

Daphne mezereum L.

Mezereon

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections

Starting references

Family

Thymelaeaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

Habit

Deciduous shrub.

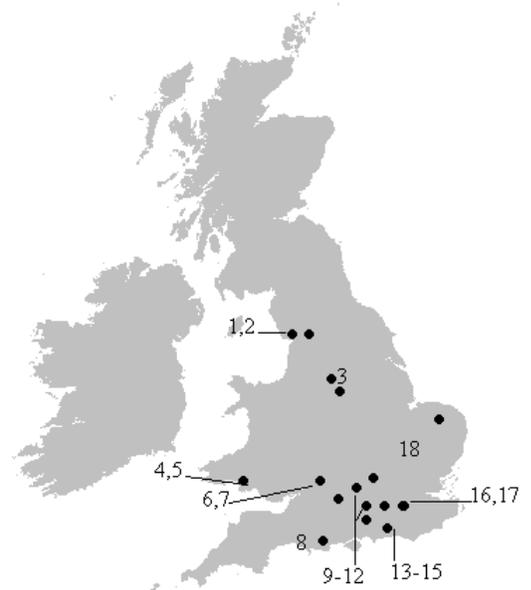
Habitat

Calcareous woodland, often on steep, sometimes rocky slopes with little ground cover, but rarely in deep shade; also in chalk-pits, and in wet, species-rich fens.

Reasons for decline

Habitat loss and uprooting.

Distribution in wild



| Country | Locality & Vice County | Sites (10km ² occurrences) | Population (plants) |
|---------|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Wales | Carmarthenshire | 2 | |
| England | Westmorland | 1 | |
| | W Lancashire | 1 | |
| | MW Yorkshire | 3 | |
| | Derbyshire | 4 | |
| | W Norfolk | 1 | |
| | E Gloucestershire | 1 | |
| | Oxfordshire | 2 | |
| | Berkshire | 3 | |
| | Buckinghamshire | 1 | |
| | Surrey | 2 | |
| | N Hampshire | 2 | |
| | W Sussex | 1 | |
| | Dorset | 1 | |

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Holehird Gardens
- 2 Sizergh Castle (NT)
- 3 Sheffield Botanical Gardens
- 4 National Botanic Garden of Wales
- 5 Swansea Botanic Garden, 17
- 6 Hidcote Manor (NT)
- 7 Batsford Arboretum
- 8 Abbotsbury Subtropical Garden
- 9 University of Oxford Botanic Garden
- 10 The Harris Garden
- 11 Windsor Gardens
- 12 Cliveden (NT)
- 13 High Beeches Gardens
- 14 Nymans Garden (NT)

- 15 Borde Hill Garden
- 16 RBG Kew
- 17 RHS Wisley
- 18 Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Gardens with specialisation on genus *Daphne*

Ness Botanic Garden

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

In the wild, reproduces by seed and is self-fertile.

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Seed - best sown in a greenhouse as soon as it is ripe with the pot sealed in a polythene bag to hold in the moisture. Remove this bag as soon as germination takes place. The seed usually germinates better if it is harvested 'green' (when it has fully developed but before it dries on the plant) and sown immediately.

Germination should normally take place by spring, though it sometimes takes a further year. Stored seed is more problematic. It should be warm stratified for 8 - 12 weeks at 20°C followed by 12 - 14 weeks at 3°C. Germination may still take another 12 months or more at 15°C. Prick out the seedlings into individual pots as soon as they are large enough to handle. Grow the plants on in the greenhouse for their first winter and then plant out in spring after the last expected frosts. Cuttings of half-ripe wood, July/August in a frame.

Layering.

- Cultivation details

A good sandy loam suits most members of this genus[11]. Prefers a good heavy soil and some shade. Prefers a calcareous soil and cool moist conditions. There is no evidence to suggest it requires a calcareous soil, but all members of this genus do well on acid soils. A very ornamental plant, it is hardy to about -30°C. Plants tend to be short-lived in cultivation, probably due to excessive seed bearing. Plants are resentful of root disturbance and should be planted into their permanent positions as soon as possible. They also resent being cut and so should not be pruned unless it is essential. A good bee plant, providing a source of nectar very early in the year. The flowers have a delicious sweet perfume.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

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

Habitat Management

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

Conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- NBN Gateway database : <http://www.searchnbn.net>
- Plants For A Future : <http://www.pfaf.org/database/plants.php?Daphne+mezereum>
- Images: http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web_pages/daphne_mezereum_mezereon.htm