

Wood Anemone

Anemone nemorosa

Plants · In flower Mar–May



Photo by Lilly M, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

A low woodland perennial with deeply divided leaves in whorls of three and solitary white star-shaped flowers, often flushed pink or purple on the outside. Wood anemones appear before the bluebells in oak and hazel woodland around Dumfries, and also persist in old hedge banks that mark where woodland once stood.

BEHAVIOUR

The flowers track the sun and close and droop in dull weather and at night, protecting the pollen. Wood anemone sets seed only rarely in Britain and spreads instead by slow creeping rhizome — measured at a couple of metres per century — which makes a large colony one of the most reliable indicators of ancient woodland, and irreplaceable once lost.

WHEN TO SEE IT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Buttercups (Ranunculaceae)
HEIGHT	5–15 cm
STATUS	Native; a strong ancient woodland indicator

Photo by Lilly M, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Natureville