

# Flora and fauna calendar Q2

Detailing the different species you may encounter whilst working outside in the UK.

	<b>Black Bryony</b>  	<b>Blackthorn</b>  	<b>Bracken</b>  	<b>Bramble</b>  	<b>Deadly Nightshade</b>  	<b>Giant Hogweed</b>  	<b>Ground Fungi</b>  	<b>Common Hawthorn</b>  
<b>ID</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A climbing plant in hedgerows and woodlands.</li> <li>• Lacks the tendrils of White Bryony.</li> <li>• Its leaves are heart-shaped, glossy and their veins form a net pattern.</li> <li>• Yellow-green, six-petalled flowers in summer and red shiny berries in autumn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dense shrub of hedgerows and woodlands.</li> <li>• Small, oval leaves that are finely toothed, and five-petalled.</li> <li>• White flowers in spring.</li> <li>• Thorns are on the end of branches or on elongated side shoots.</li> <li>• Fruiting sloe berries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK's most common fern.</li> <li>• Large branched triangular fronds, divided into three, that can reach over 1.5m in height.</li> <li>• In autumn the fronds turn reddish-brown and die back to ground level.</li> <li>• New fronds unfurl from the base in spring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A thorny, fruiting shrub of the rose family.</li> <li>• Common along roadside verges.</li> <li>• Jagged-edged leaves with five to seven oval leaflets.</li> <li>• Long trailing, thick arching, thorny stems.</li> <li>• White or pinkish flowers in summer.</li> <li>• Blackberry fruit July to October.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shrubby-looking herb found on chalky, disturbed ground often on verges.</li> <li>• Oval pointed leaves that are pale green and strongly ribbed.</li> <li>• The flowers vary in colour from light purple to brown.</li> <li>• Berries are green at first, turning to shiny black, and look a little like cherries.</li> <li>• Other species of nightshade are also poisonous.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tall umbellifer, full height (3m).</li> <li>• Large, white clusters of flowers (up to 80cm).</li> <li>• Hollow ridge stem, purple-spotted, and leaves are large and divided.</li> <li>• Can be confused with native hogweed when not fully grown.</li> <li>• Over winter the stems die back and leave old stalks and flower tops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are at least 13 main species of potentially fatal fungi including: death cap, destroying angel, funeral bell, webcap, fools funnel and dapperling.</li> <li>• There are thousands of different fungi species.</li> <li>• They take many forms and grow in a wide variety of habitats.</li> <li>• If unsure, please consult a specialist.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hedgerow and woodland shrub.</li> <li>• Shiny leaves, divided into three to seven pairs of lobes, and five-petalled.</li> <li>• Sweet-smelling, creamy-white flowers.</li> <li>• Red berries 'haws' during autumn and winter.</li> <li>• Spines are shorter than on blackthorn and are along the stems and branches rather than on the end.</li> </ul>
<b>Impacts &amp; Prevention</b>	<p><b>Deadly if ingested</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid touching</li> <li>✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth</li> <li>✓ Wash hands</li> </ul>	<p><b>Spines have toxins which can cause infection, swelling and joint pain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wear thorn-protecting gloves</li> <li>✓ Wear protective clothing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Can be carcinogenic if ingested</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid touching</li> <li>✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth</li> <li>✓ Wash hands</li> </ul>	<p><b>Thorn scratches may become infected</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wear thorn-protecting gloves</li> <li>✓ Wear protective clothing</li> </ul>	<p><b>All parts of the plant are deadly if ingested</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid touching</li> <li>✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth</li> <li>✓ Wash hands</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sap may cause severe rash and blisters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do not touch</li> <li>✓ Report presence to landowner as it is an invasive species</li> </ul>	<p><b>May be deadly if ingested</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Don't touch even if following a guidebook</li> <li>✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth</li> <li>✓ Wash hands</li> </ul>	<p><b>Thorn scratches may become infected</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wear thorn-protecting gloves</li> <li>✓ Wear protective clothing</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	Adult growth	Thorns present	Young growth	Thorns present	Adult growth	Growth harmful	Fruiting body may be present	Thorns present
<b>May</b>	Adult growth flowering	Thorns present	Young growth	Thorns present	Adult growth	Growth harmful	Fruiting body may be present	Thorns present
<b>June</b>	Adult growth flowering	Thorns present	Young growth	Thorns present	Adult growth	Flowers harmful	Fruiting body may be present	Thorns present

  

