

Scottish Primrose

DESCRIPTION

First recorded in Sutherland in 1767, Scottish primrose is an endemic species that only grows in Scotland. A perennial herb, growing in a variety of moist but well-drained, usually heavily grazed, open grassland habitats that are often on calcareous substrates and sometimes liable to some sand blow. All its sites are within 1 and a half km from the sea and include cliff-tops, the transition zone between grassland and maritime heath, mosaics of heath and machair, and around rock outcrops. It is self-fertile, although many plants never flower.

Listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List.

DISTRIBUTION MAP



New Atlas of the British & Irish Flora (1995): eds Preston, C, Pearman, D., Dines, T.

THREATS

This species can be adversely affected by both under- and over-grazing, most losses being attributed to one or the other. Its overall distribution is, however, unchanged since 1962. This plant is not very competitive and has been lost to agricultural intensification.

FURTHER READING

http://www.plantlife.org.uk/scotland/wild_plants/plant_species_scotland/?ent=237



ACTION REQUIRED

1. Sign up as a Flora Guardian to help monitor this rare species at www.plantlife.org.uk/scotland
2. Support increased flexibility within rural development programmes to maintain open pasture through careful management of sheep grazing.
3. Help promote the value of Scotland's biological diversity in the face of environmental change, reflected in this beautiful endemic plant.

MSP SPECIES CHAMPION



Liam McArthur MSP

Member for: Orkney Islands

Region: Highlands and Islands

Party: Scottish Liberal Democrats