

















# Flora and fauna calendar Q4

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

	Black Bryony	Blackthorn	Bramble	Deadly Nightshade	Ground Fungi	Common Hawthorn
	 	 	 	 	 	 
<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>• 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>• 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>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>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>October</b>	Adult growth berries	Thorns present	Thorns present	Adult growth	Fruiting body may be present	Thorns present
<b>November</b>	Adult growth berries	Thorns present	Thorns present	Adult growth	Fruiting body may be present	Thorns present
<b>December</b>	Adult growth	Thorns present	Thorns present	Adult growth	Fruiting body may be present	Thorns present
	Hemlock Water Dropwort	Japanese Knotweed	Stinging Nettle	Rose	Annual Tree Fungi	Yew
	 	 	 	 	 	 
<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>• 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>• Ganoderma, Honey Fungus and Shaggy Bracket varieties are non-toxic to humans but can cause decay and decline in trees.</li> <li>• Can be seen all year round on roots and trunks.</li> <li>• Sulphur tuft and fly agaric, while not fatal, can be toxic to humans or induce health issues.</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>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>Some are poisonous, harmful to trees causing tree failure</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>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>October</b>	Adult growth	Flowers	Dies back but ground flora still present	Thorns present	Fruiting bodies may be present	Foliage present
<b>November</b>	Adult growth		Dies back but ground flora still present	Thorns present	Fruiting bodies may be present	Foliage present
<b>December</b>	Adult growth		Dies back but ground flora still present	Thorns present	Fruiting bodies may be present	Foliage present

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

	<b>Adder</b>  	<b>Asian Hornet</b>  	<b>Bird Dropping</b>  	<b>Brown Tail Moth</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>• 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>
<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>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>
<b>October</b>	Less active, may be hibernating under log piles, within tree roots	Active	Present	Caterpillars harmful
<b>November</b>	Less active, may be hibernating under log piles, within tree roots		Present	Tents visible, caterpillars harmful
<b>December</b>	Less active, may be hibernating under log piles, within tree roots		Present	Tents visible, hairs may remain
	<b>False Black Widow</b>  	<b>Leech</b>  	<b>Non-Native Reptile</b>  	<b>Rat (Weil's Disease)</b>  
<b>ID</b>	<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>• 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>	<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>• 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>
<b>Impacts &amp; Prevention</b>	<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>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>	<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>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>
<b>October</b>	Present	Actively feeding	Less active, may be hibernating under log piles, within tree roots	Leptospirosis present
<b>November</b>	Present		Less active, may be hibernating under log piles, within tree roots	Leptospirosis present
<b>December</b>	Present		Less active, may be hibernating under log piles, within tree roots	Leptospirosis present