



Wildlife Trusts Wales

Sea-holly *Eryngium maritimum*

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Species information

i **Common name**
Sea-holly

Latin name
Eryngium maritimum

Category
Wildflowers

Statistics
Height: up to 60cm

Conservation status
Declining.

About

Although more closely related to the carrot than true Holly, the spiky, grey leaves of Sea-holly ensure that this plant lives up to its name; they are covered with a waxy cuticle to help the plant retain water in the arid conditions in which it thrives. Found on coastlines and sand dunes (and even in gardens as a cultivated variety), Sea-holly blooms between July and September, producing round, teasel-like heads of striking blue flowers.

How to identify

Sea-holly looks a bit like a thistle when it is in bloom, and has silvery-blue leaves with many prickly spikes on their edges.

Where to find it

Only grows around the coastline of the UK and is almost absent from Scotland and the north-east of England.

Habitats

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When to find it



How can people help

The Wildlife Trusts look after many coastal habitats for the benefit of all kinds of wildflowers, such as Sea-holly, and are working closely with farmers, landowners and developers to promote wildlife-friendly practices in these areas. We have a vision of a 'Living Landscape': a network of habitats and wildlife corridors across town and country, which are good for both wildlife and people. You can support this greener vision for the future by joining your local Wildlife Trust.

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