



Scientific name	<i>Poa annua</i> – <i>Plantago major</i> weed community
Common name	Annual Meadow-grass – Greater Plantain weed community
Community code	WE1E

Vegetation

Much of the cover in this species-poor, open community consists of low-growing tufts of *Poa annua*, alongside which are found rosettes of *Taraxacum officinale* agg. and the broad leaves of *Plantago major*. Also frequently found here is some patchy growth of *Lolium perenne*, some *Rumex obtusifolius*, *Senecio vulgaris* or *Sisymbrium officinale*.

Ecology

This vegetation is primarily found on relatively fertile soils in a range of trampled situations, along paths and tracks, in fields and gateways and on well-worn routes across grassland.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

Poa annua is commonly found in several of the WE1 weed communities, but is at its most abundant here. The occurrence of *Plantago major* should serve as a good indicator.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	73
Transitional:	24
Total:	97

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2018:	2
1986-2000:	21
1971-1985:	31
Pre-1971:	20
Total:	74

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2018:	2
1986-2000:	3
1971-1985:	12
Pre-1971:	11
Total:	28

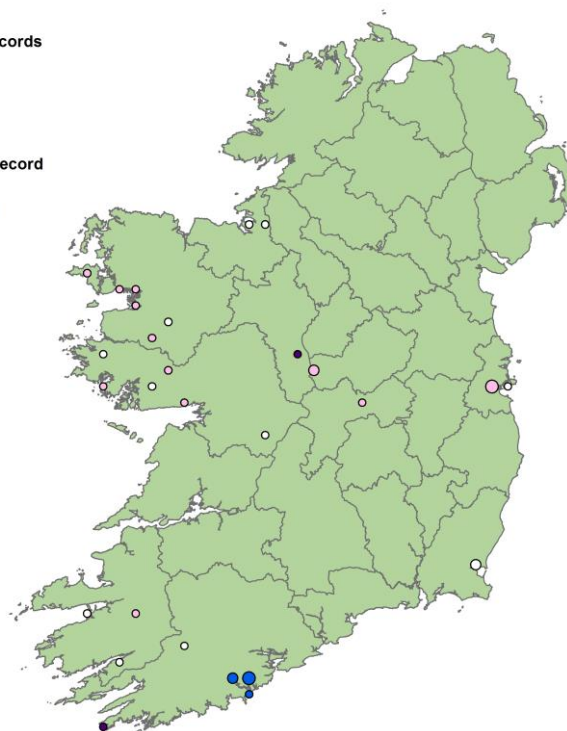
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2018:	2
1986-2000:	3
1971-1985:	13
Pre-1971:	11

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 52)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Poa annua</i>	V	2-(5)-9	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	IV	2-(3)-5	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Plantago major</i>	IV	2-(3)-7	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	III	2-(3)-7	<i>Galium aparine</i>	I	2-(3)-8
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	III	2-(3)-3	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	III	2-(2)-5	<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	III	2-(3)-9	<i>Stellaria media</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Geranium molle</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	II	2-(3)-8	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	II	2-(2)-5	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	II	2-(3)-8	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	II	+-(2)-5	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	II	2-(3)-9	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	II	+-(2)-3	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	I	2-(2)-3

Affinities

GHI: ED3 Recolonising bare ground

ZM: QE Polygono-Poetea annuae (38.5%) / CM Molinio-Arrhenatheretea (32.7%) / QB Sisymbrietea (19.2%)

EUNIS: E1.E Trampled xeric grassland with annuals

NVC: OV21 *Poa annua* – *Plantago major* community (65.8%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.1 Reaction: 6.4 Wetness: 5.0 Fertility: 6.6 Salinity: 0.3

Conservation value

Vegetation corresponding to this community is typically of relatively low conservation value.

Management

The persistence of this community is dependent on trampling and regular disturbance.

Key references

Lambe, E. (1971) A phytosociological and ecological analysis of Irish weed communities. (Ph.D. thesis). National University of Ireland, Galway.

Brun-Hool, J., Wilmanns, O. (1982) Plant communities of human-settlements in Ireland. 2. Gardens, parks and roads. *Journal of Life Sciences Royal Dublin Society* 3(1), 91-103.

Browne, A. (1998) Vegetation-environment interactions in the vicinity of a pharmaceutical plant near Kinsale, Co. Cork. (Ph.D. thesis). University College Dublin.

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