

# *Chamaemelum nobile* (L.) All.

Chamomile

Key:

**Dots** refer to the native sites of the species

**Numbers** refer to the nearby Botanical Collections

## Starting references

### Family

Asteraceae

### IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

### Habit

Perennial herb.

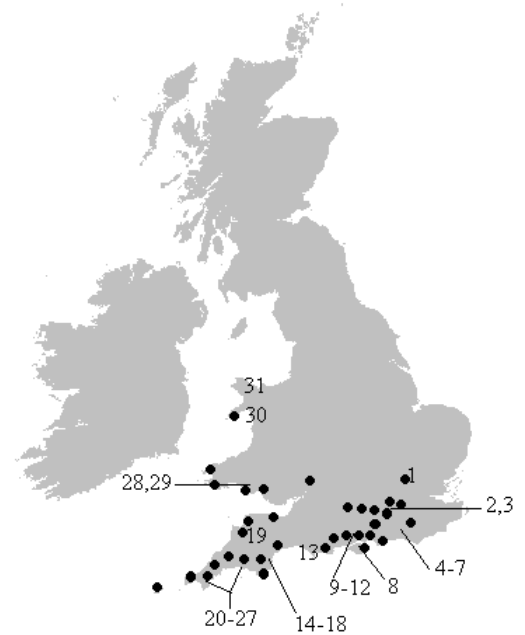
### Habitat

Moderately acidic, seasonally wet grassland, especially on sandy commons and pastures where mowing, trampling or grazing discourages competitors; also in coastal grassland and on cliffs, where exposure and trampling maintain a short sward. 0-465m (Ireland).

### Reasons for decline

Drainage and cessation of grazing.

### Distribution in wild



Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km <sup>2</sup> occurrences)	Population (plants)
Wales	Caernarvonshire	1	
	Glamorgan	3	
	Pembrokeshire	4	
England	Herefordshire	1	
	W Kent	1	
	Hertfordshire	1	
	Middlesex	1	
	Berkshire	5	
	Surrey	13	
	Hampshire	21	
	Isle of Wight	5	
	Dorset	5	
	S Somerset	4	
	S Devon	17	
	N Devon	6	
	E Cornwall	14	
W Cornwall	24		

## Ex situ Collections

### Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 University of Hertfordshire
- 2 RBG Kew
- 3 RHS Wisley
- 4 West Dean Gardens
- 5 High Beeches Gardens
- 6 Nymans Garden (NT)
- 7 Borde Hill Garden
- 8 Ventnor Botanic Garden
- 9 Longstock Park Gardens
- 10 Mottisfont Abbey Garden (NT)

- 11 Sir Harold Hillier Garden
- 12 Staunton Country Park
- 13 Abbotsbury Subtropical Garden
- 14 Paignton Zoological & Botanical Gardens
- 15 Exeter University
- 16 Bicton Park Gardens
- 17 Knightsshayes Garden (NT)
- 18 The Shippen
- 19 RHS Rosemoor
- 20 St Michael's Mount (NT)
- 21 Duchy College
- 22 Trebah Garden Trust
- 23 Glendurgan Gardens (NT)
- 24 Trelissick (NT)
- 25 Tregothnan Botanic Garden
- 26 Eden Project
- 27 Tregrehan
- 28 National Botanic Garden of Wales
- 29 Swansea Botanic Garden
- 30 Portmeirion Gardens
- 31 Treborth Botanic Garden

**Gardens with specialisation on genus *Chamaemelum***

None

**Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections**

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Seed - sow March in a cold frame. Only just cover the seed and do not let the compost dry out. When they are large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and plant them out into their permanent positions in the summer. Division in spring or autumn. Very easy, larger clumps can be replanted direct into their permanent positions, though it is best to pot up smaller clumps and grow them on in a cold frame until they are rooting well. Plant them out in the summer or following spring. Basal cuttings in spring. Harvest the shoots when they are about 5cm long with plenty of underground stem. 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

Tolerates most well-drained soils, preferring a dry sandy soil and a sunny position. Tolerates partial shade. Established plants are drought tolerant. Can be grown in grass. Tolerates a pH in the range 6.8 to 8. Plants are hardy to at least -15°C. They often deteriorate in very wet or cold winters, but usually recover quickly in the spring and early summer. Chamomile is commonly grown in the domestic herb garden, it is also cultivated commercially for its flowers which are used in herb teas and medicinally. The double-flowered form is highly regarded for its medicinal virtues. Plants can be invasive when growing in good conditions, though they are easy to control. There is some confusion between this plant (which is a perennial) and the annual chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*) as to which is the genuine medicinal chamomile. Some reports say that this plant is the most effective herbally, whilst others says that *Matricaria* is more potent. Both plants seem to have very similar properties and either can probably be used quite successfully. Chamomile is a very good companion plant, promoting the health of plants it is growing close to, it is especially good for growing near cabbages, onions and, in small quantities, wheat.

***Conservation information***

**Linkages to BAPs**

Designated LBAP Areas sites with records for *Chamaemelum nobile* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

**Habitat Management**

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

**Conservation programmes**

Unknown

**Web references**

- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>
- Images: [http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web\\_pages/chamaemelum\\_nobile\\_chamomile.htm](http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web_pages/chamaemelum_nobile_chamomile.htm)
- Plants For A Future Database : [http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr\\_html?Chamaemelum+nobile&CAN=LATIND](http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Chamaemelum+nobile&CAN=LATIND)