

Harebell

Campanula rotundifolia

Plants · In flower Jul-Sep

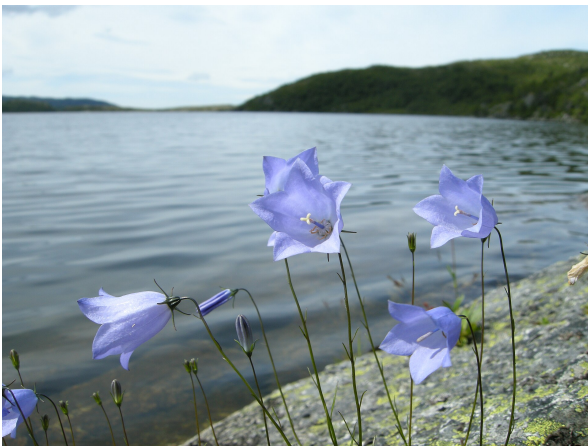


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A delicate perennial with wiry stems carrying nodding, pale violet-blue bell flowers, and — confusingly, given the name *rotundifolia* — round basal leaves that have usually withered by flowering time, leaving only narrow stem leaves. Harebells grow on dry banks, unimproved grassland, dunes and old walls around Dumfries.

BEHAVIOUR

In Scotland this is the plant meant by 'bluebell', which causes endless confusion with the woodland bluebell of English usage. The bells hang downward, which shelters the pollen from rain — an advantage in this climate. It grows on thin, poor, well-drained soils and is intolerant of fertiliser, so it is a good indicator of unimproved grassland.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Bellflowers (Campanulaceae)
HEIGHT	15–40 cm
STATUS	Native; an indicator of unimproved grassland

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