

Nepeta cataria L.

Cat-mint

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections

Starting references

Family

Lamiaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

(Archaeophyte)

Habit

Perennial herb.

Habitat

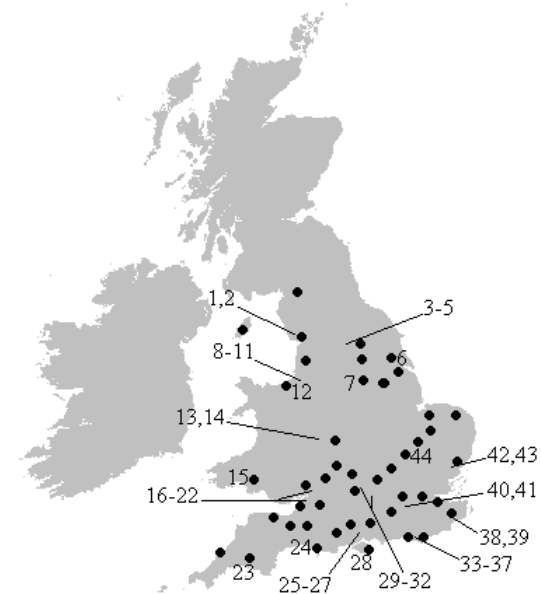
Open grassland, waysides, hedge banks, roadsides and rough ground on calcareous soils. Lowland.

Reasons for decline

Hedgerow removal, intensification of agriculture and the growth of scrub.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
Wales	Carmarthenshire	1	
	Denbighshire	1	
	Flintshire	1	
England	Widely distributed	~162	



Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Holehird Gardens
- 2 Sizergh Castle (NT)
- 3 RHS Harlow Carr
- 4 Harewood House, Leeds
- 5 Yorkshire Museum & Gardens, York
- 6 University of Hull Botanic & Exp. Garden
- 7 Sheffield Botanical Gardens
- 8 Firs Botanical Grounds
- 9 University of Manchester Botanical & Exp. Grounds
- 10 City of Liverpool Botanic Gardens
- 11 Ness Botanic Gardens
- 12 Chester Zoological Gardens
- 13 University of B'ham Botanic Garden, Winterbourne
- 14 B'ham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses, Westbourne
- 15 National Botanic Garden of Wales
- 16 Batsford Arboretum
- 17 Hidcote Manor Garden (NT)
- 18 Highgrove House
- 19 Westonbirt National Arboretum
- 20 Bristol Zoo Gardens
- 21 University of Bristol Botanic Garden
- 22 Wildwalk at Bristol
- 23 The Eden Project
- 24 Abbotsbury Subtropical Garden

- 25 Longstock Park Gardens
- 26 Mottisfont Abbey Garden (NT)
- 27 Sir Harold Hillier Garden
- 28 Ventnor Botanic Garden
- 29 University of Oxford Botanic Garden
- 30 The Harris Garden
- 31 Windsor Gardens
- 32 Cliveden (NT)
- 33 High Beeches Gardens
- 34 Nymans Garden (NT)
- 35 Borde Hill Garden
- 36 Newhaven Botanic Garden
- 37 Sheffield Park
- 38 Sissinghurst Castle (NT)
- 39 Bedgebury National Pinetum
- 40 RHS Wisley
- 41 RBG Kew
- 42 RHS Hyde Hall
- 43 Mark Hall Arboretum
- 44 Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Gardens with specialisation on family Lamiaceae

None

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Seed - best sown as soon as it is ripe in a cold frame in the autumn. The germination of spring sown seed can be erratic, it is best sown in a cold frame. Prick out the seedlings into individual pots when they are large enough to handle and plant them out into their permanent positions in the summer. The seed remains viable for about 5 years. A fast-growing plant, the seedlings can reach flowering size in their first year. If you have sufficient freshly ripe seed then it is well worth trying a sowing outdoors in situ in the autumn. Division in spring or autumn. Very easy, large divisions can be planted out direct into their permanent positions. We have found that it is better to pot up the smaller divisions and grow them on in light shade in a cold frame until they are well established before planting them out in late spring or early summer. Basal cuttings in late spring or early summer. Harvest the shoots with plenty of underground stem when they are about 8 - 10cm above the ground. Pot them up into individual pots and keep them in light shade in a cold frame or greenhouse until they are rooting well. Plant them out in the summer.

- Cultivation

Easily grown in a light sandy soil in a sunny position. Succeeds in heavier soils if the drainage is very good. Plants are hardy to about -25°C. Catmint emits a scent that is irresistible to many cats, who will then avidly attack the plant. The smell is said to be similar to certain cat hormones and is more effective with male cats. Quite often a cat will completely destroy even a fairly large plant, small plants especially might need protection until well established. Sometimes grown in the herb garden, there are some named varieties. 'Citriodora' has lemon-scented leaves that are more attractive to people and less attractive to cats. If the plants are cut back hard when they are flowering a second crop of leaves will be produced. Members of this genus are rarely if ever troubled by browsing deer or rabbits. Catmint is a good companion plant to grow in the garden. It is said to repel various cabbage pests, aphid (including peach aphid), flea beetles, cucumber beetles, squash bugs and ants from plants they grow near to. The flowers are very attractive to bees.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

Designated LBAP Areas are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Habitat Management

Protected sites with records for *Nepeta cataria* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>
- Plants For A Future Database: <http://www.pfaf.org/database/plants.php?Nepeta+cataria>