

Purple Ramping-fumitory



Scientific Name:
Fumaria purpurea

Current factors causing loss or decline

The species was only first discovered in 1902 and remains easily over-looked. Consequently there is limited information on past or even present distribution for comparison. Changes in agricultural practices over the last 50 years are likely to have had a negative impact on populations. Activities likely to cause decline, include;

- **widespread use of herbicides,**
- **destruction of hedge banks and field margins**
- **general decline in traditional crop field management.**

Current action

Purple Ramping-fumitory receives no specific action at present, although it is classified as Nationally Scarce. It receives general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

Current status

Purple Ramping-fumitory is a scrambling plant, distinguished by its large flower size, especially the lateral sepals, the shape of the petals and its reflexed fruit stalks. It is a rare species, endemic to the British Isles, and its conservation is consequently given a high priority nationally. There are problems with identification and distinction from some commoner species of fumitory can be difficult for non-specialists. Consequently there may be a lack of accurate information on this species distribution.

Purple Ramping-fumitory is typically a species of hedge-banks, arable land, waste ground and occasionally about sea-cliffs, as a rule favouring sites which have been recently disturbed, or habitats opened up by summer droughts.

It occurs scattered throughout Britain, but tending to be commoner in the west, with strongholds in Cornwall and the west Lancashire area. In Scotland it is well represented in the southeast, but there are only a few records in the west or northeast.

In the Glasgow area Purple Ramping-fumitory is known from two areas. It was first recorded in the local area in 1984 from a heap of topsoil near Lenzie, but the site was subsequently destroyed by a residential development. A second local site, within the City boundary, is from a similar soil heap, in the car park at Cowglen Golf Course (recorded in 1991); subsequent developments may well have caused its destruction. However, being a colonist of disturbed ground, and its resemblance to other weedy fumitories, it may well lurk unnoticed at other City locations.

Sole Site of Purple Ramping-fumitory in Glasgow



Objectives and targets

The key priority is to initiate searches in the vicinity of former sites, and other suitable locations to establish current status and distribution. Subsequent management of found populations, and possible introduction to suitable new sites, including private gardens, should help to increase the species viability in the local area. Efforts should be targeted at co-ordinating with agri-environment field margin and boundary management activities.

Objective 1: *Establish the current distribution and population status of Purple Ramping-fumitory.*

Target 1: *Survey former sites and encourage more widespread searching throughout the City.*

Objective 2: *Encourage the awareness of the species and the conservation of identified populations.*

Target 2: *Promote species recognition and survey to wider public.*

Objective 3: *Encourage an increase in the number of sites and population sizes.*

Target 3: *Monitor known sites and identify candidate sites for introduction, including gardens.*

Proposed Action with Lead Authorities

Action	Lead	Delivery	Objective
Policy and Legislation			
Ensure protection of known or future discovered sites in any developments subject to Planning Applications.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-DRS, SNH	2
Ensure field margin weeds are promoted in any agri-environment schemes.	GCC-LS(CG)	FWAG, GCC-LS, SNH	2, 3
Site Safeguard and Management			
Encourage landowners, managers and users to implement sympathetic management and protection measures.	GCC-LS(CG)	FWAG, GCC-LS(CG), SNH	2,3
Promote habitat conservation under agri-environment schemes.	GCC-LS(CG)	FWAG, SNH	2, 3
Encourage populations in private gardens and other suitable public open spaces.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS, SNH	2, 3
Species Management and Protection			
Encourage protection and sympathetic species management at existing sites.	GCC-LS(CG)	FWAG, GCC-LSCG), SNH	2
Collect local seed and establish nursery site for propagation.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS	3
Encourage regeneration of seed bank stock at known or former sites.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG)	2, 3
Advisory			
Ensure information and guidance on conservation management is available.	GCC-LS(CG)	FWAG, GCC-LS(CG), RSPB, SNH	2, 3
Advise relevant landowners and users on the presence of Purple Ramping-fumitory and its conservation management.	GCC-LS(CG)	FWAG, GCC-LS(CG), SNH	2, 3
Future Research and Monitoring			
Survey former sites to establish presence.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG), SNH	1
Survey suitable habitats to identify new populations.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG), SNH	2, 3
Establish suitable sites for potential reintroduction.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG), SNH	3
Develop population monitoring at any known sites.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG), SNH	2, 3
Incorporate survey and conservation needs into proposed hedgerow surveys.	GCC-LS(CG)	FWAG, GCC-LS(CG), SNH	2, 3
Communication and Publicity			
Promote awareness of national importance of Purple Ramping-fumitory.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS, SNH	1, 2, 3
Co-ordinate with actions with those for Human Environment and future relevant HAPs.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS, SNH	1, 2, 3
Liaise with Lead Agency of national SAP.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG)	1, 2, 3
Review the progress of this Action Plan by 2006.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG)	1, 2, 3

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Glasgow City Council: Development and Regeneration Services(GCC-DRS), Glasgow City Council: Land Services(Conservation Group) (GCC-LS(CG),

Glasgow City Council: Culture and Leisure Services (GCC-CLS), Glasgow City Council: Education Services (GCC-ES), Glasgow City Council: Land Services Countryside Ranger Service (GCC-LS(CRS)),

Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC), Greenspace for Communities(GIC), British Waterways (BW), Forestry Commission (FC), Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), The WISE Group (TWISE)

Glasgow Natural History Society (GNHS), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT).

Clyde Amphibian and Reptile Group (CARG), Butterfly Conservation (BC), Concern for Swifts (CFS)