

Small-flowered Crane's-bill

Geranium pusillum

As its name suggests, this is the species with the smallest flowers! The bluey-lilac petals are around 2.5-4mm long with a shallow notch. The petals are narrower than those of Dove's-foot, with an obvious gap between them. The flowers are often slightly untidy and a bit dishevelled looking!



#dinkymoira @wildflower_hour

Geraniums

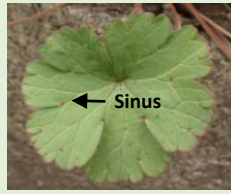
Small flowered Crane's-bills

The small flowered Crane's-bills (so called because their long seed pods are shaped like a crane's bill) can be very confusing, as they are small and pink and can all seem to be practically identical! To help you to start sorting them out here are some visual comparisons between the flowers & leaves.

Round-leaved Crane's-bill

Geranium rotundifolium

The petals of Round-leaved are rounded or only slightly notched and are around 5-7mm long. The pink petals have a white base which gives the whole flower a characteristic white centre. The leaves quite often have a small red mark at the bases of their lobes (sinuses).



Dove's-foot Crane's-bill

Geranium molle

Dove's-foot flowers are larger than Small-flowered and smaller than Hedgerow, with notched petals around 4-6mm long. They are a quite bright red-pink in colour, although pale forms do occur.

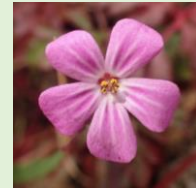


#dinkymoira tip: In the spring some plants and flowers do seem to be larger than later in season and so could be confused with Hedgerow.

Herb-Robert

Geranium robertianum

Herb-Robert is one of the most familiar and easy to recognise of the small flowered Geraniums. The petals are rounded, without a notch and are 8-14mm long. They have subtle white striped markings. The leaves have very hairy stems, and are cut into three to five leaflets, which are themselves deeply cut.



Cut-leaved Crane's-bill

Geranium dissectum

One of the smallest flowered species (similar to Dove's-foot) with slightly notched petals around 4.5-6mm long. In common with Long-stalked, their sepals have a longish point on the end. They are a clear, bright pink in colour. The small flower size can be quite disproportionate to the size of the plant. As the name suggests, they have very deeply cut leaves.



Hedgerow Crane's-bill

Geranium pyrenaicum

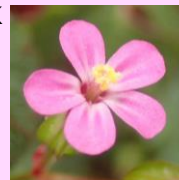
Hedgerow has medium sized flowers with notched petals around 7-10mm long. It is a taller and more straggling plant than Dove's-foot, and the petals have more obvious veining. The petals can have a very slightly crumpled look like they are made of tissue paper. Generally a more purple-pink than Dove's-foot, there is also a white-flowered form.



Shining Crane's-bill

Geranium lucidum

The flowers of Shining Crane's-bill look a little bit like mini-me versions of Herb-Robert, with petals 8-10mm long. The most distinctive and recognisable characteristic is the beautiful, shiny, glossy leaves on hairless stems. Another useful feature is the hairless, keeled, 5-angled calyx. In common with Herb-Robert, the leaves and stems often turn bright red.



Long-stalked Crane's-bill

Geranium columbinum

The petals of Long-stalked are around 7-10mm long, so around the same size as Hedgerow. They are either rounded or slightly notched. The flowers are bell-shaped and, as the name suggests, are held on long thin stalks. As with Cut-leaved the sepals have long pointed tips on the ends. The deeply divided leaves are covered in flattened white hairs.

