

Spergula arvensis L.

Corn Spurrey

Starting references

Family

Caryophyllaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

(Archaeophyte)

Habit

Annual.

Life cycle

Flowers from June to August. Seeds are not thought to last for very long in the soil. Germination is mainly in the spring, but some also occurs in the autumn.

Habitat

Open, disturbed habitats on light, often sandy soils, arable fields, sea-shores, roadsides and waste ground.

Associated uncommon species:

Corn Spurrey can often be found with species such as Corn Marigold, Weasel's-snout and the rarer fumitories.

Reasons for decline

The recent decline is due to a combination of the high levels of nitrogen applied to competitive modern crops, use of broadspectrum herbicides and increases in the proportion of the cropped area sown with winter cereals.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
UK	Widely distributed		

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

All the gardens across the UK.

Gardens with specialisation on family Caryophyllaceae

B'ham Botanical Gardens, Westbourne

Exeter University

Fletcher Moss Botanical Gardens

Harris Garden

RBG Kew

University of Bristol Botanic Garden

University of Oxford Botanic Garden

Ventnor Botanic Garden

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

From Plants For A Future Database

- Propagation

Seed - sow spring or autumn in situ. Some seed germinates in the autumn in the wild while some germinates in the spring.

- Cultivation details

Prefers a sandy lime-free soil and a sunny position. A calcifuge plant, requiring a neutral to acid soil. The flowers are only open in the morning.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

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

Habitat Management

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

Conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- Arable Plants – a field guide
http://www.arableplants.fieldguide.co.uk/?P=search_form&CSF=1&SHC=2&PSD=1
- Wild plants of the British Isles -a photographic record of a field botanist's annual hunt for British Wild Plants http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web_pages/spergula_arvensis_corn_spurrey.htm
- Plants For A Future, the searchable database available at the [ibiblio.org](http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Spergula+arvensis) in the US.
http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Spergula+arvensis
- Skye Flora: <http://www.plant-identification.co.uk/skye/caryophyllaceae/spergula-arvensis.htm>
- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>