	<b>Hemlock Water Dropwort</b>  	<b>Japanese Knotweed</b>  	<b>Stinging Nettle</b>  	<b>Common Ragwort</b>  	<b>Rose</b>  	<b>Wild Parsnip</b>  	<b>Yew</b>  
<b>ID</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows in damp, wet habitat, common along roadsides.</li> <li>• Tall upright plant, purple spotted stems.</li> <li>• Its leaves are somewhat celery-like in form, finely divided and large with distinctive mousy smell.</li> <li>• Flowers are small and white umbrella-like clusters in summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common on waste grounds, riverbanks and roadside verges.</li> <li>• A tall plant with large triangular leaves. Leaves are initially purple/red then changing to green.</li> <li>• Hollow zig-zag purple/red stems growing in tight clusters.</li> <li>• White, tufty flowers in spring and autumn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very common on roadside verges on disturbed ground.</li> <li>• Hairy stem, drooping catkin flowers, oval toothed leaves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found on wasteland and derelict areas.</li> <li>• Mass of daisy-like yellow flowers between 30cm-1.5m tall.</li> <li>• Deeply lobed leaves lying flat on the ground to start with then rising to about 30cm tall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rose species are common on roadside verges.</li> <li>• Thorns on the stems and colourful flowers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often found along roadside verges.</li> <li>• Large umbel clusters of yellow flowers on a thick stem.</li> <li>• Flowers from June to September.</li> <li>• A mature plant can grow 90-120cm.</li> <li>• Leaves are oval, alternate, branched and have saw-toothed edges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A slow growing tree often found in churchyards and on roadside verges as part of a planting scheme.</li> <li>• Evergreen with dense, glossy, dark green needles arranged in two distinct rows along the branches.</li> <li>• Often made up of more than one stem.</li> <li>• Fruit is red, fleshy in texture, with a single dark seed.</li> </ul>
<b>Impacts &amp; Prevention</b>	<p><b>Only a tiny amount can be deadly if ingested</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do not touch</li> <li>✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth</li> <li>✓ Wash hands</li> </ul>	<p><b>Extremely invasive, can damage structures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Inform landowner of presence as it is a fast-growing invasive</li> <li>✓ Prevent spread by using bio cleaning method</li> </ul>	<p><b>Leaves and stem have an irritant chemical causing hives/rash</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid touching</li> <li>✓ Wear gloves and clothing to cover skin</li> </ul>	<p><b>Poisonous to animals. A mild poison to humans through ingestion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid touching</li> <li>✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth</li> <li>✓ Wash hands</li> </ul>	<p><b>Thorn scratches may become infected</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wear thorn-resistant gloves</li> <li>✓ Wear protective clothing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sap from the leaves causes blisters and burns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid skin contact by covering skin and wearing gloves</li> </ul>	<p><b>All parts of the tree are poisonous</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid touching</li> <li>✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth and wash hands</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	Adult growth	Young growth	Young growth	Rosette stage	Thorns present	Young growth	Foliage present
<b>May</b>	Adult growth	Young growth	Young growth	Rosette stage	Thorns present	Young growth	Foliage present
<b>June</b>	Adult growth	Young growth	Young growth	Rosette stage	Thorns present	Young growth	Foliage present

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	<b>Adder</b>  	<b>Asian Hornet</b>  	<b>Bee / Wasp / Hornet</b>  	<b>Bird Dropping</b>  	<b>Brown Tail Moth</b>  	<b>False Black Widow</b>  	<b>Horsefly</b>  	<b>Leech</b>  
<b>ID</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UK's only venomous snake.</li> <li>Often found in woodland glades and on heathlands.</li> <li>Small, stocky snake, 60-80cm long.</li> <li>Greyish, with a dark zigzag pattern on the back.</li> <li>Females are brown-patterned, males are black-patterned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since 2016, few confirmed sightings.</li> <li>Smaller than native hornets.</li> <li>Orange head (from front), abdomen almost entirely dark, with fine yellow stripes and a yellow or orange band near the base.</li> <li>Black or brown thorax.</li> <li>Legs with yellow tips.</li> <li>All Asian hornet sightings should be reported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A lot of species of Hymenoptera occur within the UK.</li> <li>They are normally flying insects with yellow and black markings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birds will often utilise road structures to roost in.</li> <li>Bridges and underpasses are especially susceptible areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The caterpillars are about 25mm long with 2 red dots on the back.</li> <li>Moths have white wings with brown bodies and tail.</li> <li>Caterpillars only seen in the winter inside the silk woven white tents in hedges and trees.</li> <li>Caterpillars feed on hawthorn, bramble, blackthorn and fruit trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In buildings, on tree trunks, in cracks on the ground, under stones.</li> <li>Webs are criss-cross and dense in the centre.</li> <li>Bulbous abdomen.</li> <li>Varying colourations but usually dark brown with lighter brown marbling colours.</li> <li>6 species in the UK.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commonly found around horse stables and cattle and are frequently found in long damp grass.</li> <li>Large robust fly with prominent mouth parts and large eyes.</li> <li>Female flies require a blood meal before they are able to reproduce effectively and to aid in their egg development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37 species of leech in the UK.</li> <li>Commonly found in ponds and ditches.</li> <li>Medicinal leeches are the largest leech in the UK growing to 20cm.</li> <li>Dark brown / black, with thin green, yellow and red stripes down the side.</li> </ul>
<b>Impacts &amp; Prevention</b>	<p><b>Venomous bite can be painful and cause inflammation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If seen, keep your distance</li> <li>✓ Do not touch</li> <li>✓ Wear suitable footwear</li> <li>✓ Stick to established paths</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stings contain neurotoxin that can kill if allergic reaction occurs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If seen, keep your distance</li> <li>✓ Report sightings as it is an invasive species</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sting using different chemicals. Allergic reactions may occur</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Keep your distance</li> <li>✓ Avoid disturbance to hives</li> <li>✓ Listen for buzzing noise</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ingestion causes over 60 different diseases</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wash hands and clean any exposed skin</li> <li>✓ Avoid putting hands in mouth</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hairs are toxic, irritate human skin and cause breathing difficulties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Don't touch, cover skin with gloves and clothing</li> <li>✓ Keep your distance</li> <li>✓ Be aware in summer</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mildly venomous bite causes localised pain. Similar to a wasp sting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Only bite when threatened, keep your distance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bite causes redness, itching and swelling. May cause an allergic reaction or transfer disease</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid walking in long grass</li> <li>✓ Cover your skin</li> <li>✓ Don't wear perfume</li> </ul>	<p><b>Incorrect removal or stress to the leech may cause bacterial infection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid having bare skin</li> <li>✓ Medicinal leech is a protected species under UK law</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	Active	Active	Active	Present	Tents visible/caterpillars harmful	Present	Active	Actively feeding
<b>May</b>	Active	Active	Active	Present	Caterpillars harmful	Present	Active	Actively feeding
<b>June</b>	Active	Active	Active	Present	Caterpillars harmful	Present	Active	Actively feeding

