

Flora and fauna calendar Q3















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









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

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

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

	Midge  	Non-Native Reptile  	Oak Processionary Moth  	Rat (Weil's Disease)  	Tick (Lyme disease)  
ID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A general term for very small (about 3mm) flies. 40 midge species in the UK but very few which bite humans. The most common of biting midges is the highland midge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species present within the UK are introduced and often unwanted pets. Commonly lizards, snakes and terrapins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caterpillars have long, white hairs which contrast markedly with the much shorter, almost undetectable, irritating hairs. Grey body and dark head. Older larvae have a central dark stripe with paler lines down each side. Tents are white, silken webbing, accompanied by white, silken trails on the trunks and branches of trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leptospirosis is a waterborne bacterial infection. Weil's disease is the development of leptospirosis. Bacteria harboured in the kidneys of a variety of animals – cattle, deer, pigs, sheep, horses, dogs and rodents. Urine from animals, carried into water, could carry the bacteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small arachnids, found within dense vegetation- often woodland and moorland. Flat, round bodies which vary from black, brown to red. Normally recognised when crawling on host. Feed on blood. A small proportion carry <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> which causes Lyme disease.
Impacts & Prevention	<p>Painful itchy bites which may swell. May cause an allergic reaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid grasslands on damp days in summer ✓ Insect repellent ✓ Avoid bare skin 	<p>Reptiles may be venomous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listen for hissing, rattling or spitting ✓ Keep your distance do not touch ✓ Report any sightings 	<p>Toxic irritant hairs can cause rashes, sore throat and eyes, and pulmonary effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do not go near tents, caterpillars or known infestations ✓ Keep your distance – hairs can travel long distances in the wind 	<p>Fever, severe joint pain headache and chills, much like flu. Less common are nausea and vomiting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be aware of animals near water ✓ Avoid water edge activities ✓ Carry and follow a leptospirosis card ✓ Cover open cuts and grazes ✓ Do not touch mouth and eyes ✓ Wash hands or shower 	<p>Circular 'bullseye' rash, flu like symptoms, if untreated can develop to Lyme Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid bare skin, wear clothing and gloves in grassy or wooded areas ✓ Regularly check clothes and skin ✓ Use tick removal tool ✓ Clean the bite area
July	Active	Active	Tented nests, silk trails can be seen, hairs present	Leptospirosis present	Active
August	Active	Active	Adult moths, hairs present in nests, trees and surrounding area up to 200m from infestation	Leptospirosis present	Active
September	Active	Active	Adult moths, hairs present in nests, trees and surrounding area up to 200m from infestation	Leptospirosis present	Active