narthecium ossifragium*

**BOG ASPHODEL**, native,  
common in late summer on the western  
maritime heath; plentiful in August on Fitty  
Hill.

# *The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney*

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*Scilla verna*

**SPRING SQUILL**, native,  
good displays above the western cliffs and  
Noup Head.

*Iris pseudacorus*

**YELLOW FLAG, SEGS**,  
native, marshes, lochs, ditches, burns.

*Dactylorhiza maculata ssp ericetorum*

**MOORLAND SPOTTED ORCHID**, native,  
maritime heath and hills.

*D. purpurella*

**NORTHERN FEN ORCHID**, marsh,  
roadside verges, grassy banks.