  

	<b>Midge</b>  	<b>Non-Native Reptile</b>  	<b>Oak Processionary Moth</b>  	<b>Rat (Weil's Disease)</b>  	<b>Tick (Lyme disease)</b>  
<b>ID</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A general term for very small (about 3mm) flies.</li> <li>40 midge species in the UK but very few which bite humans.</li> <li>The most common of biting midges is the highland midge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species present within the UK are introduced and often unwanted pets.</li> <li>Commonly lizards, snakes and terrapins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caterpillars have long, white hairs which contrast markedly with the much shorter, almost undetectable, irritating hairs.</li> <li>Grey body and dark head. Older larvae have a central dark stripe with paler lines down each side.</li> <li>Tents are white, silken webbing, accompanied by white, silken trails on the trunks and branches of trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leptospirosis is a waterborne bacterial infection.</li> <li>Weil's disease is the development of leptospirosis.</li> <li>Bacteria harboured in the kidneys of a variety of animals – cattle, deer, pigs, sheep, horses, dogs and rodents.</li> <li>Urine from animals, carried into water, could carry the bacteria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small arachnids, found within dense vegetation - often woodland and moorland.</li> <li>Flat, round bodies which vary from black, brown to red.</li> <li>Normally recognised when crawling on host.</li> <li>Feed on blood.</li> <li>A small proportion carry <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> which causes Lyme disease.</li> </ul>
<b>Impacts &amp; Prevention</b>	<p><b>Painful itchy bites which may swell. May cause an allergic reaction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid grasslands on damp days in summer</li> <li>✓ Insect repellent</li> <li>✓ Avoid bare skin</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reptiles may be venomous</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Listen for hissing, rattling or spitting</li> <li>✓ Keep your distance do not touch</li> <li>✓ Report any sightings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Toxic irritant hairs can cause rashes, sore throat and eyes, and pulmonary effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do not go near tents, caterpillars or known infestations</li> <li>✓ Keep your distance – hairs can travel long distances in the wind</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fever, severe joint pain headache and chills, much like flu. Less common are nausea and vomiting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Be aware of animals near water</li> <li>✓ Avoid water edge activities</li> <li>✓ Carry and follow a leptospirosis card</li> <li>✓ Cover open cuts and grazes</li> <li>✓ Do not touch mouth and eyes</li> <li>✓ Wash hands or shower</li> </ul>	<p><b>Circular 'bullseye' rash, flu like symptoms, if untreated can develop to Lyme Disease</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid bare skin, wear clothing and gloves in grassy or wooded areas</li> <li>✓ Regularly check clothes and skin</li> <li>✓ Use tick removal tool</li> <li>✓ Clean the bite area</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	Active	Active		Leptospirosis present	Active
<b>May</b>	Active	Active	Caterpillar stage, toxic hairs	Leptospirosis present	Active
<b>June</b>	Active	Active	Caterpillar stage, toxic hairs	Leptospirosis present	Active