

#dinkymoira Buttercups @wildflower_hour

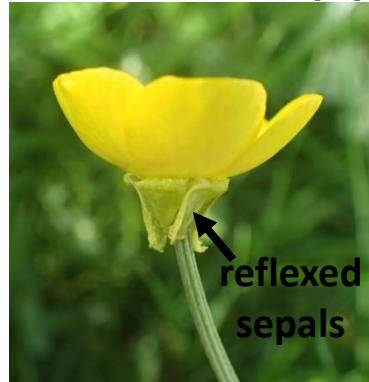


Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)

Creeping Buttercup has **spreading sepals** and a **grooved flower stalk**. The leaves are 3-lobed, which are themselves lobed. The bases of the lobes (sinuses) have distinctive pale marks. Found in a wide variety of grassy habitats, particularly damp grassland, and can be a troublesome garden weed!

Bulbous Buttercup has **reflexed (sharply turned down) sepals** and a **grooved flower stalk**. Basal leaves have three main leaflets, which are themselves lobed. The middle leaflet is long-stalked. Found in well drained unimproved grassland, road verges and churchyards.

Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*)



One of our best loved and easiest to recognise native wild flowers. How many of us as children held a Buttercup under our chin, the intensity of the reflected yellow glow being an indication of how much we loved butter?

There are quite a few different species of Buttercup, and the flowers all look very similar, so how do you tell them apart? Here are a few tips to help you recognise four of the most common species of Buttercup.

The key characters to look at are: the **sepals** - are they spreading or reflexed (sharply turned down); the **flower stalks** - are they smooth or grooved; and the basal **leaves**.



Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)

Meadow Buttercup has **spreading sepals** and a **smooth flower stalk**. The leaves are cut into narrow pointed lobes, which often resemble those of some Geranium species. Found in damp unimproved grassland, meadows, pastures and sometimes road verges. The tallest buttercup.

Goldilocks Buttercup has **spreading sepals** and a **smooth flower stalk**. Sometimes, but not always, the flowers are deformed or have some petals missing. The round to kidney-shaped basal leaves are lobed and on long stalks; the stem leaves are deeply divided. Look for it in deciduous woodland and hedgebanks. Reproduction is by apomixis (seed produced without fertilisation), which has given rise to many apomictic microspecies (agamospecies).

Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus* agg.)

