

VERONICA - SPEEDWELLS

This guide is to help you get to grip with the 16 species of speedwell that occur in Ireland. There are an additional 6 rare casuals (neophytes) that are not included.



All speedwells have 2 stamens in the flower

In 6 species the flowers are solitary on the stems



Lawns, short grassland

Veronica filiformis Slender Speedwell

- Stems rooting at nodes, grows flat
- Flowers 8-10mm, blue



Bare soil, waste ground

Veronica persica Common Field-speedwell

Very common

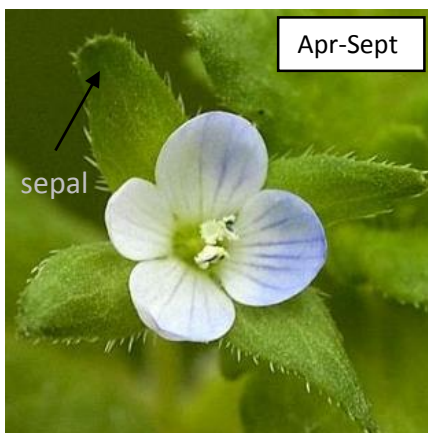
- Stems not rooting at nodes
- Flowers 8-12mm, blue with lower petal white
- Hairy oval leaves, toothed



Bare, disturbed ground

Veronica hederifolia Ivy-leaved Speedwell

- Stems not rooting at nodes
- Flowers 4-5mm, pale blue or white
- Extremely hairy plant
- Leaves broader than long



Bare, disturbed ground

Veronica agrestis Green Field-speedwell

- Stems not rooting at nodes
- Flowers 4-6mm, pale blue with lower petal white
- Sepals oblong and blunt
- Hairy
- Leaves longer than broad, short stalked & toothed



V. polita (Grey Field-speedwell)
- like *V. agrestis* and in similar habitats but leaves dull green and flowers bright blue. Sepals oval and pointed.



Veronica crista-galli
Crested Field-speedwell

- Stems not rooting at nodes
- Flowers 5-6mm, dark blue with white centre
- Leaves hairy and toothed

Locally abundant, mainly in Co. Cork, established and increasing.

Waste ground, garden escape

In 3 species the flowers are in spikes and the main stem ends in a flower



Veronica serpyllifolia
Thyme-leaved Speedwell

Very common

- Stems creeping at base, then ascending
- Flowers 5-6mm, pale blue with 4 uneven petals
- Leaves short stalked and not toothed



Roadsides, waste ground



Veronica arvensis
Wall Speedwell

Very common

- Stems erect
- Flowers 2-4mm, bright blue
- Hairy
- Leaves coarsely toothed

Bare ground, walls



Veronica peregrina
American Speedwell

Very rare

- Stems erect
- Flowers whitish
- Hairless
- Leaves almost entire

Cultivated ground

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In 3 species the flowers are in spikes and the main stem ends in a tuft of hairy leaves. These species occur in dry habitats



Grasslands

- *Veronica officinalis*
- Heath Speedwell

Very common

- Flowers 6-8mm, pale lilac-blue
- Leaves oval and tapered at base with very shallow teeth



Hedgerows, grassland, woodland

- *Veronica chamaedrys*
- Germander Speedwell

Very common

- Flowers 10-12mm, bright blue with a white eye
- Leaves oblong and coarsely toothed
- Main stem hairy in two opposite rows



Damp woodlands

- *Veronica montana*
- Wood Speedwell

- Flowers 7-9mm, pale lilac
- Leaves oblong and coarsely toothed
- Main stem hairy all around

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In 4 species the flowers are in spikes and the main stem ends in a tuft of hairless leaves. These species occur in wet habitats



Shallow standing water

Veronica beccabunga

Brooklime

Very common

- Flowers 7-8mm, blue
- Oval, bluntly toothed leaves



Damp, boggy ground

Veronica scutellata

Marsh Speedwell

- Flowers 6-7mm, pale blue-white with dark lines
- Flowering spikes arise singly on alternative sides of stem
- Long lanceolate leaves



Wet ground, marshes, shallow ditches

Veronica anagallis-aquatica

Water Speedwell

- Flowers 6mm, pale blue
- Flowering spikes in opposite pairs
- Long lanceolate leaves



Wet ground, marshes, shallow ditches

Veronica catenata

Pink Water-speedwell

Like *V. anagallis-aquatica* but with pale pink flowers and petal veins that do not reach the petal edge