



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust



PLANT PROFILE

Red valerian

INVASIVE

FACTS

ID

TAKE
ACTION

TIPS

MORE
PROFILES

Species description

Scientific name:

Centranthus ruber

Other names:

Fox's brush

Native to:

South western Europe
and the Mediterranean

Cronfa
Treftadaeth
Heritage
Fund



Mewn Partneriaeth â
Llywodraeth Cymru
In Partnership with
Welsh Government

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Interesting facts



Impacts:

Red valerian roots burrow into cracks and mortar joints and can loosen brick and stone work in walls and buildings. Red valerian can outcompete other plants, especially on coastal cliffs.



Habitat:

Prefers disturbed, open and well-drained habitats. Walls, old buildings, pavements and roadside, coastal cliffs and shingle.



A semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial with woody stems in more mature plants. Red valerian is a well known garden escaper that is widely distributed. It was introduced to Britain by 1596 and was first recorded in the wild in 1698.

How it spreads:

Seeds are dispersed by wind.



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Key identification features

Mid-green opposite leaves in spring turning to grey-green.



Clusters of small crimson pink or white, slightly fragrant flowers in late spring to autumn, followed by fluffy seedheads.



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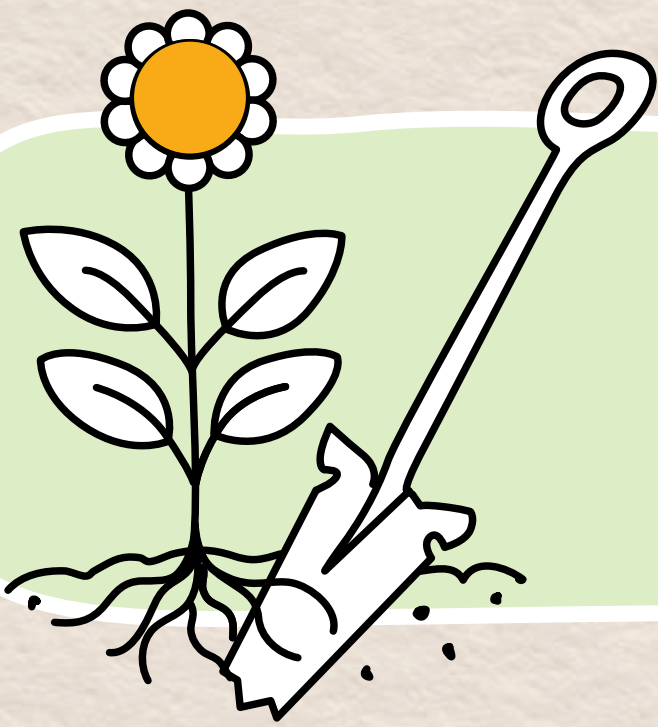
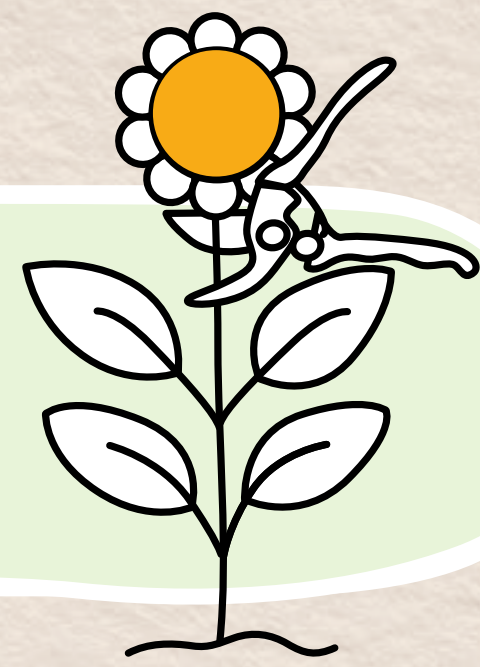
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Take action

Help **stop** the **spread!**

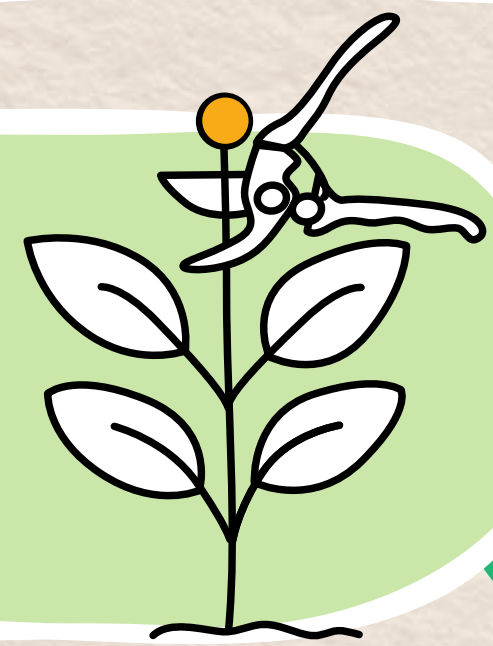


Deadhead after flowers have faded to stop seeds from spreading.



Remove the whole plant by pulling or digging, taking care to remove the roots.

Where plants are not easily removed, cut off fresh growth in spring and prevent flowers and seed heads from developing.



Compost at home or use council garden waste facilities.

Explore our tips for alternative plant ideas.



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Handy tips

Legislation

Not currently listed in legislation as an invasive species.



Common valerian

Similar species:

Not to be confused with native common valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*).



Yarrow

Alternative plant ideas

Native

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*)

Non-native

Butterfly stonecrop (*Hylotelephium spectabile*)

Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis*)



Heather

TOP