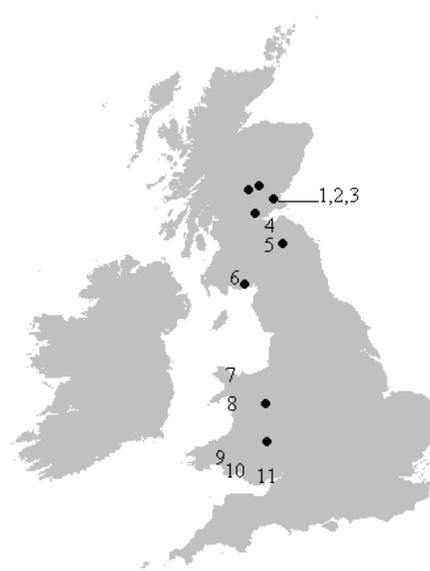


Lychnis viscaria L.

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Caryophyllaceae

IUCN category

Vulnerable

Habit

Tufted wintergreen perennial herb.

Habitat

Dry, open south and west-facing basic and intermediate igneous rocks, although it occasionally occurs on sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southwick Water, Kirkcudbrightshire• Glen Farg, Perthshire• Holyrood Park, Edinburgh• Near Selkirk, Selkirkshire	14	Less than 5 to several 100 clumps
Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breidden Hill, Montgomery• Radnorshire	2	~70 plants

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 University of Dundee Botanic Garden
- 2 St Andrews Botanic Garden
- 3 Branklyn Garden
- 4 RBG, Edinburgh
- 5 Dawyck Botanic Garden
- 6 Threave Garden
- 7 Treborth Botanic Garden
- 8 Portmeirion Gardens
- 9 National Botanic Garden of Wales
- 10 Swansea Botanic Garden
- 11 Dyffryn Gardens

Gardens with specialisation on species *Lychnis viscaria*

RBG, Edinburgh

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

Lychnis viscaria set copious amount of seeds which readily germinate (over 90%) at 16°C. Pre-treatment of seed is not necessary

Information on the propagation and cultivation methods, from E. MacKintosh & G. McGillivray, Alpine Dpt, RBG Edinburgh.

Seed are sown in August, in clay pot containing 2:1 John Innes seed compost/fine grit and top-dressed with fine grit. The clay pot is plunged in sand in a north-facing cold frame.

The following September, when seed germinate, the pot is moved in a north-facing cool glasshouse.

Seedlings are pricked out in October in individual plastic pots, in a free-draining compost containing 2:2:1/2 John Innes No. 2/granite grit/perlite and top-dressed with fine grit or clay pots containing 2:1:2 JI No. 2/leaf mould/granite grit, with a fine grit top-dressing. The pots are placed in a north-facing cool glasshouse.

In February, the plants are transferred to an unheated cold frame for hardening-off. The frame is open during day time and closed at night between October and Easter, but open 24 hours from Easter to mid September.

The species appears to be parasite and disease-free in cultivation. The plants get a monthly supplementary feeding regime of half the recommended amount of *Miracle-Gro*

In Sweden, the fungus *Ustilago violacea* (Pers.) Roussel infects *Lychnis viscaria* and causes lifetime sterility. The disease however, has not been reported in British populations (*Journal of Ecology*. 1995. **83**, 1039-1051).

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

Lychnis viscaria is recorded in the following LBAPs:

Tayside BAP

Stirling Council Area BAP

Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership

Fife (LBAP)

Falkirk Area BAP

Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership

Midlothian (LBAP Areas), West Lothian (LBAP Areas)

Scottish Borders LBAP

Dumfries and Galloway (LBAP Areas)

Powys LBAP

Known conservation programmes

'Recovery' programmes, including habitat management and translocations, have been carried out at some threatened sites in Scotland and on Breidden, Wales.

In Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, a reinforcement programme was conducted in 1993-94 by Phil Lusby for the Scottish Rare Plant Project (based in RBGE). Seed from four surviving clumps was collected in Holyrood Park and cultivated at the RBGE. 20 raising plants were replanted at a suitable area in Holyrood Park in May 1994, while the rest were retained at the RBGE to act as an isolated seed source and reserve for further reinforcement programme if necessary.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage have run a restocking programme similar to that at Holyrood Park at one of the Kirkcudbrightshire localities.

Habitat Management

In October 1994 The Scottish Rare Plant Project, with Scottish Natural Heritage, carried out clearance of tree saplings at one of the threatened Glen Farg populations. The response was rewarding as the population flowered abundantly in June 1995, set copious amounts of seed and now constitutes an important seed source for the surrounding area.